



Press release – March 2017

Joanna Tomlinson to take over as Music Director of Whitehall Choir

Joanna Tomlinson will be taking over as Whitehall Choir's Music Director from acclaimed choral conductor Paul Spicer at the start of the 2017-18 season in September. The first concert under Joanna's baton will be Handel's Oratorio 'Joshua' on Friday 17th November, St John's Smith Square.

With the focus of his career now almost entirely in Birmingham and the Midlands, Paul felt that, after his 17 years, the time is now right for new talent to lead the choir in its future development. His last performance with the choir will be a summer concert of late 20th Century and contemporary English music at St Peter's Eaton Square on Thursday 6th July.

Joanna says of her new appointment, "I am absolutely delighted to take over from Paul Spicer as Director of the Whitehall Choir. The choir has a long history of high level music making and I'm looking forward to taking it forward and into new directions."

About Joanna Tomlinson

Joanna is bringing a wealth of experience to her new role. Soprano and conductor, she is currently the Music Director of Constanza Chorus and Chamber Choir, the internationally renowned Farnham Youth Choirs and the choirs at Reading University. She is Associate Director of East London Chorus and is also on the tutor panel for the Association of British Choral Directors.

With Constanza Chorus she has recently conducted Brahms Requiem with the London Mozart Players and Mendelssohn Elijah at the Cadogan Hall and mass at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Farnham Youth Choir is an award-winning upper voice choir, who won two gold medals in the 2015 European Choir Games in Magdeburg.

She has worked with some of the UK's top choirs including BBC Symphony Chorus, London Symphony Chorus, Joyful Company of Singers, Royal College of Music Chorus, Manchester Chamber Choir, Trinity Laban Junior College Choirs, and Wimbledon Choral Society.

In demand as a workshop leader, recent workshops include sessions for UK Choir Festival, ABCD, London Choral Conducting Masterclasses, and the Gabrieli Consort "Roar" and Philharmonia Orchestra education schemes.

About Whitehall Choir

The Whitehall Choir is one of the leading amateur auditioned choirs in London, performing with professional soloists and orchestras in St John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall, and many London churches. The choir has recorded three CDs and has undertaken successful European tours, including most recently to Vienna in May 2016.

This is an exciting time to join the Whitehall Choir and we welcome members to join us in September when we will be preparing for a performance of Handel's Joshua at St John's Smith Square on 17th November. Admission to the choir is by a short audition, usually after three or four rehearsals. Please go to www.whitehallchoir.org.uk for details.

Contact details

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