

THE SWINGLES



“stunning reinventions... audacious harmonies... superhero singing to truly raise goosebumps” **The Guardian**

The Swingles are one of the world’s most admired and loved vocal groups. With a natural flair as entertainers, their stylish, classy shows take them to venues and festival stages across the world. They have earned 5 Grammy® Awards and are recipients of multiple prestigious international accolades. With generations of fans from their live performances and appearances on film and TV soundtracks, The Swingles’ musical evolution and creative drive makes them as relevant today as when Ward Swingle started the group nearly six decades ago.

With their trademark vocal dexterity and innate musicality, The Swingles are reimagining jazz, classical, folk and pop from their ever-growing repertoire of arrangements alongside a rich vein of new original material. The group’s secret ingredient is the ability of the seven singers, soloists, songwriters and storytellers to combine as one seamlessly blended and timeless sound. The Swingles have always made creative use of close-mic amplification, and in the last decade, they have added unique live audio looping techniques to their stage performances – an immersive layering up of vocals to mesmerise the audience.

American-born Ward Swingle first assembled a group of Parisian session singers (originally named Les Swingle Singers) to sing Bach’s music for the keyboard in 1962. The resulting album ‘Jazz Sebastian Bach’ was a huge hit, breaking new musical ground and launching The Swingles to fame. Since then, the group has released more than 50 albums encompassing a huge variety of music, fuelled by Ward Swingle’s pioneering spirit and omnivorous musical tastes. Carrying forward this legacy, today’s Swingles are Federica Basile (Italy), Joanna Goldsmith-Eteson (UK), Imogen Parry (UK), Oliver Griffiths (UK), Jamie Wright (UK), Jon Smith (US) and Tom Hartley (UK).

Revered experimental composer, Luciano Berio, was one of the first composers to explore the sound of The Swingles’ amplified voices in an orchestral setting with his ground-breaking Sinfonia. Notable performances include those with San Francisco Symphony (with Michael Tilson Thomas), ORF Vienna Radio (with Marin Alsop), London Philharmonic Orchestra (with Vladimir Jurowski), and the Orchestra of La Scala, Milan (with John Axelrod). Collaborations with artists from Labrinth to The King’s Singers, Peter Hollens and Jamie Cullum add to The Swingles creative output. The Swingles founded and curated the hugely successful London A Cappella Festival for 10 wonderful years from 2010- 2020.



5-time Grammy winning
vocal stars

THE
SWINGLES
present

BACH AND BEYOND



".. never less than dazzling" – Washington Post

"superhero singing" – The Guardian

BACH AND BEYOND Classic Swingles

The Swingles take a look back over almost six decades of vocal artistry with this programme, focussing on the group's early repertoire and celebrating the five-time Grammy® winners' extraordinary musical heritage. Featuring everything from beloved Ward Swingle arrangements of J.S. Bach fugues to fiendish Bulgarian folk and new original songs as well as pop and jazz favourites reimagined for the 21st century.

Rep list examples:

Little Organ Fugue
Johann Sebastian Bach

F Minor Prelude
Johann Sebastian Bach

Air on the G String
Johann Sebastian Bach

Nana
Manuel de Falla

Concerto Grosso
Arcangelo Corelli

Move This Sky
Jo Goldsmith-Eteson

Ili-Ili Tulog Anay
Traditional Visayan Lullaby

Bučimiš
Traditional Bulgarian Dance

STORYTELLING

The Power of Music

Performing brand new original songs written in response to recent times alongside reimagined much-loved classics from their favourite songwriters, this pop & folk influenced show tells poignant tales of love, loss and uplifting inspiration including Paul Simon, Mumford & Sons and Radiohead.



Rep list examples:

America
Paul Simon

Goodbye England
Laura Marling

After The Storm
Mumford & Sons

You Don't Speak For Me
Edward Randell

Tokyo Sunrise
LP

Blackbird/I Will
The Beatles

15 Step
Radiohead

Go Your Own Way
Fleetwood Mac

JAZZ MOMENTS

In the Groove

The Swingles originated in the swinging sixties at the peak of vocal jazz, and in this special programme they pay tribute to their founder, Ward Swingle and the iconic singers and groups from that era, including Keith Jarrett, Billie Holiday and Ray Charles. Along the way, they draw inspiration from some of the instrumental giants who have expanded the music's sonic and harmonic palette and bring the tradition right up to date with brand new jazz-inflected original songs.

Rep list examples:

Leaving Again
Keith Jarrett/Kurt Elling/David Mann/Bob Hilliard

Don't Explain
Billie Holiday

Somewhere For The Words To Land
Imogen Parry/Jon Smith

Verderame
Federica Basile

D Minor Fugue
Johann Sebastian Bach

Badinerie
Johann Sebastian Bach

My Foolish Heart
Victor Young/Ned Washington

Hallelujah I Love Him So
Ray Charles

THEATRELAND

West End to Broadway

A spectacular celebration of some of the greatest musical theatre songs as you've never heard them before, encompassing the golden age of Broadway (Guys and Dolls), innovators Bernstein and Sondheim (West Side Story), and showstoppers from modern classics including Spring Awakening, Waitress and Hadestown.

Rep list examples:

Sunday

from Sunday in the Park with George
Stephen Sondheim

Song of Purple Summer

from Spring Awakening
Duncan Sheik/Steven Sater

Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat

from Guys and Dolls
Frank Loesser

A Soft Place to Land

from Waitress
Sara Bareilles

Wedding Song

from Hadestown
Anaïs Mitchell



COLLABORATIONS WITH CHOIRS

Some of The Swingles' musical highlights each year are collaborative shows with orchestras, jazz instrumentalists, choirs and ensembles. These include illustrious ensembles such as **The King's Singers**, **New York Voices**, and **The National Youth Jazz Orchestra**, chamber choirs and a cappella groups. The Swingles will work with a choir's music director to craft a programme of uplifting songs to delight audiences and challenge the singers, pushing their musical boundaries with a great sense of joy, respect and sense of achievement.

Joint repertoire may include:

Burden
Edward Randell

Home
Jon Smith

Les Fleurs
Minnie Riperton

Narnia
Jo Goldsmith-Eteson/Oliver Griffiths/Sara Davey

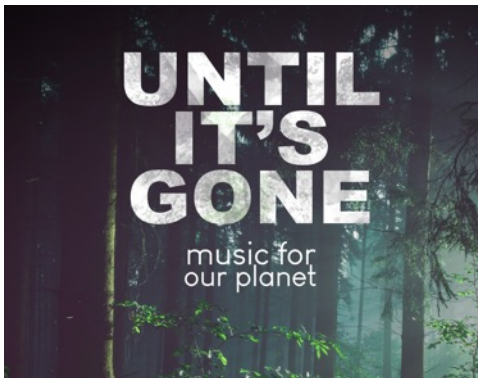
Air on the G String
Johann Sebastian Bach

Swim
Edward Randell

New York State of Mind
Billie Joel

You're All I Need to Get By
Aretha Franklin/Marvin Gaye

Workshops: The Swingles' work in education has inspired generations of singers. Their charismatic, engaging and accessible style of teaching appeals to all ages and abilities. At its heart is the belief that everyone should experience the joy of expressing themselves through music. The group offers a variety of workshops and masterclasses, tailored for each group and session.



Until It's Gone is new suite of songs in three movements for Swingles & SATB choir, a thought-provoking and beautiful work about our world - nature and environment - written by The Swingles in collaboration with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. Until It's Gone was premiered in London in 2022 to great acclaim. Scores and audio available upon request.

THE SWINGLES AND VADÉ Vocal supergroup & star R&B vocal quintet

The Swingles are joined by special guests Vadé - soulful rising stars of the UK vocal scene and winners of Sky One tv's Sing: Ultimate A Cappella - to perform songs by legends Cyndi Lauper, Peter Gabriel and Michael Jackson, as well as new original music and traditional folk songs, in an unforgettable, life-affirming collaboration.

Rep list examples:

Man in the Mirror
Michael Jackson

Time after Time
Cyndi Lauper

Kiss From a Rose
Seal

Life on Mars
David Bowie



TOGETHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS or TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

What better way to get into the holiday spirit than with songs of good cheer brought to you by The Swingles?

The Grammy® winners present a banquet of music to keep out the cold, with folk and jazz-inspired original songs served alongside traditional carols and festive favourites. Evoking icebound worlds, blankets of snow and fireside singalongs, the unmistakable sound of The Swingles has long been associated with Christmas. Audiences can look forward to music from six decades of Christmas/Holiday releases alongside favourite pieces from the group's year-round touring repertoire.

A Cappella

Rep list examples:

O Come O Come Emmanuel
Traditional

Sleigh Ride
Leroy Anderson/Mitchell Parish

Wrapped in White
Edward Randell

Tidings (The Hampton Court Carol)
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Traditional

The Christmas Song
Mel Tormé/Robert Wells

White Christmas
Irving Berlin

This Christmas
Donny Hathaway

Auld Lang Syne
Traditional

Orchestral

Rep list examples:

White Christmas
Irving Berlin

Deck the Hall/What Child Is This?
Traditional

Carol Medley
Various

Home Alone Medley
John Williams

Christmas Concerto Grosso
Arcangelo Corelli

Silent Night
Franz Gruber/Joseph Mohr

Gabriel's Message
Traditional

The Kings
We Three Kings/Arabian Dance from the Nutcracker
John Henry Hopkins/ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky



ORCHESTRATION

Detailed orchestrations can be provided upon request.
Maximum instrumentation required across the programme:

3.3.3.3 – 4.3.3.1 – timp, 3 perc, harp, piano/organ, strings

ANTHROPOLOGY

A Musical Odyssey

The Swingles pull out all the stops with their orchestral offerings. With repertoire that ranges from baroque classics to Egyptian film music, the addition of instruments ideally complements The Swingles' instrumental approach to singing – whether they're bringing passion and rhythmic attack to a Piazzolla tango or trading lines on a vintage Bach arrangement. Perfect for classical festivals and for fans of the group's more traditional repertoire, this is a programme full of excitement and innovation.



ORCHESTRATION

Detailed orchestrations can be provided upon request.
Maximum instrumentation required across the programme:

3.3.3.3 – 4.3.3.1 – timp, 3 perc, harp, piano/organ, strings

A programme example for full orchestra is below;
a variation is available for chamber/string orchestra.

FIRST HALF

The Swingles a cappella
Swim
Edward Randell
Goodbye England
Laura Marling
Ili-Ili Tulog Anay (The Philippines)
Visayan Lullaby

With Strings
Concerto Grosso (Italy)
Arcangelo Corelli
Badinerie (Germany)
Johann Sebastian Bach

The Swingles a cappella
Nana (Spain)
Manuel de Falla
Gemiler Giresun'e (Turkey)
Traditional Folk Song

With Full Orchestra
Asturias (Spain)
Isaac Albéniz
Mo Li Hua (China)
Traditional Folk Song
I Feel The Earth Move (USA)
Carole King

SECOND HALF

The Swingles a cappella
Bučimiš (Bulgaria)
Traditional Dance
Verderame (Italy)
Federica Basile

With Strings
Fatma (Egypt)
Omar Khairat
Les Fleurs (USA)
Minnie Riperton

The Swingles a cappella
Weather to Fly
Elbow
Narnia
Joanna Goldsmith-Eteson/Oliver Griffiths
/Sara Davey
Tokyo Sunrise
LP

With Full Orchestra
Umi (Japan)
Traditional Folk Song
Lover's Desire (Afghanistan)
Traditional Folk Song

Possible encores: Astor Piazzolla's **Libertango**
(Argentina), Zequinha Abreu's **Tico-Tico No Fubá** (Brazil)

SINFONIA

Luciano Berio

Celebrating 100 years in 2025

Luciano Berio's *Sinfonia* is a landmark in 20th century classical music, a kaleidoscope of ideas that is both intellectually playful and viscerally powerful. The amplified vocal parts in *Sinfonia* were originally written for The Swingles, and they remain its definitive interpreters with an unrivalled understanding of its nuances and technical demands.

As a group that continually strives to innovate, The Swingles love returning to the revolutionary *Sinfonia*, which they perform as eight singers. Each of today's Swingles is an experienced Berio performer and highly responsive to the approaches of different conductors and orchestras. The current singers' *Sinfonia* credits include performances under Antonio Pappano, Zubin Mehta, Marin Alsop, Michael Tilson Thomas, Yoel Levi, Vladimir Jurowski, John Axelrod and Edo de Waart, in venues from the Royal Albert Hall (London) to La Scala (Milan).

Symphony orchestra and 8 amplified voices
4.3.4.3 – 4.4.3.1 – perc(3), harp, e.hpsd, piano, e.org, alto sax, t.sax, strings



With John Axelrod



With Marin Alsop



With Michael Tilson Thomas

“Stunning reinventions of songs by the likes of John Martyn, Elbow and Mumford & Sons, with subtle beatboxing and audacious harmonies... superhero singing to truly raise goosebumps.”
THE GUARDIAN

“The orchestra and the Swingle Singers...gave a stellar performance, full of color, vitality, and drama.”
BACHTRACK

“The vocal and choral world has changed considerably in the last 50 years... But The Swingles have managed to hold onto to their distinctive niche and continue to thrive.”
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

“Whether performing with the National Symphony Orchestra or in a cappella settings, The Swingle Singers were never less than dazzling”
THE WASHINGTON POST

“The legendary Swingle Singers, in their latest incarnation, navigated the dauntingly virtuosic terrain with breathtaking and often quite beautiful results.”
BAY AREA REPORTER

“The Swingle Singers pitched those mysteriously lovely chords with laser-like precision... a triumph”
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

“How a group that has been going since the early 1960s can continue to create the same wonderfully pure and inspiring sounds that first made it famous is a mystery.”
IRISH EXAMINER

“Without question one of the best close harmony groups in the world... fantastic singers”
GARETH MALONE OBE



The Real Group Festival, August 2022



Ravenna Festival, June 2021



[The Real Group Festival 2022](#)



[15 Step](#)
Radiohead



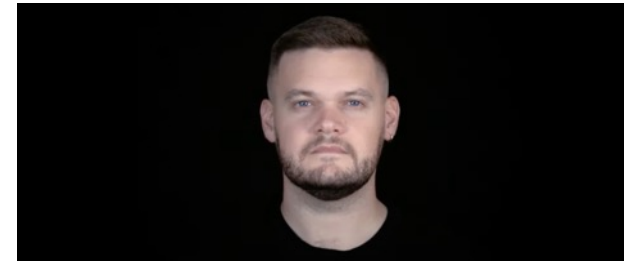
[Badinerie](#)
Johann Sebastian Bach



[Hallelujah I Love Him So](#)
Ray Charles



[Blackbird/I Will](#)
The Beatles



[You Don't Speak For Me](#)
Edward Randell



[Bučimiš](#)
Bulgarian Traditional



[Narnia](#)
Jo Goldsmith-Eteson/Sara Davey/Oliver Griffiths



[Live from London 2020 Highlights](#)

THE SWINGLES

Imogen
Parry

Jamie
Wright

Jon
Smith

Tom
Hartley

Oliver
Griffiths

Joanna
Goldsmith-Eteson

Federica
Basile



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