Welcome

Join us for an enchanting evening of choral music as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth, immersing you in a serene and spiritual soundscape. At the heart of the program are some of Bruckner's most soul-stirring a cappella motets, including his radiant Virga Jesse floruit, a Christmas gem that exudes a deep sense of reverence and quiet grandeur.

Our concert will also feature a selection of seasonal favourites from Europe and the New World, resonating with the warmth of the festive season.

We begin with two works by Norwegian composers who, like Bruckner, were inspired by monastic chant: Edvard Grieg's Ave maris stella, based on a 9th-century hymn, and Ola Gjeilo's mesmerising Ave generosa, which draws from the mystical plainchant of Hildegard von Bingen, the visionary 12th-century abbess.

Step into a world of glowing candlelight and the comforting warmth of mulled wine, creating a magical atmosphere to complement these transcendent choral works. Let the purity of these voices lift your spirits and fill you with peace in the heart of the holiday season.

Programme

Ave generosa	Hildegard von Bingen	1098-1179
Ave generosa	Ola Gjeilo	1978-
Ave maris stella	Edvard Grieg	1843-1907
Ave Maria	Anton Bruckner	1824-1896
Locus iste		
Os justi		
Virga Jesse floruit		
	Interval	
Gaudete		
Riu, riu, chiu	Mateo Flecha	1481-1553
Quem pastores	Michael Praetorius	1571-1621
Unser lieben Frauen Traum	Max Reger	1873-1916
Wexford carol	arr. John Rutter	1945-
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	arr. Peter Gritton	1963-
The Christmas Song		

The Guildhall Singers:

Singing a range of religious and secular music, from early to Baroque, folk to jazz, Renaissance to contemporary, the Guildhall Singers were formed in 2019 as a group of experienced local singers by Helen Herbert. "We wanted to have our own ensemble so we could choose music from a repertoire that is especially suited to a smaller group." Following their first concert in 2019 in support of the Bungalow project at St Faith's, Gaywood, the choir took part in the 'for one night only' 11th Hour Project, singing at several well-known venues in King's Lynn. It also performed in Christmas concerts supporting the Shakespeare's Guildhall Trust, True's Yard and twice for the Mayor's Trust: at the Town Hall with UK jazz legend Norma Winstone and at Ken Hill House. Performing in St Peter's, Great Walsingham as well as St Mary's, South Wootton the choir thrived under the expertise of Charlotte Şinassi-Hill, before she passed the baton on to renowned singer and voice coach Andrés Hernandez-Salazar.

Soprano:	Ena Burgess, Helen Herbert, Ana Joyette, Sarah Treble, Janet Walker
Alto:	Susan Benstead, Zoë Callender, Clare Howard-Vyse,
Tenor:	Colin Gilmore, Adrian Johnson, Patrick Talbot, Derek Wilkins
Bass:	Nick Balaam, Peter Hancock, Howard Taylor, Mike Walker

If you are an experienced singer and would like to find out more about joining The Guildhall Singers, please email:
guildhallsingers@gmail.com

Andrés Hernandez-Salazar

Andrés is a singer, lecturer and singing teacher, living and working from his base in Norfolk.

He began his musical studies in Venezuela and was awarded a scholarship by The British Council (the first for a Venezuelan musician) to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He subsequently studied at the Trinity College of Music, London, and has since performed extensively.

Andrés was conferred the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Humanities with Music, by The Open University. Since 2002 he has also worked as a voice tutor and music history lecturer.

