

ERROLLYN WALLEN
**PEACE
ON
EARTH**





THE CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

For more than half a millennium, King's College Chapel has been the home to one of the world's most loved and renowned choirs. Since its foundation in 1441 by the 19-year-old King Henry VI, choral services in the Chapel, sung by this choir, have been a fundamental part of life in the College. Through the centuries, people from across Cambridge, the UK and, more recently, the world have listened to the Choir at these services. Today, even people who aren't able to attend services in the Chapel have heard King's Choir, thanks to its many recordings and broadcasts, and the tours that have taken it to leading international concert venues around the world. Despite its deep roots in musical history, the Choir has always been at the forefront of technological innovation, and records exclusively on its 'impeccable' own label.

ERROLLYN WALLEN PEACE ON EARTH

The Choir of King's College, Cambridge
Dónal McCann *organ*
Sir Stephen Cleobury *conductor*

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|---|--|------|
| 1 | Peace on Earth <i>George Hill (treble)</i> | 3:38 |
| 2 | See that I am God | 4:49 |
| 3 | Pace | 6:01 |

PEACE ON EARTH

I was overjoyed to be at the recording of this collection of choral pieces at King's College Chapel, Cambridge – one of the most legendary and atmospheric spaces for the performance of choral music in existence. Music for service; music for occasion; music to express life's force.

The three choral works on this EP continue the timeless tradition of reflecting on the human spirit through sung words.

These three works – **Peace on Earth, See that I am God** and **Pace** – reach across centuries of traditions and cultures to mould their expression and they range from the intimate to the majestic.

Peace on Earth is a contemporary carol and a setting of my own words: the bleakness of winter in a turning, troubled world conveyed through a slowly spinning ostinato over which the voices sing (as they themselves hear other unseen voices sing) of the hope for light and peace.

See that I am God was commissioned by the Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral through the generosity of the Boltini fund. It was first performed in 2014 by St Paul's Cathedral Consort to celebrate 20 years of the Ordination of Women

to the Priesthood in the Church of England.

The text is by Julian of Norwich, the 14th-century religious visionary, and her words inspired a dramatic setting where the consummate combination of voices and organ depicts the mystery and exhilaration of faith.

Pace is best understood as a single human breath; as a single line; as a world's long, long journey to light.

As I have composed these pieces I have often dreamt of hearing them performed one day by King's College Choir. That dream has been realised fully in this recording.

Errollyn Wallen

TEXTS

① **Peace on Earth**

Words and music *Errollyn Wallen*

And snow falls down on me
Peace on Earth.
The night is dark and soft.
Peace on Earth.
The lights that sparkle in the square,
The smoke that lingers in the air
Peace on Earth.

And grace falls down on me
Peace on Earth.
The dark will turn aside
Peace on Earth.
The fires that burn in every hearth
Do sing our praise of Christmas past
Peace on Earth.

Hear them singing
Peace on Earth.

② **See that I am God**

Words *Julian of Norwich*
Music *Errollyn Wallen*

See that I am God.
See that I am in everything.
See that I do everything.
See that I have never stopped ordering my works,
nor ever shall,
eternally.
See that I lead everything
on to the conclusion I ordained for it
before time began,
by the same power,
wisdom and love with which I made it.
How can anything be amiss?



ERROLLYN WALLEN

Composer



Errollyn Wallen – “renaissance woman of contemporary British music” (*The Observer*) – is as respected a singer-songwriter of pop-influenced songs as she is a composer of contemporary music. Communication is at the centre of both worlds: engaging the audience and speaking directly to hearts and minds.

Born in Belize, Errollyn Wallen gave up her training at the Dance Theater of Harlem, New York to study composition at the universities of London and Cambridge. She founded her own Ensemble X, and its motto ‘We don’t break down barriers in music... we don’t see any’ reflects her genuine, free-spirited approach and eclectic musicianship. She has been commissioned by outstanding music institutions from the BBC to the Royal Opera House and has performed her songs internationally.

Her prolific output includes seventeen operas to date and awards include the Ivor Novello Award for Classical Music, British Composer Award and a FIPA D’Or for Best Music for a Television Series. Errollyn founded her own Orchestra X whose

album *Photography* was voted Top Ten Classical Albums by USA’s National Public Radio.

Her works *Principia* and *Spirit in Motion* were commissioned for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games and their première was watched by a capacity audience of 80,000 people and broadcast to a billion people around the world.

Errollyn Wallen’s albums (*Errollyn*, *The Girl in My Alphabet*, *Meet Me at Harold Moores*) have travelled 7.84 million kilometres in space, completing 186 orbits around the Earth on NASA’s STS115 mission.

In 2020, Errollyn composed a new arrangement of *Jerusalem* for the BBC Last Night of the Proms.

Errollyn Wallen was appointed MBE in 2007 and CBE in 2020, both for services to music. In 2017 Errollyn was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from York St. John’s University and was named in BBC’s 100 Women 2018 and London University’s 150 Leading Women.

www.errollynwallen.com

SIR STEPHEN CLEOBURY (1948–2019)

Director of Music (1982–2019)



For over 35 years, Sir Stephen Cleobury was associated with one of the world's most famous choirs, that of King's College, Cambridge. He complemented and refreshed his work in Cambridge through the many other musical activities in which he engaged throughout the world.

At King's, he sought to enhance the reputation of the world-famous Choir, broadening considerably the daily service repertoire, commissioning new music from leading composers and developing its activities in broadcasting, recording and touring. He introduced the highly successful annual festival, *Easter at King's*, from which the BBC regularly broadcasts, and, in its wake, a series of high-profile performances throughout the year, *Concerts at King's*.

From 1995 to 2007 he was Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers, following which he became Conductor Laureate. Since 1983 he was closely involved in the Cambridge University Musical Society, one of the UK's oldest music societies, where he nurtured generations of young talent. He retired from CUMS in 2016, becoming Conductor Laureate.

Beyond Cambridge he held many prestigious posts in tandem with his position at King's. Until 2008 he was a member of the Royal College of Organists, of which he had also been President. He was President of the Incorporated Association of Organists, of the Friends of Cathedral Music, and of the Herbert Howells Society; he was also Chairman of the IAO Benevolent Fund. He was knighted in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to choral music and retired subsequently in September 2019 after 37 years in the post of Director of Music at King's College.

Sir Stephen died in York, to which he had recently moved, on St Cecilia's Day, 22 November 2019, following a long illness. The news of Stephen's death was received with great sadness by so many around the world who had worked with him, learned from him, or had simply been touched by his music.

THE CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

King's College was founded in 1441 with six 'singing men' and 16 choristers, who were to be poor boys 'of a strong constitution and an honest conversation'. Five centuries later, the Choir comprises 16 boys (Choristers) and 16 men (Choral and Organ Scholars).

The boys, aged between nine and thirteen, are educated across the river at King's College School, a thriving and famously happy school to some 420 girls and boys. The Choristers are selected at audition based on musical potential and, of course, a love of singing. When they join, they spend up to two years in training as 'probationers', after which they join the full Choir.

The men are all undergraduates at the University, who have attained the necessary academic requirements to become undergraduates at Cambridge. Known either as Choral or Organ Scholars, they study many different academic subjects, from music to modern languages to natural sciences. Find out more by searching "King's College Choir".

Choristers

Year 8 (ages 12-13) Jack Bowley, George Hill ¹

Year 7 (ages 11-12) Aiken Anderson-Jané,
Philip Curtis, Elliot Hasler, Leo McNiff,
Charlie Nicholson, Joshua O'Neill, Julius Sirringhaus ²

Year 6 (ages 10-11) Titus Gleave,
Alexi Kokkinos-Everest, Vladimir Pantea,
Leo Ratnasothy, Charles Sheldon

Probationers (ages 9-10) Sebastian Gray,
Morgan Hayes, Samuel Hodson,
Oliver Howard-Jones, Julian McNiff,
Asker Moeller-Jensen

Altos

George Gibbon, Daniel Henderson,
Salim Jaffar, Jacob Partington, Joseph Zubier

Tenors

Maxim Meshkvichev, James Micklethwaite,
Protik Moulik, Christopher Nehaul

Basses

Sam Aldersey-Williams, Charlie Baigent,
William Crane, Josh Geddes, Trojan Nakade,
Joel Robson, Christopher Winkless-Clark

Organist

Henry Websdale

Director of Music

Sir Stephen Cleobury

¹ Soloist, tracks 1 and 3

² Soloist, tracks 2 and 3

Recorded live at 96kHz 24-bit PCM in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by kind permission of the Provost and Scholars, 21 June 2019.

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