

CONCERTS *at* SAINT THOMAS

PRESENTS

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATIONS



MISERERE: A CHORAL MEDITATION

Vasari Singers
Jeremy Backhouse, *Conductor*

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025
6:45 P.M.
SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

We are extremely grateful to all our donors who support and enhance the activities of *Concerts at Saint Thomas*. This evening's concert is underwritten in part by the following generous individuals:

Matthew Ailey & Greg Zaffiro
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CONCERTS *at*
SAINT THOMAS



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*
Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *The Nancy B. & John B. Hoffmann Organist and Director of Music*
Mr. Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*
The Saint Thomas Choir School

PROGRAM

APRIL 14, 2025

6:45 P.M.

Timor et tremor *Orlando Lassus*
(1532-1594)

De Profundis *Ildebrando Pizzetti*
(1880-1968)

O vos omnes *Pablo Casals*
(1876-1973)

Quatre Motets pour un temps de Pénitence *Francis Poulenc*
(1899-1963)

- i. Timor et tremor
- ii. Vineam meam elegit
- iii. Tenebrae factae sunt
- iv. Tristis est anima mea

Elizabeth Limb, *soprano*

O Crux *Knut Nystedt*
(1915-2014)

Miserere *James MacMillan*
(b. 1959)

Julia Smith, *soprano*
Julia Ridout, *alto*
Paul Robertson, *tenor*
Imants Auziņš, *bass*

VASARI SINGERS

JEREMY BACKHOUSE, CONDUCTOR

AS THIS IS A MEDITATIONAL OFFERING,
WE ASK THAT YOU WITHHOLD APPLAUSE AND EXIT THE CHURCH QUIETLY
FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE PERFORMANCE.

VASARI SINGERS

Vasari Singers was founded 45 years ago and is among the leading chamber choirs in Britain. Under the direction of its founder-conductor Jeremy Backhouse, Vasari Singers perform a wide range of repertoire from Renaissance to contemporary.

Two crucial foundation stones of the choir's history have been the commissioning of new choral works and making recordings. Since 1996, Vasari Singers has commissioned and premièred music from a wide range of composers and Vasari's extensive discography includes a large collection of première recordings, many of which are of works commissioned by Vasari Singers. Their recordings have all received excellent reviews, including most recently from Sir John Rutter CBE who said that Vasari Singers has been "a well-loved part of the musical scene in this country for a number of years".

Vasari Singers' first Patron was the eminent musician Ward Swingle and the choir continue to be well supported by their current Patrons: Stephen Barlow, Michael Chance CBE and Gabriel Jackson. The choir is also very grateful to its Friends, who provide both financial and other support. If you would like information about future Vasari Singers concerts and activities, or would like to purchase any Vasari Singers recordings, please visit their website: www.vasarisingers.org.

JEREMY BACKHOUSE

Jeremy Backhouse is one of Britain's leading conductors. He began his musical career in Canterbury Cathedral where he was Senior Chorister. In 1980 he was appointed Music Editor at the RNIB, then worked for both EMI Classics and Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers, but now pursues his career as a freelance conductor. Jeremy has been the sole conductor of the internationally-renowned chamber choir, Vasari Singers since its inception in 1980 and is totally committed to contemporary music and to the commissioning of new works; he and Vasari have commissioned nearly 30 works, from small anthems to those on the grandest scale.

In 1995, Jeremy was appointed Music Director of (the now) Vivace Chorus and from 2009 until 2022, Jeremy was also Music Director of the Salisbury Community Choir. Jeremy has also worked with other leading UK choirs, including the BBC Singers, the London Symphony Chorus, the Philharmonia Chorus, the London Chorus and the Brighton Festival Chorus.

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APRIL 15 | TUESDAY AT 6:45 P.M.

J.S. BACH: CELLO SUITES

GUY FISHMAN, CELLO
NICOLAS HAIGH, ORGAN