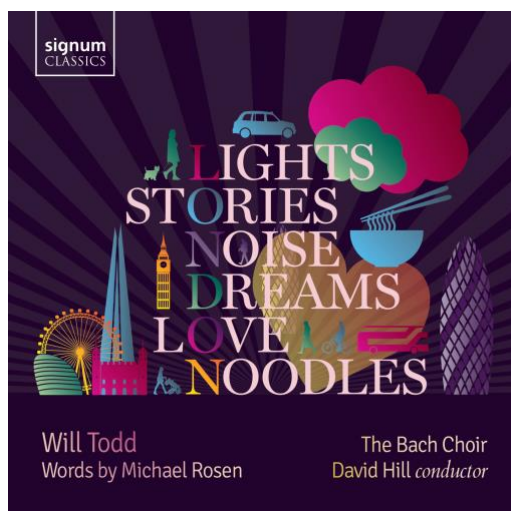


The Bach Choir appears in a new recording of music by Will Todd in poignant homage to London, with words by Michael Rosen



Friday 27 March 2020

Signum | SIGCD591

smarturl.it/WillToddNoodles

Will Todd *Songs of Magical Creatures*

Will Todd *Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles (L.O.N.D.O.N.)*

Will Todd *I will Light a Candle*

Will Todd *Kites, Cards and Constellations*

The Bach Choir

Finchley Children's Music Group

David Hill conductor



“I have to keep reminding myself that these people are amateurs: I can't imagine a professional choir giving a more perfect and passionate performance.”

The Independent on the Choir's performance of Bach's *B Minor Mass*, February 2020

In a new recording released by **Signum** on **Friday 27 March**, **The Bach Choir** joins **Finchley Children's Music Group** to perform choral works by composer **Will Todd**, including a poignant celebration of London in *Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles (L.O.N.D.O.N.)* with words by the UK's most celebrated children's author, **Michael Rosen**.

L.O.N.D.O.N. (Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles) was commissioned by The Bach Choir for its outreach programme in 2015 and received its first performance at Westminster Central Hall on 17 June 2016. The 25-minute work for children was a collaboration between jazz composer Will Todd and children's author Michael Rosen, who created a modern and jazz-inspired vision of life in cosmopolitan London.

*“In the street and beneath my feet
I feel the purring and the murmuring of tubes and pipes.
All the people in the houses shops and factories
switching on
and phoning up
and washing away
and turning off.”*

- Michael Rosen, *L.O.N.D.O.N.*

The work was an instant hit with children, adults, and audience members alike, from the rumbustious “Rhythms of the City” and the “Noises” of buses, cars, and machines; to the lyrical “Love is What We Need” and “I am What I am in My Dreams”. The list of things we might love to eat ended with a fortissimo tutti of “Noodles”!

“I’m very excited that this new recording of my music by The Bach Choir is out this week. The main work is a piece I wrote with Michael Rosen for youth choir, choir and jazz ensemble and the recording has all the energy and brilliance I could possibly have wanted. Also, on the disc are my settings of Shakespeare: ‘Songs of Magical Creatures’ for choir and orchestra, and also a short choral song cycle ‘Kites, Cards and Constellations’ written in memory of Mark Blanco. As always, it’s been a joy to collaborate with conductor David Hill, The Bach Choir and Signum Records.”

- Will Todd

Songs of Magical Creatures sets three sections from Shakespeare’s plays; two pieces from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (one of the fairies and Puck) and Ariel’s speech “Full Fathom Five” from *The Tempest*. The work was commissioned in 2015 by Eric Cross for Newcastle Bach Choir, celebrating their centenary.

The choral suite *Kites, Cards and Constellations* was commissioned by the Blanco family for the tenth anniversary of Mark Blanco’s death. The work was first performed by St Martin’s Voices with Will Todd at Westminster Cathedral Hall in 2016, as part of a celebration of Mark’s life and a reflection of the last ten years.

Through Zoom, members of The Bach Choir will be joining Will Todd in his shed on **Friday 27 March** in a singalong of *Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles*.

The Bach Choir

Founded in 1876, The Bach Choir is recognised as one of the world’s leading choruses, building upon a tradition that combines musical excellence with creativity and innovation.



From the first performance in Britain of Bach’s *Mass in B minor* 145 years ago to the soundtrack for Ridley Scott’s epic *Prometheus*, the Choir’s musical heritage is as rich as it is diverse. Directed by David Hill, one of the country’s most eminent conductors and choir trainers, the Choir regularly performs and records across London and the UK in prestigious venues, from the Royal Albert Hall to Abbey Road Studios.

Described by the London Evening Standard as ‘probably the finest independent choir in the world’, The Bach Choir values the freedom that its independence brings, allowing it to work with the very best orchestras and soloists, and to choose the music it performs. To date the Choir has sung over 400 works in more than 120 venues, and continues to share its work with audiences around the world. Following an invitation from the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Choir gave two performances of Bach’s *St Matthew Passion* in Hong Kong’s Cultural Centre just before Easter 2014, and it gave further concerts in Shanghai and Hangzhou. In October 2017, the Choir gave six concerts in the Netherlands of *a cappella* music and works for choir and organ, one of which was broadcast on Dutch radio.

“probably the finest independent choir in the world”
Evening Standard

With a strong commitment to new music, The Bach Choir has commissioned works from some of the world's leading composers including Sir John Tavener, Bob Chilcott, Jonathan Dove, Will Todd and Carl Rütti. In June 2017 the Choir gave the world premiere performance of James MacMillan's *Blow the trumpet in the new moon*, and recently commissioned Roxanna Panufnik to complete her *Four Choral Seasons*, which was premiered by the Choir in October 2019.

The Bach Choir has always been characterised by the commitment of its members. With over 250 talented singers coming from all walks of life, an international touring schedule, and a pioneering outreach programme, *Vocalise!*, that takes its passion for music into inner-city schools and dementia care homes, the Choir takes pride in performing, recording and sharing music for all to enjoy.

thebachchoir.org.uk

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