CLASSIC *fM*

is a proud supporter of

The Sixteen

We're proud to call The Sixteen **The Voices of Classic FM.**

At the heart of our partnership is a shared desire to **build new audiences for classical music**, and choral music in particular. We work together to bring some of the world's greatest music, written across centuries, to **diverse venues throughout the UK** and further afield.

We also work in partnership to bring the sublime recorded music of The Sixteen to millions, both on-air and through a successful partnership with The Sixteen's own label, **Coro**.

Through The Sixteen's training programme for young singers, **Genesis Sixteen**, we're also particularly **proud to support future generations of musicians**, as they bridge the important gap between student and professional practitioner.

Whether you are new to the Classic FM family, or already one of our 5.3 million listeners, we hope you will join us in applauding one of the world's greatest choirs.

The Sixteen
HARRY CHRISTOPHERS

DIGITAL RADIO | CLASSICFM.COM | 100-102FM

The Sixteen

HARRY CHRISTOPHERS

The Choral Pilgrimage 2018

Sacred and Profane

Music by Cornysh and Britten

© Marco Borggreve

Welcome to our 18th Choral Pilgrimage

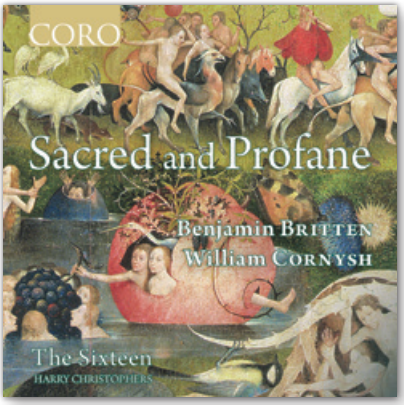
Over four centuries separate these two representatives of English choral music at its finest. William Cornysh and Benjamin Britten were prolific writers of both sacred and secular music. When we talk about Cornysh we are actually referring to two people, often confused with one another and quite possibly father and son. Both originated in Westminster, the Elder died in 1502 and the Younger in 1523, of whom much more is known. The matter of telling which man wrote which works is impossible to settle, so for the purpose of this programme I have decided to link them as one. So whether it be the Elder or the Younger, we are fortunate that they not only excelled at writing complex and adventurous antiphons for the church, but also beautiful secular songs for the Tudor court. Of course for Britten writing in the 20th century life was very different; he was a composer who encompassed so many facets of music, excelling in opera, solo song and all manner of vocal and instrumental music.

This programme looks at the way these two composers mixed sacred with secular. Whilst Cornysh's sacred music is elaborate and rhythmically complicated, his secular music is simple yet subtly evocative. Britten makes constant demands on vocal artistry best displayed in the last work he ever wrote for unaccompanied voices, *Sacred and Profane*, which he composed in the winter of 1974-5. Britten chose his texts with great care; these are mediaeval lyrics and he gives us a fascinating mixture of the devotional and the rumbustiously secular. The final song 'A death' is a wicked blend of horror and gallows humour far removed from the melancholic canon *Ah Robin, gentle Robin* by Cornysh.

Britten had a distinct affection for mediaeval lyrics. He clearly enjoyed the archaic language, the vowels and expressive consonants, in the same way that Cornysh relished in the insistent rhythm of the passion poem *Woefully array'd*. The importance of fine poetry to both these composers is abundantly clear, be it the glorious poetry of Cornysh's *Salve Regina*, WH Auden's extraordinarily evocative *Hymn to Saint Cecilia* or Randall Wingler's earnest political poem *Advance Democracy*. We are undoubtedly blessed to have this glorious poetry set to music by two of the finest composers of their respective eras; they both call on extraordinary feats of vocal virtuosity, demanding yet ultimately so rewarding.

Sacred and Profane

The Sixteen
Harry Christophers *conductor*
Eamonn Dougan *associate conductor*
(for selected performances)



COR16159

The accompanying CD featuring all the music from this year's *Choral Pilgrimage* tour will be released on 2 March 2018 and will be available at all *Choral Pilgrimage* concerts, from our website and all good retailers. To pre-order visit www.thesixteen.com.

Programme

Britten Hymn to the Virgin
Cornysh My love she mourneth
Britten Hymn to Saint Cecilia
Cornysh Salve Regina
Britten Advance Democracy
Cornysh Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Cornysh Woefully array'd
Cornysh Ah Robin, gentle Robin
Britten Sacred and Profane

Join us online

Tour Dates and Locations

April		
Saturday 14	7.30pm	**St Albans Cathedral** ■ Local Box Office also available: 01727 890 290
Friday 20	7.30pm	**Winchester Cathedral** ■
May		
Wednesday 9	7.30pm	**Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich** ■
Wednesday 16	7.30pm	**Hereford Cathedral** ■
Thursday 17	7.30pm	**Llandaff Cathedral**
Friday 18	7.30pm	**Truro Cathedral** ■
Saturday 19	7.30pm	**Exeter Cathedral** ■
Friday 25	8pm	**Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford** ■
June		
Thursday 7	7.30pm	**The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester** ■■ The Bridgewater Hall Box Office: 0161 907 9000
July		
Thursday 5	7.30pm	**Carlisle Cathedral**
Friday 6	7.30pm	**Lancaster Priory** ■
Saturday 7	7.30pm	**Hull Minster**
Wednesday 11	7.30pm	**York Minster** ■■ (On sale 5 March 2018)
September		
Friday 7	7.30pm	**Wells Cathedral** ■ Local Box Office also available: 01749 762773
Saturday 8	7.30pm	**Tewkesbury Cathedral** ■
Tuesday 11	7.30pm	**St James's Church, Spanish Place, London**
Wednesday 19	7.30pm	**All Saint's Church, Northampton** ■

October

Monday 1	7.30pm	**Croydon Minster** Conducted by Eamonn Dougan
Wednesday 3	7.30pm	**Coventry Cathedral**
Thursday 4	7.30pm	**Southwell Minster**
Friday 5	7.30pm	**Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral**
Saturday 6	7.30pm	**Blackburn Cathedral** ■
Friday 19	8pm	**St John's College Chapel, Cambridge** ■
Wednesday 24	7.30pm	**Peterborough Cathedral** ■
Thursday 25	7.30pm	**Sheffield Anglican Cathedral**
Friday 26	7.30pm	**Durham Cathedral**
Saturday 27	7.30pm	**Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh**

November

Friday 9	7.30pm	**Kings Place, London** ■■ Kings Place Box Office: 020 7520 1490

Key:

■ Reserved seating (excluding side aisles)

■ Concert not promoted by The Sixteen

Doors generally open 30 minutes before the concert start time (may vary for concerts not promoted by The Sixteen).

Book now

Tickets can be booked through our National Box Office at **tickets.ncem.co.uk** or on **01904 651485** unless otherwise stated.

Please note that there will be no local box office service for the majority of *Choral Pilgrimage* 2018 concerts (exceptions are marked in the listings above).

Delve Deeper...

Choral Workshops

Our popular choral workshops are a rare and rewarding opportunity for keen amateur singers to explore a selection of music inspired by our 18th *Choral Pilgrimage* programme, under the expert guidance of Associate Conductor, Eamonn Dougan, and singer and practical scholar, Sally Dunkley. The workshops include advice on vocal technique, as well as performance interpretation and historical context.

Dates and locations

Saturday 14 April	St Albans
Saturday 12 May	London
Saturday 26 May	Oxford
Saturday 7 July	Hull
Saturday 1 September	London*
Saturday 8 September	Tewkesbury
Saturday 6 October	Blackburn**
Saturday 27 October	Edinburgh

*Conducted by Justin Doyle

** Conducted by Libby Crabtree

Booking information

Workshop tickets are £25 – £30 (including sheet music and refreshments). Concessions are available for under-18s, jobseekers, students and registered disabled. Workshop bookers are entitled to a £5 discount for any *Choral Pilgrimage* 2018 concert promoted by The Sixteen (workshop place must be booked first).

Book online at **www.thesixteen.com** or by phone on **020 7936 3420.**

Insight Day

Wednesday 11 July, National Centre for Early Music, York

Whether you are new to the *Choral Pilgrimage* repertoire or want to expand your existing knowledge, our Insight Day provides a fascinating exploration into the stories behind the music.

- Join Sally Dunkley and musicologist John Milsom for talks, debate and discussion.
- Discover the rich history behind the *Choral Pilgrimage* repertoire.
- Experience at close-hand, intimate performances from a consort of Sixteen singers.

Tickets cost £25 (including refreshments) or £20 if booked with a *Choral Pilgrimage* concert promoted by The Sixteen.

Booking information

Tickets go on sale on Monday 5 March 2018 and can be booked through the National Box Office on **01904 651485.**

Booking Information

Concessions

A 50% discount is available for the following groups:

- Registered disabled (plus one companion)
- Those aged 18 and under
- Jobseekers (proof of eligibility will be required on the door)
- Students (proof of eligibility will be required on the door)

A 10% discount is available for groups of 10 or more.

All discounts are subject to availability and only one discount can be applied per transaction. Concession rates for concerts not promoted by The Sixteen may vary.

Exchanges and refunds

Tickets for concerts and choral workshops cannot be exchanged or refunded except in the event of a cancellation.

The National Centre for Early Music acts as a ticketing agent for The Sixteen. You will be asked during the booking process if you would like to join The Sixteen's mailing list (postal and email) and this information will only be used by The Sixteen. You can opt out of mailings at any time.

With grateful thanks to all our supporters and sponsors.

LOTTERY FUNDED | Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

THE VOICES OF CLASSIC *f*M

Dunard Fund

ERNEST COOK TRUST · learning from the best

FOYLE FOUNDATION

Hunt & Coombs hc solicitors

The John Coates Charitable Foundation

quadrant chambers

Rollits LLP

Michael Watt of Ronnie Scott's

The Sixteen Ltd.
Registered in England No. 1930741 at Quadrant House, 10 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AU.
General enquiries: 020 7936 3420. Email: info@thesixteen.com.
Registered Charity No. 326917

All information is correct at the time of going to press.
Cover image: The Garden of Earthly Delights 1490 –1500
© Hieronymus Bosch, Prado, Madrid, Spain, Bridgeman Images