

WELCOME SPRING CONCERT

Note: There might be some minor changes to this programme on the day.

I ICELANDIC CHOIR OF LONDON

The Icelandic Choir of London (Íslenski Kórinn í London), founded in 1984, performs a varied Nordic programme and travels regularly. The group's main focus is to perform Icelandic choral music but it also performs folk music, pop music arrangements and other Nordic choral repertoire. The choir has travelled to and performed in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and The Netherlands, as well as London, Manchester, Brighton and Hull. Collaborators include the Reykjavik Chamber Choir, London Nordic Choir, the German Choir of London, Cecil Sharp House Choir, Southbank Centre London, Icelandic choirs from across Northern Europe and many more. Since 2012 the choir has been directed by Helgi R. Ingvarsson, Icelandic-British composer, teacher and lecturer. helgingvarsson.com/icelandic-choir-of-london/

1. **Á Sprengisandi / On the Sprengisandur Desert.** *Sigvaldi Kaldalóns / Grímur Thomsen / Arr. Jón Ásgeirsson*
2. **Hvöld / Rest.** *Hugi Guðmundsson / Snorri Hjartarson*
3. **Krummavísa / Raven's Verse.** *Icelandic folk music / Arr. Jón Ásgeirsson*
4. **Lýsti sól / Shining Sun.** *Jónas Helgason / Matthías Jochumsson*
5. **Músikulof / Music Praise** *from Hymnodia Sacra 1742*
6. **Syng, mín sál / Sing, my Soul.** *Hugi Guðmundsson*
7. **Ég vil lofa eina þá / I wish to Praise a Maiden.** *Bára Grímsdóttir / old religious verse*
8. **Vorvísa / Spring Verse.** *Jón Ásgeirsson / Halldór Laxness*

INTERVAL

II SLAVIC VOICES

Slavic Voices London & Brighton choir presents music of all styles from the Slavic world: Orthodox chants, classics by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Schnittke and others, refined XVIII-XIX centuries Art songs, and folklore from the far corners of Siberia to the banks of the Black Sea. The choir's repertoire is sung in Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Belorussian, sometimes even Yiddish or Romanian.

The choir opened in September 2023 and now has around 90 singers coming from many cultural backgrounds. They have performed joint concerts with a Macedonian Folk Duo Filip Arilon and Stojan Stojanov (Macedonia), Maspindzeli Georgian choir (London), Heartwood Chorus (Bristol), Bulgarian dance group Vezanitsa (Brighton) and even collaborated with a UK Klezmer-Punk Carnival Chaos Band Buffo's Wake.

Led by Polina Skovoroda-Shepherd, granddaughter of a Cossack and an internationally acclaimed performer, educator and cultural activist, this non-auditioned choir warmly welcomes new singers and aims to share its music through concerts across England. www.polinasherpherd.co.uk/choirs/slavic-voices/

1. **Czerwony Pas / Red Belt.** *Polish song*
A cheerful thought and a free hand: celebrating the Hutsul way of life, the music and the mountain pastures.
2. **Oj, Davno, Davno / Oh, Long, Long Ago.** *Ukrainian folk song*
That path is overgrown with thorns... Prickly rosehip I will break, I'll fly to visit my mother.
3. **Kad ja podjoh na Bembašu. Mi Querido, Mi Amado.** *Traditional Bosnian / Ladino song*
A walk to the river's edge with a white lamb in hand; a greeting offered to a high window. But the evening's promise was not kept.
4. **Totá Heľpa / Oh, that Helpa town.** *Slovak folk song*
Heľpa - a beautiful town full of handsome boys, where my heart longs only for *Ďuríček*
5. **Ó Lásko, Lásko / Oh, Love, Love.** *Czech / Moravian folk song*
A song of love, sorrow, and hope, where the heart aches for lost affection and dreams of reunion.
6. **Mesečina / Moonlight.** *Serbian Roma song*
There is no more Sun or Moon, darkness of war has covered us but shining is coming from afar.
7. **Yakby ne Marusa / If not for Marusa.** *Ukrainian folk song*
If not for Marusia, I'd never marry.
8. **Zadala Mamka / Mother Gave Away.** *Slovak folk song arranged by B. Bartók*
Married off to a bad husband and forbidden to return, she flew home as a bird. Mother shooed her from the garden for her sad song. (Sung by Ali, Katarina & Duncan Henderson)
9. **Nochevala Tuchka / Little Golden Cloud** *Music by P. Tchaikovsky, lyrics by M. Lermontov. (1887)*
Little golden cloud danced joyfully in the azure sky - yet left behind a trace of sorrow on the lonely cliff.
10. **Dnes' Spasenie / Today Salvation.** From All-Night Vigil, Vespers, op. 37. *Sergei Rachmaninoff*
Today salvation is in the world, sing to the One raised from the grave, Head of our life...
11. **I and II Hymns from Three Sacred Hymns for Choir** (1984) by *Alfred Schnittke*
 - a. I - Bogoroditse devo/ Hail Mary
 - b. II - Gospodi Iisuse / Lord Jesus

SV together with the Icelandic Choir of London:

12. **María, meyjan skæra / Mary, the Bright Virgin.** (*Icelandic tvísöngur*) *Icelandic folk song*
13. **Walls - Mury – Стены.** *Belorussian / Ukrainian / Russian. Mury – Polish lyrics by Jacek Kaczmarski -1978, based on L'Estaca by Luis Maria Llach Grande, 1968. Belorussian by Andrey Khadanovich, 2010*

He was inspired and young, they were beyond count. He sang that it's time for the wall to fall. They all sang with him: "*Tear out the bars... bury the old world*". And with the song that dawn is near, they marched through city streets shouting "*This one with us! This one against! Who stands alone is our worst enemy!*" ...and the singer, too, stood alone. He silently watched the march of the crowd, listening to the clap of the steps. And the walls grew, grew, grew...'