



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

LONDON  
INTERNATIONAL  
A CAPPELLA CHORAL  
COMPETITION

## PRESS RELEASE

### 16 choirs from 11 countries to compete in the London International A Cappella Choral Competition 2017 at St John's Smith Square

Sunday 25 June 2017-Saturday 1 July 2017

- 16 choirs from 11 countries: Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Philippines, India, Indonesia, and the UK
- The only competition in the UK with a purely a cappella focus
- 2017 celebrates the music of Arvo Pärt
- An expert panel of judges comprising Peter Phillips (chairman), Graham Ross, Ghislaine Morgan, Tõnu Kaljuste, and Carolyn Sampson
- All participating choirs have the opportunity to perform at a lunchtime concert in a central London venue, and to participate in a specialist workshop with Ghislaine Morgan
- Audience "extras" include a unique opportunity to view an exhibition of photographs of Arvo Pärt by Kaupo Kikkas, in the UK for the first time
- Also includes a film screening of Dorian Supin's third documentary film of Arvo Pärt *even if I lose everything*

The **London International A Cappella Choral Competition** (LIACCC) at St John's Smith Square, now in its third year, promises to be an exciting week of first-rate music making. This year there are **16 choirs from 11 countries** competing over four evenings (26-29 June) for a place in the Grand Final on Saturday 1 July. The 16 choirs are:

**Aleron Chamber Choir** – Philippines  
**Arcadia Chamber Choir** – Colombia  
**Cantus Ensemble, The** - UK  
**Copenhagen Chamber Choir CAMERATA** – Denmark  
**Dysonans Chamber Choir** – Poland  
**Ensamble Oltremontani** – Chile  
**Fisher Consort, The** – UK  
**Haarlem Voices** – The Netherlands  
**Iken Scholars** – UK  
**Istvanffy Kamarakorus** – Hungary  
**JINGGASWARA** – Indonesia  
**Octet Cantabile** – India  
**Ole Bull Kammerkor** – Norway  
**Renaissance Singers, The** – UK  
**Schola Cantorum of The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School** – UK  
**Southern Spirit Singers** – UK

Conceived in 2013 by Peter Phillips, the London International A Cappella Choral Competition was founded in April 2014 in conjunction with St John's Smith Square. Peter had long dreamed of bringing together vocal groups from around the world to hear each other sing competitively; learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses; and possibly even win! **There is no other competition like it in the UK, with a purely a cappella focus, that aims to simultaneously nurture and challenge choirs.**

This year **LIACCC celebrates the music of Arvo Pärt**, with each of the competing choirs performing a selection of his work alongside a wealth of renaissance polyphony and music of each group's own choice (20 minutes total per choir). Joining the chair of the judging panel **Peter Phillips**, a line-up of internationally-renowned figures, including **Graham Ross, Ghislaine Morgan, Tõnu Kaljuste**, and **Carolyn Sampson** will be on hand to offer expert advice. In addition, the competing ensembles will be offered the **opportunity to perform a lunchtime concert in a central London venue**, and to **participate in a specialist workshop** with esteemed vocal coach, **Ghislaine Morgan**.

Following each Heat, a winner will be announced, who will progress to Saturday's Final. The four Finalists will compete for the coveted winning spot in The Grand Final on Saturday evening.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Winner of each Heat - £250

Overall First Prize - £3000 & invitation to perform a concert at St John's Smith Square

Overall Runner-Up - £1000

The prizes at the Grand Final will be presented by HE Mr Lauri Bambus, Estonian Ambassador to the UK, alongside Peter Phillips.

The day before the competition there will be an opening concert - "Choral Masterpieces of Arvo Pärt" featuring the Holst Singers with Stephen Layton, Sansara, and The Gesualdo Six and the works to be performed are: Solfeggio, Summa (Credo), Magnificat, Virgencita, and Passio. And on Friday 30 June, The Tallis Scholars will give a special concert celebrating the 500th anniversary of the death of Heinrich Isaac with his six voice mass, *Missa De Apostolis* and his triumphant motet *Virgo prudentissima* written for a big international peace conference in 1507. The programme will also feature two major choral works by Arvo Pärt and the Miserere by Gregorio Allegri penned a century after the death of Isaac in Italy.

Peter Phillips, Chairman of LIACCC said: ***"For our third edition of LIACCC we have turned to the man who is said to be the most performed living composer - Arvo Pärt. Certainly for The Tallis Scholars and for me personally he has become a central figure in our understanding of contemporary a cappella composition. It is a thrill to be able to highlight his music. It is also a thrill to welcome so many wonderful ensembles from all over the globe, and to hear them in close proximity, both in concert and in competition. This bigger-than-ever LIACCC really is a dream come true."***

LIACCC is delighted to announce a couple of **additional extras to celebrate Arvo Pärt and his music**. **For the first time ever in the UK**, an exhibition of photos by Kaupo Kikkas will be open to the public in the Crypt of St John's Smith Square during LIACCC. The exhibition consists of 16 photos by Kaupo Kikkas. The photos portray the recording session of the CD "Adams's Lament" by the recording company ECM in 2011 in Tallinn, St.Nicholas' Church. The producer of the CD is Manfred Eicher, conductor is Tõnu Kaljuste and the performers are the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Sinfonietta Riga, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Latvian Radio Choir and Vox Clamantis.

There is also the opportunity to attend a **film screening** at the Curzon Cinema Victoria on 30 June 4.00pm of Dorian Supin's third documentary film of Arvo Pärt - "Even if I lose everything". This film steps closer to the composer, showing him in a domestic setting as a composer, husband, father and grandfather. The title "Even if I lose everything" refers to an entry in Arvo Pärt's musical notebooks, which the composer browses in the film, together with Immo Mikhelson. The musings and recollections inspired by the notes in these journals, in parallel with domestic scenes, shed light on the composer's life and creative philosophy, painting a personal, in-depth picture of Arvo Pärt. The film's soundtrack includes excerpts from Pärt's works.

Richard Heason, Director of St John's Smith Square, said: *"The London International A Cappella Choral Competition has fast become one of the most exciting and eagerly anticipated events in the St John's Smith Square calendar. With musicians joining us from across the globe to share their passion for a cappella singing, St John's Smith Square will be awash with the most glorious music making every day. The combination of music from the great English Renaissance tradition, the music of Arvo Pärt and the free choices of the individual choirs promises a rich and thrilling variety throughout the week and the opportunity to hear so many choirs from such diverse backgrounds come together for one event is without precedent. Bringing all this together will be the peerless Peter Phillips who, with The Tallis Scholars, has set the benchmark for A Cappella choirs for over four decades."*

For more information and press tickets please contact:

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#### Notes for Editors

Tickets on sale from St John's Smith Square Box Office  
from 10am Wednesday 15 March 2017  
[www.sjss.org.uk](http://www.sjss.org.uk)  
020 7222 1061

Further competition information also available at [www.liaccc.org.uk](http://www.liaccc.org.uk)

For images, please visit <http://bit.ly/2mURWR6>

[#LIACCC](https://twitter.com/LIACCC)

## **LIACCC 2017 Event Listing**

Competition Pass £45 (£35 for concessions and Young Friends) includes all events except the Film Screening at Curzon Cinema Victoria.

### **Competition Events**

#### **Monday 26 June 2017 7.30pm**

HEAT 1

St John's Smith Square

Haarlem Voices THE NETHERLANDS

Iken Scholars UK

The Renaissance Singers UK

Arcadia Chamber Choir COLOMBIA

#### **Tuesday 27 June 2017 7.30pm**

HEAT 2

St John's Smith Square

Ensamble Oltremontani CHILE

The Fisher Consort UK

Istvanffy Kamarakorus HUNGARY

Octet Cantabile INDIA

#### **Wednesday 28 June 2017 7.30pm**

HEAT 3

St John's Smith Square

Aleron Chamber Choir PHILIPPINES

The Cantus Ensemble UK

Copenhagen Chamber Choir CAMERATA DENMARK

Southern Spirit Singers UK

#### **Thursday 29 June 2017 7.30pm**

HEAT 4

St John's Smith Square

Schola Cantorum of The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School UK

Dysonans Chamber Choir POLAND

Jinggawara INDONESIA

Ole Bull Kammerkor NORWAY

All Heats £10 (£6) YF

#### **Saturday 1 July 2017 7.30pm**

The Final

St John's Smith Square

Judging Panel: Peter Phillips, Carolyn Sampson, Tõnu Kaljuste, Graham Ross & Ghislaine Morgan.

Four winning choirs from the week's heats will battle it out for First Prize.

£15 (£10) YF

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### **Lunchtime Recitals**

Though they do not form a compulsory part of the competition, all participating choirs are offered the opportunity to perform a lunchtime recital in a central London church.

#### **Monday 26 June 2017 1.10pm**

St James's Piccadilly

Aleron Chamber Choir

**Poulenc** *Quatre petites prières de Saint François d'Assise*

**Robin Estrada** *Psalmi 137*

**Karl Amando** *San Jose Biyaya ang Pag-ibig*

**Milhaud** *Psaume 121*

**Palestrina** *Agnus Dei I (Missa Papae Marcelli)*

**Raoul Carlo Angangco** *Lullaby by the Sea*

**Nilo Alcala** *New Work (world premiere)*

**Poulenc** *Chanson à boire*

#### **Monday 26 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Gabriel Pimlico

Octet Cantabile

**Padilla** *Kyrie from Missa Ego flos campi*

**Ennai marava arr. Augustine Paul** *A Tamil traditional*

**Chris Rice** *Carry your candle*

**Traditional arr. Tom Fetke** *Lord's Prayer*

**Bach arr. Ward Swingle** *Organ Fugue BWV578*

**Enniladanga Sthothiram arr. Augustine Paul** *A Tamil traditional*

**Arr. The King's Singers** *Train*

**Mozart arr. Ben Parry** *Take it from Figure "O"*

**Steve Millikan and Rod Robinson arr. Steven. V. Taylor** *Fat baby*

**Trad. Gospel** *Eye is on the sparrow*

**Trad. Gospel** *You can change*

**Trad. Gospel** *Angels rejoice*

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#### **Tuesday 27 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Gabriel Pimlico

Jinggaswara

**Traditional** *Aceh Likok Pulo*

**Pop Traditional Melayu, arr. Yusup Rahayu Bachtiar** *Bunga Seroja*

**Traditional North Sumatra, arr. Budi Susanto Yohanes** *Tardigadingdangdo*

**Traditional West Java by Mang Koko arr. by Rita Victoria** *Badminton*

**Indonesian Dangdut song, arr. Budi Susanto Yohanes** *Halo Dangdut*

**Traditional Bali, arr. Agustinus Bambang Jusana** *Tari Sanghyang Dedari*

**Traditional Betawi, arr. Agustinus Bambang Jusana** *Gado-gado*

**Traditional Central Java, arr. Yusup Rahayu Bachtiar** *Jaranan*

**Traditional West Java, arr. Ken Steven** *Tokecang*

**Ken Steven** *Untukmu, Negeri Tercinta*

**Tuesday 27 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Stephen's Rochester Row

Arcadia Chamber Choir

**Ola Gjeilo** *Ubi caritas*

**Alberto Balzanelli** *Kyrie*

**György Orbán** *Daemon irrepit callidus*

**Giorgio F Ghedini** *Peccanten me quotidie*

**Z Randall Stroope** *The conversion of Saul*

**Tallis** *Lamentations*

**A. Urdaneta** *Guabina Chiquinquireña*

**Arr. O Baracaldo** *Chambú*

**Arr. A Carbonell** *Cosita Linda*

**Arr. Juan Carrillo** *10 El Gavilán*

**arr J. D. Osorio** *Maximina*

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**Wednesday 28 June 2017 1.10pm**

St James's Piccadilly

Haarlem Voices

**Josquin des Prez** *Ave Maria*

**Arvo Pärt** *Magnificat*

**Palestrina** *Tu es Petrus*

**Bruckner** *Os justi*

**James Macmillan** *Lux aeterna*

**Marenzio** *Scaldava il sol*

**Monteverdi** *Zefiro torna*

**Janáčček** *Kačena divoká*

**Ravel** *Nicolette*

**Diepenbrock** *Auf dem See*

**Bennett** *A Good Night*

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**Thursday 29 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Gabriel Pimlico

Copenhagen Chamber Choir CAMERATA

**Peter Bruun** *Hurrahing In Harvest*

**Górecki** *3 Lullabies*

**Arr. Bo Holten** *Skiønneste Blomster*

**Arvo Pärt** *The Woman With The Alabaster Box*

**Per Nørgård** *To HC Andersen Poesier*

**Purcell arr. Sven-David Sandström** *Hear my prayer*

**Ola Gjeilo** *Unicornis Captivatur*

**Thursday 29 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Stephen's Rochester Row

Ensamble Oltremontani

**Anonymous** *Hanacpachap Cussicuinin*

**Marbrianus de Orto** *Ave Maria*

**Josquin Desprez** *Praeter rerum seriem*

**Cipriano de Rore** *Kyrie-Gloria Missa Praeter rerum seriem*

**Philippe Verdelot** *Italia mia*  
**Gasparo Alberti** *Agnus Dei Missa Italia mia*  
**Arvo Pärt** *O Adonai*  
**Arvo Pärt** *Summa*  
**Jacob Arcadelt** *Il bianco e dolce cigno*  
**Orazio Vecchi** *Il bianco e dolce cigno*  
**Clement Janequin** *La meuniere de Vernon*  
**Clement Janequin** *Ventz hardis et legers*  
**Nicolás Aguad** *New Work (world premiere)*

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**Friday 30 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Stephen's Rochester Row  
Ole Bull Kammerkor  
Programme to be announced

**Friday 30 June 2017 1.10pm**

St James's Piccadilly  
Dysonans Chamber Choir  
**Wacław Z Szamotuła** *Alleluja Chwalcie Pana*  
**Tallis** *O Sacrum Convivium*  
**Byrd** *Laudibus In Sanctis*  
**Mikolaj Zielencki** *Vox In Rama*  
**Palestrina** *Exsultate Deo*  
**Tomkins** *When David Heard*  
**Monteverdi** *Cantate Domino*  
**Gesualdo Da Venosa** *Tristis Est Anima Mea*  
**Feliks Nowowiejski** *Parce Domine*  
**Marek Raczyński** *Ave Regina Caelorum*  
**Trond Kverno** *Ave Maris Stella*  
**Arvo Pärt** *Morning Star*  
**Marek Jasiński** *Psalm 100*

**Friday 30 June 2017 1.10pm**

St Gabriel Pimlico  
Istvanffy Kamarakorus  
**Costanzo Porta** *Missa mortuorum*

All recitals: Free admission with a retiring collection

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**Choir Workshops**

**Monday 26 June 2017 10.00am**

Haarlem Voices & Istvanffy Kamarakorus

**Tuesday 27 June 2017 10.00am**

Ensamble Oltremontani & Aleron Chamber Choir

**Wednesday 28 June 2017 10.00am**

JINGGASWARA & Southern Spirit Singers

**Thursday 29 June 2017 10.00am**

Dysonans Chamber Choir & Arcadia Chamber Choir

**Friday 30 June 2017 10.00am**

Ole Bull Kammerkor & Octet Cantabile

The competing choirs are invited to participate in vocal workshops throughout the week with vocal coach Ghislaine Morgan. All workshops are open to the public to observe free of charge.

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**Additional Events**

**Additional Events**

**Sunday 25 June 2017 7.30pm**

Opening Concert: Choral Masterpieces of Arvo Pärt  
St John's Smith Square

The Holst Singers  
Stephen Layton CONDUCTOR  
The Gesualdo Six  
Sansara (winners of LIACCC 2015)  
Tom Herring ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Arvo Pärt *Passio*  
Arvo Pärt *Summa (Credo)*  
Arvo Pärt *Magnificat*  
Arvo Pärt *Virgencita*

£25 (£12) YF

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**Sunday 25 June 2017 – Saturday 1 July 2017**

Photography Exhibition by Kaupo Kikkas: Arvo Pärt *Adam's Lament* in Photos  
Courtesy of the Arvo Pärt Centre, Estonia  
The Crypt, St John's Smith Square  
Free admission daily 10am – concert end

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**Friday 30 June 2017 4.00pm**

Film Screening: *even if I lose everything*  
Curzon Cinema Victoria

Dorian Supin's third documentary film of Arvo Pärt steps closer to the composer, showing him in a domestic setting as a composer, husband, father and grandfather. The title "Even if I lose everything" refers to an entry in Arvo Pärt's musical notebooks, which the composer browses in the film, together with Immo Mikhelson. The musings and recollections inspired by the notes in these journals, in parallel with domestic scenes, shed light on the composer's life and creative philosophy, painting a personal, in-depth picture of Arvo Pärt. The film's soundtrack includes excerpts from Pärt's works.

<http://www.arvopart.ee/en/2016/04/8283/>



£6 (£5) YF

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**Friday 30 June 2017 7.30pm**

The Tallis Scholars

Peter Phillips DIRECTOR

**Arvo Pärt** *Nunc Dimittis*

**Isaac** *Missa De Apostolis*

**Allegri** *Miserere*

**Arvo Pärt** *Triodion*

**Isaac** *Virgo prudentissima*

In this special programme, The Tallis Scholars celebrate the 500th anniversary of the death of Heinrich Isaac with his six voice mass, *Missa De Apostolis* and his triumphant motet *Virgo prudentissima* written for a big international peace conference in 1507.

The programme also features two major choral works by the feature composer of this year's London International A Cappella Choral Competition, Arvo Pärt.

Lastly, back by popular demand is the *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri penned a century after the death of Isaac in Italy.

[thetallisscholars.co.uk](http://thetallisscholars.co.uk)

£35, £28, £22, £15 YF

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#### **Background:**

Conceived in 2013 by Peter Phillips, the London International A Cappella Choral Competition was founded in April 2014 in conjunction with St John's Smith Square. Peter had long dreamed of bringing together vocal groups from around the world to hear each other sing competitively; learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses; and possibly even win! There is no other competition like it in the UK, with a purely a cappella focus, that aims to simultaneously nurture and challenge choirs.

Choral tradition is strong across the globe, and has been a constant in London for much of the last five centuries. LIACCC strives to demonstrate the excellence of this historic music-making to an international audience, in the fantastic surroundings of St John's Smith Square, a Baroque architectural masterpiece in the heart of Westminster.

As such, both old and new music are important features of the competition. In previous competitions we have showcased the music of John Tavener and Gabriel Jackson, but in 2017 we feature the life and work of Arvo Pärt. Links with Renaissance Polyphony can be heard in all these composers' work which only strengthens this very special musical tradition.

[www.liacc.org.uk](http://www.liacc.org.uk)

[#LIACCC](https://twitter.com/LIACCC)