

Gabrieli – short biography

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, Gabrieli has both outgrown and remained true to its original identity. Over thirty years, the ensemble's 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 continue to be reflected in the ensemble's dynamic performances. Their 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.

Today, at the heart of Gabrieli's activities is the development of a pioneering education initiative in *Gabrieli Roar*. This ambitious partnership with leading UK youth choirs has enabled Gabrieli to work extensively with teenagers from across the UK in intensive training programmes focused on recording major works of the oratorio repertoire and performances for such prestigious promoters as the BBC Proms.

Gabrieli aims to create inspirational and thought-provoking performances that stand out from the crowd. It has long been renowned for its many award-winning recordings created during a fifteen year association with Deutsche Grammophon. 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 the breadth of Paul McCreesh's vision. The focal point of the Winged Lion catalogue is the series of spectacular large-scale oratorio recordings made in conjunction with the Wroclaw Philharmonic Choir with the kind support of the National Forum of Music, Wroclaw: Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts*, Mendelssohn *Elijah* and Britten *War Requiem*; the next recording in this series will be a large-scale version of Haydn's *The Seasons*, recorded in June 2016 in Wroclaw's impressive new concert hall. The most recent release on Winged Lion is Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, Gabrieli's first Handel recording in over a decade.

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