

***“May the Gabrieli Consort & Players live forever in health and glory”* The Times**

Gabrieli are world-renowned interpreters of great vocal and instrumental repertoire spanning from the renaissance to the present day. Formed as an early music ensemble by Paul McCreesh in 1982, we have both outgrown and remained true to our original identity. Over thirty years, our repertoire has expanded beyond any expectation, but McCreesh's ever-questioning spirit and expressive musicianship, together with a healthy degree of iconoclasm, remain constant features and are continually reflected in dynamic performances. Our repertoire includes major works of the oratorio tradition, virtuosic *a cappella* programmes of music from many centuries and mould-breaking reconstructions of music for historical events.

Gabrieli are acclaimed interpreters of Handel oratorios and Bach Passions and our recordings have garnered numerous international awards, including Gramophone Awards for recordings of Haydn *The Creation* (2008 Choral Award) and *A New Venetian Coronation* (2012 Early Music Award), BBC Music Magazine Awards for Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts* and Britten *War Requiem*, and a Grammy nomination in 2010 for the *a cappella* disc *A Spotless Rose*.

A number of strong relationships have defined our international profile over many years and such partnerships remain at the heart of our activities. For over 15 years, in conjunction with Martin Randall Travel, we have pioneered new areas of 'cultural tourism' in creating festivals of music in European historic centres, developing new programmes specifically inspired by the exquisite buildings and cities in which they are performed. We were resident artists at Brinkburn Music in Northumberland, with whom we developed some of our most exciting projects, for 17 years. From 2006 to 2012 we were associate artists of the Wratistavia Cantans Festival, and embarked on an exciting partnership with the Wrocław Philharmonic Choir, a collaboration which features strongly in some of our critically-acclaimed recent oratorio recordings. 2014 saw the inception of a new partnership with Historic Royal Palaces, with further performances at Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace taking place throughout the current and forthcoming seasons.

Today, at the heart of our activities is the development of a pioneering choral training programme, Gabrieli Roar, an audacious choral training programme that takes a bold stance on the abilities of teenage singers. This ambitious partnership with a network of leading UK youth choirs offers intensive training and mentoring to the young singers to prepare them for unrivalled performance and recording opportunities alongside Gabrieli's professional musicians. Early successes in this scheme include a BBC Proms performance of Mendelssohn *Elijah* and studio recordings of *Elijah* and Britten *War Requiem*. Gabrieli Roar's inaugural performance under its new name took place on 16 February 2016 at Southwark Cathedral, followed by a large-scale celebration of Anglican choral repertoire at Ely Cathedral in July 2016. Future plans include Haydn masses, Purcell and Praetorius programmes and Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, again at Ely Cathedral in conjunction with Cambridge Summer Music Festival.

Gabrieli's 2015-16 season included a collaboration with the St Paul Chamber Orchestra, a Christmas tour of Handel's *Messiah* which took us to Lucerne, Versailles, Zaragoza, San Sebastian and Pamplona, performances of Handel's *Dixit Dominus* at Handelfestspiele Halle and, again, Chateau de Versailles and performances of Haydn's *The Seasons* at St John's Smith Square and National Forum of Music, Wrocław prior to a large-scale recording of the work in collaboration with Wrocław Baroque Orchestra and National Forum of Music Choir. The season concluded with a series of a cappella choral concerts, including a new secular English programme of predominantly 20th century repertoire.



During 2016-17 Gabrieli's activities include a tour of *A New Venetian Coronation 1595* that takes us back to the Lincoln Center for the first time in a decade, as well as performances at Ann Arbor and in Madrid; and a revival of our programme *Handel in Italy*, featuring the monumental choral tour de force *Handel Dixit Dominus*, performed in Tel Aviv, Beaune and at Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam. We will return to our London home St John's Smith Square for two programmes during the season *Handel in Italy* in March 2017, followed by a new a cappella programme in June 2017. This beautiful Marian programme will feature large-scale Tudor motets by Tallis and Mundy programmed alongside the world premiere of a new work by British composer Matthew Martin.

With Paul McCreesh, we aim to create inspirational and thought-provoking performances that stand out from the crowd. In 2010, Paul McCreesh established his own record label *Winged Lion* which, in its first year alone, released four extremely diverse recordings, underlining Gabrieli's versatility and McCreesh's breadth of vision. The focal point of *Winged Lion's* output is the Wroclaw Cantans Oratorio Series, spectacular large-scale oratorio recordings made in conjunction with the Wroclaw Philharmonic Choir with the kind support of the National Forum of Music, Wroclaw. There are now three recordings in this series: Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts*, Mendelssohn *Elijah* and Britten *War Requiem*. The *Winged Lion* catalogue also includes two of Gabrieli's renowned *a cappella* programmes, *A Song of Farewell* (English choral repertoire from Morley and Sheppard to Howells and MacMillan), *Incarnation* (an inspiring sequence of less well-known Christmas repertoire), and *A New Venetian Coronation 1595*, a much-anticipated re-recording of the ensemble's famed 1990 reconstruction featuring music by Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli.

Gabrieli's most recent release on *Winged Lion* is Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* with a cast of soloists led by Gillian Webster and Jeremy Ovenden. Future releases include Haydn's *The Seasons*, in collaboration with the National Forum of Music, Wroclaw and the renowned Wroclaw Baroque Orchestra, and a new, secular *a cappella* programme of British repertoire, *Silence and Music*.

Gabrieli's reputation for award-winning recordings was established during a fifteen year association with Deutsche Grammophon. Our current *Winged Lion* releases are equally regarded as benchmark recordings, receiving accolades that include BBC Music Magazine Awards (Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts*, Britten *War Requiem*), Gramophone Award (*A New Venetian Coronation 1595*) and a Diapason d'Or de l'Année (Mendelssohn *Elijah*).

August 2016