

# Finchley Chamber Choir

## Linden Baroque

### 50th Anniversary Concert



fcc

Saturday 11 November 2023 St James's Church, Piccadilly



# Finchley Chamber Choir's 50th Anniversary

In 1973 Finchley Methodist Church found itself with an exceptionally fine choir who were feeling very frustrated. Whilst their counterparts in many Anglican and Catholic churches had weekly opportunities at Sunday services to perform great settings of the Mass, *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* as well as splendid motets, Methodist worship limited them to singing hymns and the occasional anthem.

They found a solution when they and their choir master Larry Jenkins decided to give a concert immediately after an evening service to include Vivaldi's *Gloria*. This was so successful that a few months later they repeated the experiment with JS Bach's *Magnificat*. And so the die was cast.

Since they couldn't perform such music as part of their services, they decided to set up an independent choir, along with a few friends, just to give concerts, albeit still rehearsing and performing in Finchley Methodist Church. And so on 11 November 1973 Finchley Chamber Choir was born. Given the success of Vivaldi's *Gloria* at their first outing, it seemed appropriate to repeat it at their first official concert. With the talent and ability within the choir they soon found themselves giving regular concerts, not just in Finchley but also around the country, of a challenging repertoire not often performed by local choirs.

After five years Larry Jenkins emigrated to New Zealand, so the choir appointed David Lardi as their new Musical Director. 45 years on, he's still leading them. One of David's first innovations was to take his soloists from amongst the choir's own members. Not only did this attract some younger singers who saw it as a stepping stone into the profession, but it also provided an opportunity for others leaving professional singing. It also saved money!

From David's earliest days, FCC was one of the first local choirs to work with musicians playing on original period instruments, including the Holborn Consort for Renaissance repertoire and Linden Baroque. For the choir's 10th Anniversary they hit on the happy idea of returning to Vivaldi's *Gloria*, a tradition that they've continued ever since.

FCC have always performed the most challenging of repertoires including many commissions and other first performances, and have broadcast on BBC R3 and R4 - one recording from the latter being selected for "Pick of the Week" - as well as Capital Radio and television. They've given concerts throughout London, including at Alexandra Palace, the Royal Festival Hall and St James's Church, Piccadilly, and have toured abroad. Their regular concert series is given at Trinity Church, North Finchley, sometimes in tandem with Finchley Symphony Orchestra of whom David was conductor for forty years.

Their 50th Anniversary concert, exactly to the day, sees them return to St James's Church, Piccadilly. In company with Linden Baroque, tonight's performance includes the inevitable Vivaldi *Gloria* along with Handel's *Dixit Dominus* - one of his finest and most challenging choral works - and JS Bach's celebratory motet *Lobet den Herrn*.

David Lardi

# **Finchley Chamber Choir**

## **Linden Baroque**

**Leader: Catherine Martin**

**Conductor: David Lardi**

**7:30 pm Saturday 11 November 2023**

**St James's Church, Piccadilly**

**Handel**

Concerto Grosso Op. 3 no. 4

**J S Bach**

*Lobet den Herrn*

**Vivaldi**

*Gloria*

Interval of approximately 15 minutes

**Handel**

*Dixit Dominus*

*This concert is sponsored by a generous donation from a former choir member.*

Finchley Chamber Choir is affiliated to Making Music and is a registered charity (no. 290104).  
Linden Baroque is a registered Charity (no. 1014921) and is self-supporting.

Cover photograph by Simon Weir — [www.simonweir.com](http://www.simonweir.com)



## Finchley Chamber Choir

- Sopranos:** Annette Argent, Celia Bangham, Hilary Bates, Claudia Conway, Christine Dowle-Yeates, Mary Groom, Jo King, Barbara Kilpatrick, Elizabeth Moore-Bick, Jane Orr, Jessica Percival, Anthea Sweet, Charlotte Wild
- Altos:** Eileen Battye, Sarah Bronzite, Caroline Doig, Linda Foster, Celia Kent, Sarah McGuire, Miranda Ommanney, Vivienne Trenner, Ruth Wacholder
- Tenors:** Phiroz Dalal, Michael Dickinson, Byron Horne, Gary Jervis, Tim Sawers, Tobias Schneider
- Basses:** Ian Anderson, Pierfranco Bini, Richard Cox, Russell Durkin, Michael Henderson, Rupert Lee, David Lowe, Matthew Pead, Hans Rashbrook, Terry Stone

<b>Chair</b>	Celia Bangham	<b>Committee members</b>	Claudia Conway
<b>Secretary</b>	Jessica Percival		Byron Horne
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Dickinson		Sarah McGuire
		<b>Concert Manager</b>	Pierfranco Bini
<b>Conductor</b>	David Lardi	<b>Accompanist</b>	John Winter

From time to time there are vacancies in some sections of Finchley Chamber Choir. Amateur singers of good ability are invited to audition and are advised that opportunities for solo work also exist, since soloists are usually drawn from regular choir members.

If you would like further details, please contact the Secretary, Jessica Percival: email [secretary@fcchoir.co.uk](mailto:secretary@fcchoir.co.uk) or phone 020 8367 0018.

## Linden Baroque

- Leader:** Catherine Martin
- Violin:** Gillian Taylor, Anthony Constantine, Carolyn Liefkes, Ian Cutts, Michael Jenner, Jocelyn Slocombe, Alan Selwyn, Linda McDonald
- Viola:** Roger Mears, Maria Lusson Santos, John Sutherland, Deborah Miles-Johnson
- Cello:** David Winfield, Louise Jameson, Helen Brauer
- Bass:** Martin Johnson
- Oboe:** Lysander Tennant, Simon Galton
- Bassoon:** Dennis Cook
- Trumpet:** Chris Parsons
- Organ:** Norman MacSween