



Christmas with The Queen's Six

December 17, 2023 • 2:00 p.m. • First Presbyterian Church

Concert sponsored by David Chivas and Ron Rice

PROGRAM

Once in Royal David's city
Bethlehem Down
The Lamb

English Carol, arr. Damian Eley
Peter Warlock
John Tavener

Somerset Wassail
Crown of Roses
Silent night

English Carol, arr. Brian Kay
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Franz Gruber, arr. Keith Roberts

Winter Wonderland
Born on a new day
Sleigh ride

Felix Bernard, arr. Stephen Carleston
John David, arr. Peter Knight
Leroy Anderson, arr. Stephen Carleston

Intermission

The Christmas Song
Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Mel Tormé, arr. Peter Knight
Martin/Blane, arr. Bob Chilcott

Heaven is a place on earth
Isn't she lovely
I'm gonna be (500 miles)

Nowels/Shibley, arr. Miguel Esteban
Stevie Wonder, arr. Tim Carleston
Craig & Charles Reid, arr. Tom Lilburn

Stand by me

Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoler
arr. Mark Delisser/Simon Whiteley

The Power of Love

Hayes/Colla/Lewis, arr. Stephen Carleston

All I want for Christmas is you
Jingle Bells

Carey/Afanasiyev, arr. Miguel Esteban
James Lord Pierpont, arr. Keith Roberts

About the Artists

The Queen's Six was established in 2008, the 450th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth I, from whom they take their name. Based at Windsor Castle, members of The Queen's Six make up part of the lay clerks of St. George's Chapel, whose homes lie within the castle walls. The chapel choir, which consists of girl and boy choristers and 12 professional adult singers, performs some eight services a week, as well as at private and state occasions, often before the royal family.



Dominic Bland grew up in Berkshire and started his music career as a chorister in St George's Chapel. After this he gained the top music scholarship to Cheltenham College. He then continued his studies of singing and oboe at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

He then spent a year as a choral scholar at the magnificent Wells Cathedral which he combined with musical outreach at six local primary schools.

Coming full circle he then gained a job as lay clerk at St George's Chapel, where he lives with his wife and three beautiful children. As a lay clerk he has had the privilege to sing at many royal weddings and most recently the committal of Queen Elizabeth II.

He has also sung with many UK-based ensembles including Tenebrae, London Voices and others. Along with The Queen's Six, these groups have taken him all around the world and recent highlights include appearances on the Stephen Colbert Show and CBS Sunday Morning.

Dominic loves to travel and loves getting local advice about what to visit. Hobbies include golf and gardening when he's not taxiing children around.



Tom Lilburn graduated with distinction from the Master of Performance course at the Royal College of Music, where he was an Ian Evans Lombe scholar. At RCM Tom sang Unlfo in Handel's *Rodelinda* and Refugee in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*. Last autumn he covered Ottone and Narciso in Handel's *Agrippina* with English Touring Opera, and this autumn he covered Ottone and Amore in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with ETO.

Tom is also a lay clerk at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and in April 2021 he was one of four singers at the funeral of The Duke of Edinburgh.

In his capacity as an experienced oratorio performer, Tom's recent performances include Handel's *Dixit Dominus*; Bach's *St. John Passion*, *St. Matthew Passion*, *Mass in B Minor* and *Magnificat*; Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*; Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Beatus Vir*; Astorga's *Stabat Mater*; and Telemann's *Magnificat in C*. This November Tom sang the solos from Handel's *Messiah* in the Royal Albert Hall.

Tom has worked with esteemed consorts including Tenebrae, The Sixteen, The Binchois Consort and ORA.

Tom grew up in Solihull and attended King Edward's School in Birmingham before studying natural sciences as a choral scholar at St John's College, Cambridge. In his spare time he enjoys playing chess, tennis, cricket, and golf.



Nicholas Madden was born and grew up in Dunedin, New Zealand. Alongside singing as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral in Dunedin and with the New Zealand Youth Choir, Nicholas also had a keen interest in cricket, missing out on a career in sports due to injury. Nicholas studied biochemistry at the University of Otago before moving to the UK in 2005 to sing as one of the tenor lay clerks at Ely Cathedral and to pursue a freelance career as a soloist and ensemble singer.

In 2007, Nicholas joined the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, where he sings daily services in the chapel, as well as singing regularly for the royal family at both private and state occasions, including in recent times at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. In 2021, during the Covid pandemic, Nicholas was honoured to be one of only three lay clerks chosen to sing at the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, broadcast to millions around the world, and in September 2022 the committal service of Queen Elizabeth II. Alongside his formal role in the choir of St George's, Nicholas is also a founding member of The Queen's Six.

Nicholas is also in high demand as a soloist, and highlights have included performances of J.S. Bach's *St Matthew Passion* under Sir Colin Davis, Handel's *Messiah* with the OAE and Tenebrae, directed by Nigel Short in concerts across the UK, USA and Europe as well as various works by Handel with The Gabrieli Consort under Paul McCreesh. As an ensemble singer, Nicholas works regularly with some of the most prestigious groups in the UK and internationally, including Tenebrae, Polyphony, Arcangelo, The Gabrieli Consort, The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen, ORA, Eric Whitacre Singers, BBC Singers, and the Dutch Radio Choir. He also sings regularly with London Voices on numerous film, computer game, and other soundtracks.



Lissie Paul hails from Lichfield, Staffordshire. Elisabeth's singing life began when she joined the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Chorus. In 2013, she graduated with an honors degree in music from Royal Holloway, University of London where she sang as a choral scholar. She was also a regular soloist for the college's Early Music Society and the Big Band 'Undergraduated' and was principal oboist of both the symphony and philharmonic orchestras.

Based in London, Elisabeth enjoys a busy and varied career as a freelance consort singer and soloist. She sings, tours and records regularly with a number of ensembles including The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen, Ensemble Pro Victoria, Tenebrae, and the choir of St Peter's Church, Eaton Square. Elisabeth is an alumna of young artist programs run by The Sixteen (Genesis Sixteen) and Tenebrae (Associate Artist Scheme).

As a soloist, Elisabeth has experience in a broad range of repertoire. Notable highlights include her solo debut at Wigmore Hall in Sebastiani's *St Matthew Passion* with Fretwork; recording solo songs for a CD of Byrd's *Psalms, Songs, & Sonnets* with The Sixteen and Fretwork; Handel's *Messiah* at St John's Smith Square; Bach's *St John Passion* at St Martin-in-the-Fields; and recording solo verse anthems for *In Chains of Gold* with Fretwork and His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts.

Away from singing, Elisabeth enjoys bird watching, hiking, binge-watching Friends on repeat, and following the highs and lows of England's cricket team.