

**St James' Church Presents the Angelic Voices of
*The Choir of Royal Holloway (University of London)***

**A choir with a history spanning over 100 years shares a programme
chronicling more than 500 years of sacred and secular song**

Vancouver, BC – St James' Church, proudly presents one of Britain's finest mixed-voice collegiate choirs, ***The Choir of Royal Holloway (University of London)*** at **St James' Anglican Church, April 11, 2018 at 7.30 pm**. In a rare Vancouver appearance, respected Director of Music, Rupert Gough, will lead the elite group of choral scholars in a mixed programme of repertoire from across the centuries.

The Choir of Royal Holloway, is one of the most respected collegiate choirs in the UK. Their recordings on the Hyperion label have attracted top reviews from all major music publications. Equally at home on the concert platform, the choir gives more than 50 concerts a year with a particular specialism in music from the late renaissance and contemporary music.

Created at the time of the foundation of Royal Holloway in 1886, the choir was originally only for women's voices. The mixed choir now comprises 24 Choral Scholars, who undertake a busy schedule of weekly services, concerts, international tours, recordings and broadcasts.

Between 2009 and 2018, the choir has recorded fifteen CDs. Their most recent album, *Winter Songs*, released in November 2017, features compositions and arrangements for choir, strings and piano by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. UK's radio station Classic FM named it Album of the Week, commenting : 'Ethereal yet tangible, this is music with wide appeal; music of purity and beauty; music at once restful and uplifting.'

The Choir of Royal Holloway has toured most European countries, appeared in Beijing, and has broadcast on radio and television all over the world. During 2016 the choir toured the US and Canada, including performances in the cathedrals of Toronto and Chicago, Cornell University and Grace Church, New York City.

The choir has been involved with a number of high-profile events, including the 2014 Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall (live on BBC TV), and an awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace, performing on the occasion of the Magna Carta 800th anniversary in front of HM The Queen, the Prime Minister and Archbishop of Canterbury.

For their performance at St James' Anglican Church, the choir will perform works by European composers spanning four centuries, including William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, as well as René Clausen, Stephen Paulus, and Ola Gjeilo

"Choral singing at its most elegantly fashioned... stunningly delivered in terms of tonal quality and technical brilliance under Rupert Gough's unobtrusive direction" — *The Birmingham Post*

ABOUT ST JAMES' (stjames.bc.ca)

St James' Anglican Church is a unique church building designed by Adrian Gilbert Scott, the brother of Giles Gilbert Scott who designed the iconic British red telephone box. The church's design is a combination of Art Deco, Romanesque Revival, Byzantine Revival, and Gothic Revival architecture. The building was constructed between 1935 and 1937. Even though this was in the midst of the Great Depression, St James' was able to raise money for a three-manual Casavant organ which was installed in 1938 – a testament to the importance of music at St James'.

Music continues to be the warp and woof of the fabric of St James', as today it is one of the few places in western Canada where the glorious mass settings and motets by Palestrina, Tallis, Byrd, Gabrieli, Fauré, Stanford, Willan, Howells and Duruflé may be heard throughout the year in its traditional liturgical context – as they are meant to be heard.

And just over 10 years ago, the James' Music Academy was established to enrich the lives of Downtown Eastside children through music. The Academy provides free, high quality music instruction in piano, guitar and violin to more than 200 students, along with a choral component that involves all students.

Earlier this year, an additional element to its vibrant music tradition was added by means of a music series which offers a diverse range of concerts that feature high quality artistry and allow audiences to appreciate the church's marvellous architecture and superb acoustics.

LISTING INFORMATION

St James' Church Presents

The Choir of Royal Holloway (University of London)

Date	Wednesday, April 11 th , 2018, at 7.30 pm
Address	St James' Anglican Church 303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1L4
Ticket Price	\$30
Tickets Online	ukchoir.stjames.bc.ca
Press	chapelchoir.co.uk/press/ http://ikonarts-editionpeters.com/artists/vocal-ensembles/the-choir-of-royal-holloway/