

LIVE FROM LONDON CHRISTMAS 2023

4 DECEMBER - 7 JANUARY

VOCES8
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FOUNDATION



SKYLARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SKYLARK TO BE FEATURED IN THE VOCES8 FOUNDATION'S LIVE FROM LONDON CHRISTMAS 2023 VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

Skylark Vocal Ensemble (Skylark), a three-time GRAMMY®-nominated professional chamber choir announces it will be featured in VOCES8 Foundation's virtual **LIVE From London** Christmas 2023 Festival.

The festival will stream Skylark's 2022 performance of Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, composed by Benedict Sheehan, beginning December 4, 2023 at 10am GMT.

In Skylark's signature Christmas storytelling concert, Skylark partners with master storyteller Sarah Walker to share our spellbinding musical interpretation of *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. Working from the original text abridged by Artistic Director Matthew Guard, composer Benedict Sheehan (recent collaborator for *Once Upon A Time*) has created a ground-breaking concert-length story score that weaves familiar Christmas carols into the fabric of the Dickens story. Bringing timeless carols of the season together with the beloved characters of Charles Dickens creates an unforgettable new version of a Christmas classic.

"Dickens' tale is obviously familiar, yet it feels reborn in this engrossing Skylark treatment, and one comes away from the experience deeply moved." — Ron Schepper, *Textura*



About LIVE from London

LIVE From London was created by [The VOCES8 Foundation](#) and its festival team as a specific response to the COVID pandemic in 2020. Winning praise from artists, publications and audiences around the world, the team has delivered ten digital festivals and broadcast over 100 concerts selling 250,000+ tickets in over 183 territories.

LIVE From London Christmas 2023 will comprise six festive concerts released online from 4 December 2023 and remaining available on-demand until 7 January 2024. With a line-up including triple Grammy-nominated US ensemble **Skylark**, **The Gesualdo Six**, **VOCES8**, **Apollo5**, the **VOCES8 Foundation Choir and its Orchestra**, the festival will see the return of renowned seasonal works including Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and an extra special free-access family event to be gifted ahead of the festival.

Tickets for all concerts can be purchased via www.livefromlondon.org. Following the live stream on 4 December, all other performances will be available to watch live or on demand from 5 December until 7 January 2024, with the exception of 'Silver Bells' (out 23 December).

Standard individual tickets: £14 | USD 17 | EUR 16 | CAD 22 | AUD 25 | JPY 2300

Season tickets: £60 | USD 75 | EUR 70 | CAD 100 | AUD 115 | JPY 11000

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

About Skylark

Three-time GRAMMY®-nominee SKYLARK, "the cream of the American crop" (BBC Radio 3), is a premier chamber choir comprised of leading American vocal soloists, chamber musicians, and music educators. Skylark's dramatic performances have been described as "gripping" (The Times of London), "exquisite...thrilling" (Gramophone Magazine), and "awe-inspiring" (Boston Music Intelligencer).



Skylark strives to set the standard for innovative and engaging programs that re-define the choral experience for audiences and singers alike. Artistic Director Matthew Guard's genre-defying and creative programs have been described as "engrossing" (WQXR New York) and "original, stimulating, and beautiful" (BBC Radio 3).

Skylark's ground-breaking recordings were nominated for GRAMMY® awards in 2019, 2021, and 2022, firmly establishing Skylark as one of the leading lights in American vocal music.

Since its founding in 2011 in Boston, Skylark has branched out to perform its dynamic programs in museums, concert halls, and churches across the United States, including Spivey Hall (Atlanta) The Morgan Library (NYC) and the Bechtler Museum of Art (Charlotte). At Skylark's international debut at St. John's Smith Square, London, The Times of London declared that Skylark was "the highlight" of a festival that included some of the world's leading choirs.

Skylark performs educational outreach programs with high school and college students across the United States during its concert tours. In addition to numerous workshops in public schools across the country, Skylark has conducted residencies at premier colleges and elite secondary schools including Harvard, MIT, Wellesley College, Endicott College, Milton Academy, Woodward Academy, and Philips Exeter Academy.

About Matthew Guard

Three-time GRAMMY®-nominee Matthew Guard has firmly established his reputation as the one of the most innovative programmers in choral music today. Praised for his "catalyzing leadership" (Q2/WQXR) and "musically creative and intellectually rich" programming (Opera Obsession), Guard is passionate about communicating something unique in each concert and recording. He scours the world of available repertoire for each program, exhaustively researches each piece, and crafts concerts and printed programs that captivate audiences with their hidden connections and seamless artistry.



In addition to his day-to-day leadership of Skylark and role as a conductor in concerts, Matthew is also an active arranger and editor of scores, as he rarely finds programming ideas that will truly sing without at least one piece specifically arranged or composed for the program. He has just completed work on a new edition of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*, which he premiered with Skylark in June 2022.

About Sarah Walker

GRAMMY®-nominated storyteller Sarah Walker is the daughter of two traditional Appalachian storytellers, who instilled in her a love of hearing and telling great tales. She has performed extensively in her home state of West Virginia and throughout New England. She performs regularly with Skylark and is the narrator on the group's highly-acclaimed album *Once Upon a Time*. Sarah holds degrees in Medieval Studies and Art History from Vassar College and received her Master of Library Science from the Pratt Institute. Other collaborations include Three Notch'd Road Baroque Ensemble, Alkemie, and Chapter House.



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APOLLO 5



VOCES 8



**THE GESUALDO
SIX**



SKYLARK



**VOCES 8 FOUNDATION CHOIR &
BAROQUE ORCHESTRA**

DIR. BARNABY SMITH

IN TWO CONCERTS OF FESTIVE BACH & HANDEL



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