Musical Director: James Potter

NEW CAMBRIDGE SINGERS

ANNIVERSARY 40TH 1986-2026

2026–2027 Season

www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk

New Cambridge Singers

James Potter *Musical Director*

This season we are celebrating our 40th anniversary with a varied programme of concerts, culminating with performance of the Vespers of 1610 by Monteverdi.

Conducted by James Potter, the choir of 40 singers is drawn from a wide range of backgrounds with membership by audition and offers four programmes a year, which are usually performed both in a historic Cambridge venue, and again in one of the surrounding towns or villages. The choir also travels further afield and has given several concerts in London in recent years.

New Cambridge Singers aim for excellence in all that they do and relish their innovative programming, performing a wide range of music from the Renaissance to the present day. In March New Cambridge Singers performed James MacMillan's challenging *Seven Last Words from the Cross* to wide acclaim – thus re-affirming their commitment to the performance and advancement of new music.

Scarlatti: Stabat Mater

and the music of seventeenth century Rome

Composers working in the churches and chapels of Rome in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries developed a rich, highly expressive style which brought liturgical music to vivid life.

Chief among them was Domenico Scarlatti, whose *Stabat mater* was written for ten different voice-parts, with movements ranging from the lusciously lyrical to the vivaciously virtuosic. Punchy, ornate, and beautiful, it is a wonderful repertoire to explore. The concert is accompanied by the period-appropriate pairing of organ and theorbo, the baroque archlute.

Saturday 31 October 2026 7.30pm
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Linton CB21 4JX
Tickets £16, students £8, from events@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Saturday 7 November 2026 7.30pm
Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1JR
Tickets £18, students £8, under 18s free
www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-cambridge-singers

Domenico Scarlatti
Stabat mater for ten voices
and works by
Carissimi, Melani & Alessandro Scarlatti

Theorbo image © The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk

Christmas Choral Jazz

Jazz-inspired music for choir, and audience carols

For this very special festive concert, New Cambridge Singers embrace their jazzy side.

Christmas carols familiar and unfamiliar, including many arrangements for choir and jazz trio. Toe-tapping, soulful, and festively comforting all at the same time.

Thursday 17 December 2026 8.00pm
Jesus College Chapel, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BL
Tickets £18, students £8, under 18s free
www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-cambridge-singers

Saturday 19 December 2026 7.30pm
All Saints Church, Cottenham CB24 8SA
See www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk for ticket information

Will Todd	*Three Jazz Carols*
Ben Parry	*Jingle bells*
Paul Edwards	*No small wonder*
Jonathan Rathbone	*Silent Night; The Oxen*
Bob Chilcott	*A Little Jazz Mass*
Peter Gritton	*Have yourself a merry little Christmas*
Arr. Ian Humphris	*The Twelve Days of Christmas*

www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk

Bach: the Magic of Counterpoint

Bach's motets feel like a summing-up of his craft – in their poise, their theological nous, and their absolute mastery of counterpoint, that rarified language of interlocking musical lines.

In this programme, two of Bach's mighty motets sit alongside music inspired by Bach's contrapuntal wizardry, from Brahms in the 19th century, to Kenneth Leighton and Villa Lobos in the 20th, not to mention Glenn Gould's own witty tribute to the fugue!

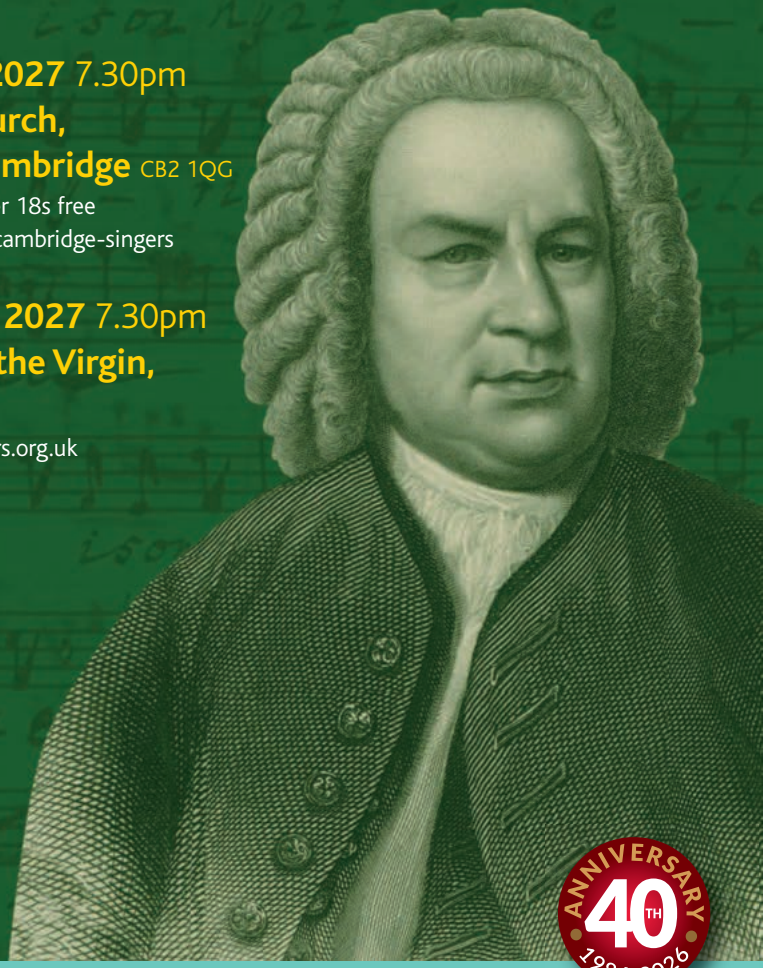
Saturday 6 March 2027 7.30pm
Little St Mary's Church, Trumpington St, Cambridge CB2 1QG
Tickets £18, students £8, under 18s free
www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-cambridge-singers

Saturday 13 March 2027 7.30pm
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fen Ditton CB5 8ST
See www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk for ticket information

J. S. Bach
Komm, Jesu, Komm
Singet dem Herrn

Heitor Villa-Lobos
Bachianas Brasileiras No.9

and works by **Schütz, Leighton & Glenn Gould**



www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk

Monteverdi Vespers of 1610

Monteverdi's great collection of sacred masterpieces is still one of the most beloved large-scale pieces of all time.

It will be performed by New Cambridge Singers with the lavish accompaniment of cornets, trombones, strings and organ, allowing a kaleidoscopic range of textures and sonorities to bring this collection of music for Vespers to vivid life.

An immensely varied collection of solos and motets, it constantly demonstrates the composer's mastery over both the 'old style' of polyphony and the new concertato style which was taking Venice by storm. An outstanding, opulent work which was on the cutting edge of the very beginning of the Baroque.

Saturday 5 June 2027 7.30pm
Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1JR
Tickets £20, students £8, under 18s free
www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-cambridge-singers

40TH ANNIVERSARY 1986-2026

JAMES POTTER, Musical Director

©Helena Cooke

James is Precentor and Director of Music at Magdalene College, directing the Chapel Choir and supervising College music. James' wide-ranging portfolio encompasses work with professional and amateur ensembles, choral societies, chamber and church choirs, and new music groups, as well as writing.

Having read Music at The Queen's College, University of Oxford, he went on to study conducting with Paul Brough, later winning second prize in the Northern Choirs Conducting Competition in Denmark. He is now in demand as a conductor and conducting teacher, with positions including Music Director of Harlow Chorus and co-Director of the Choral Foundations Scheme of Cambridge University. He also supervises on the University's Music Tripos, teaches conducting, contributes programme notes to professional ensembles, and engages in freelance conducting work.

www.jamesmpotter.com

FEEDBACK FROM OUR CONCERTS

"If the quality of listening is a reflection of the quality of a performance, the New Cambridge Singers' performance of James MacMillan's Seven Last Words from the Cross ... was spell-binding."

"The NCS ... on top form throughout the beautifully constructed programme."

Help us make new music!

New Cambridge Singers have a long history of commissioning new works. The New Music Fund and New Cambridge Songs scheme allow members of the public to play their part in this important aspect of our music making.

Funding for these commissions has been either by individuals or by sharing costs with other choirs, sometimes supplemented by grants from funding bodies, with all of these contributions usually being assimilated into the New Music Fund. The New Cambridge Songs scheme was introduced to enable individuals to buy a 'share' in a commission for a relatively small amount. New commissions performed in recent concerts include

Paradise Carol by Ben Ponniah, first performed in *A Shepherd's Journey,* December 2024
De Profundis by Christopher Brown, first perfomed in *Songs of Freedom,* November 2023

You can donate directly to our New Music Fund. Supporters who are interested in sponsoring specific new commissions can purchase £50 shares in new works, with a range of attached benefits..

Please contact our Treasurer: treasurer@newcambridgesingers.org.uk.

www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk

COMING TO OUR CONCERTS

TICKETS FOR OUR CAMBRIDGE CONCERTS
can be purchased online via Ticketsource:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-cambridge-singers
(Scan the QR code on the left)

TICKETS FOR OUR VILLAGE CONCERTS
will normally be available in advance locally.
Please see our website for the latest details:
www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk
(Scan the QR code on the right)

Tickets may also be available on the door for all our concerts.

CONCESSIONS

For our Cambridge concerts, tickets for companions of those with long-term disability are free of charge.

STAY IN TOUCH

Please visit our website for more up to date information and how to join our mailing list: **www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk**

@NewCambridgeSingers. @New.CambridgeSingers

Media partner

Cambridge Independent

New Cambridge Singers is a registered charity, number 1042801
Photos: Choir © Andrew Wilkinson

www.newcambridgesingers.org.uk