

Biographies of our four soloists

Natalie Clifton-Griffith, Soprano

Natalie Clifton-Griffith studied at The Birmingham Conservatoire and The Royal College of Music. Highlights of her solo career include Paul Spicer's Easter Oratorio (ESO), Bach's Magnificat (Barbican Hall, ECO), St John Passion (Three Choirs Festival) and Mass in B Minor. Classical repertoire includes Haydn's Creation, Nelson Mass (Lichfield Cathedral), and Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate (Symphony Hall, CBSO) and Mass in C Minor (ECO). Operatic roles include The Queen of the Night (The Magic Flute) and Despina (Cosi fan Tutte). Natalie has also performed with consort vocal groups such as Ex Cathedra, Tenebrae, I Faggiolini, Exaudi, The Sixteen and The BBC Singers. Natalie has recorded for major record labels including EMI Classics, Hyperion and Signum, and also appears on Ex Cathedra's live recording of Bach's St Matthew Passion.

Recently Natalie sang for London Voices in the 2018 BBC Proms in the semi chorus for Per Norgard's Symphony no 3 as well as in computer game and film soundtracks, including The Hunger Games, Interstellar, Boss Baby, The Hobbit and Mission Impossible!

In 2019 she hopes to repeat a recital of Strauss' Four Last songs (with organist husband Alexander Mason) in Norway.

Simon Ponsford, Countertenor

Simon Ponsford started his singing career at a young age in Gloucester Cathedral Choir, and later as a Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. He is currently a Lay Vicar in the choir of Westminster Abbey; a role that combines daily service singing with performing at significant national occasions, on radio and television broadcasts, and in concerts both as a member of the choir and as a soloist. He also regularly performs as soloist, choir member and recitalist and sings with several international ensembles and choral societies.

Performance highlights have included taking part in the recent ground-breaking tour of Bach's Matthäus-Passion performed from memory with the Monteverdi Choir, giving a performance of cantatas by Buxtehude and Tunder with the Instruments of Time and Truth in the Keble College Early Music Festival, and making his international solo debut singing Handel's Israel in Egypt with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. Simon has also had a CD of Elizabethan and Jacobean songs, recorded with his father David playing the organ and virginals, released to critical acclaim on Nimbus Records.

Daniel Auchincloss, Tenor

Canadian tenor Daniel Auchincloss studied at the University of Toronto and at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He has recorded and performed across the world as soloist with groups including the BBC, English National Opera, Britten Sinfonia, City of London Sinfonia, Gabrieli Consort, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, The King's Consort, The Dunedin Consort, Netherlands Bach Society and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

This summer he made his Glyndebourne debut as Majordomo to Faninal and covering Valzacchi in *Der Rosenkavalier*. Later this year, he will return to the Royal Opera House, covering Chekalinsky in *Queen of Spades*. In 2019, he will return to U.S. to perform Arnalta in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Boston Baroque.

Julian Debreuil, Bass-baritone

Julian Debreuil studied singing, conducting and composition at the Royal College of Music and the Georg Solti Accademia. He is a recipient of major awards from the Musicians Benevolent Fund, Royal Society of Musicians, Wingate Foundation, English Speaking Union, Josephine Baker Trust and the Countess of Munster Trust.

Julian's varied and busy career comprises operatic and oratorio engagements. Recently he has performed roles in *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Boheme* and *The Magic Flute*. Concert experience includes the Verdi Requiem with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Bach's St John Passion with the London Handel Players, Handel's Messiah with the Orquesta di Valencia, Elgar's *The Apostles* with the BBC Concert Orchestra, and Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* and the Brahms Requiem with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra.