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## Signum Records releases The King's Singers **GOLD**: a new 60-track album celebrating the group's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Release date: 3 November 2017



**GOLD** celebrates 50 years of one of the world's most famous and beloved vocal groups, and one of the UK's musical national treasures, The King's Singers. From stunning performances of Medieval and Renaissance music to multiple commissions and new arrangements of pop songs, The King's Singers have always been lauded for their flexibility and the diversity of their repertoire. This is reflected in the 60 tracks spanning over 500 years, from Josquin des Pres to Bob Chilcott, John Rutter and Toby Hession. In 2018 The King's Singers will embark on a year-long world tour, beginning with an intimate concert at St John's Smith Square on 13 January, featuring repertoire from **GOLD**.

**GOLD**'s 60 tracks are divided across three albums themed as Close Harmony, Spiritual and Secular. The 'Close Harmony' tracks include arrangements of songs by Lennon and McCartney, Billy Joel, John Legend, Paul Simon and U2. The album also features a number of well-known traditional songs, many arranged by former and current members of the group. Repertoire in the 'Spiritual' section spans over 500 years, from Palestrina, Orlande de Lassus and Alonso Lobo in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, through to 21<sup>st</sup>-century works by living composers such as Eric Whitacre and Bob Chilcott, whose *Thou, My Love, Art Fair*, was written especially for the group in 2008. Well-known composers feature prominently throughout the 'Secular' section, including Johannes Brahms, William Byrd, Gabriel Fauré, Josquin des Prez, John Rutter, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Toru Takemitsu. **GOLD** features three new commissions and world premiere recordings by Bob Chilcott (*We Are*), Toby Hession (*Master of Music*) and John Rutter (*Be not afeard*) as well as six new arrangements.

Alongside the **GOLD** album, a new official book celebrates five decades of music-making, including a year-by-year guide to the events, music and people who have shaped The King's Singers' unique history. The book contains interviews with 24 members of the group past and present, complete with details of their recordings and commissions and a wealth of photos.

For collectors, The King's Singers are pleased to offer a Special Edition box set including the **GOLD** recordings and The King's Singers **GOLD** book. This Special Edition collectors' box also includes a bespoke **GOLD** USB drive containing high definition versions of all the **GOLD** tracks – as well as exclusive interviews and archive material. The set also includes a facsimile of an original handwritten score of one of the earliest and most treasured folksongs to enter their library, the late Gordon Langford's *Bobby Shaftoe*, and a hand-signed letter from the current Singers.

The artwork for the **GOLD** standard and Special Edition sleeves and the anniversary book was created especially by the group. Each piece of artwork includes contributions from all six current members of The King's Singers.

The King's Singers have released a total of 31 albums and DVDs with Signum Classics, including 'King's Singers Christmas' which has sold over 50,000 copies, alongside hundreds of thousands of streamed tracks and tens of thousands of digital downloads.

The King's Singers said:

*"We are totally thrilled to be releasing our **GOLD** album on Signum Records to celebrate 50 years of The King's Singers. As well as this **GOLD** album release, we have a brand new anniversary book that looks back over the group's remarkable history, and we've also created a beautiful Special Edition Box Set, containing the album, the book and more exclusive content. We know that the world has changed a lot since the original King's Singers formed in 1968. But today we're still charged by the same lifeblood that energised them – one that inspires us to radiate the joy singing brings us every day, and that keeps us dreaming of our bright musical future."*

## Editors' Notes

The King's Singers were established in May 1968, formed by six recently-graduated choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge. Their vocal line-up was (by chance) two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has never wavered from this formation since.

What really distinguished the group in its early years was its musical diversity. The King's Singers were a weekly fixture on prime-time television, celebrating popular music never usually touched by choral ensembles, and their unique British charm, combined with their musical craft, captured audiences' hearts the world over. The group has consistently been welcomed on the world's great stages throughout its history – from London's *Royal Albert Hall* to the *Sydney Opera House* or New York's *Carnegie Hall* – as well as being ambassadors for musical excellence across the globe. Two Grammy® Awards, an Emmy® Award, and a place in *Gramophone* magazine's inaugural Hall of Fame sit among the numerous accolades bestowed upon the group.

This love of diversity has always fuelled The King's Singers' commitment to creating new music. A panoply of commissioned works by many of the greatest composers of our times – including Luciano Berio, György Ligeti, Nico Muhly, John Rutter, Toru Takemitsu, Sir John Tavener and Eric Whitacre – sits alongside countless bespoke arrangements in the group's extensive repertoire.

## Track Listing for The King's Singers GOLD

### CD 1: CLOSE HARMONY

1 We Are	Bob Chilcott
2 And I Love Her	John Lennon, Paul McCartney, arr. Bob Chilcott
3 Don't Worry About Me	Frances, arr. Christopher Bruerton
4 Kelele	Angélique Kidjo, arr. Toby Young
5 And So It Goes	Billy Joel, arr. Bob Chilcott
6 Down with Love	Harold Arlen, Yip Harburg, arr. Gordon Langford
7 All of Me	John Legend, arr. Alexander L, Estrange
8 Shenandoah	Traditional, arr. Bob Chilcott
9 Lamorna	Traditional, arr. Goff Richards
10 Some Folks' Lives Roll Easy	Paul Simon, arr. Andrew Jackman
11 See You Again	Wiz Khalifa, Charlie Puth, Justin Franks, arr. Christopher Gabbitas
12 Alice in Wonderland	Spike Milligan, arr. Gordon Langford
13 Black Horse and The Cherry Tree	KT Tunstall, arr. Alexander L, Estrange
14 Danny Boy	Traditional, Peter Knight
15 I'll Follow The Sun	John Lennon, Paul McCartney, arr. Bill Ives
16 Bobby Shaftoe	Traditional, arr. Gordon Langford
17 Love is Here To Stay	George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, arr. Richard Rodney Bennett
18 Scarborough Fair	Traditional, arr. Christopher Gabbitas
19 That Lonesome Road	James Taylor, arr. Simon Carrington
20 Loch Lomond	Traditional, David Overton
21 Down by the Riverside	Traditional, arr. Robert Rice
22 M L K	U2, arr. Bob Chilcott

## CD 2: SPIRITUAL

1 The Prayer of King Henry VI	Henry Ley
2 Sing Joyfully	William Byrd
3 Thou, My Love, Art Fair	Bob Chilcott
4 Sicut cervus	Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
5 In manus tuas	Thomas Tallis
6 Master of Music*	Toby Hession
7 Musica Dei donum	Orlande de Lassus
8 Abendlied	Josef Rheinberger
9 The Bell Doth Toll ( <i>from Sermons and Devotions</i> )	Sir Richard Rodney Bennett
10 Quatre petites prières de Saint François d'Assise	Francis Poulenc
11 Das ist je gewißlich wahr	Heinrich Schütz
12 Morgengesang	Max Reger
13 This Marriage	Eric Whitacre
14 Shir hamma'alot ledavid	Salamone Rossi Hebreo
15 Versa est in luctum	Alonso Lobo
16 Rest	Ralph Vaughan Williams
17 Tutivillus ( <i>from Wymondham Chants</i> )	Geoffrey Poole
18 The Bluebird	Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

## CD 3 SECULAR

1 Be Not Afeard	John Rutter
2 Le papillon et la fleur	Gabriel Fauré, arr. Goff Richards
3 Dessus le marché d'Arras	Orlande de Lassus
4 Though Amaryllis Dance in Green	William Byrd
5 Lagrimas de mi consuelo	Juan Vásquez
6 Handmade Proverbs	Toru Takemitsu
7 Les Marins de Kermor	Camille Saint-Saëns
8 Con amores, la mi madre	Juan de Anchieta, arr. Bob Chilcott
9 All meine Herzgedanken	Johannes Brahms
10 Die Nacht	Franz Schubert
11 Revecy venir du Printans	Claude le Jeune
12 Romance du soir	Camille Saint-Saëns
13 Horizons	Peter Louis van Dijk
14 Plaisir d'amour	Jean-Paul-Égide Martini, arr. Goff Richards
15 Come, blessed Bird	Edward Johnson
16 The Little Green Lane	Traditional, arr. Samuel Ernest Lovatt
17 Das G'läut zu Speyer	Ludwig Senfl
18 Basiez moi!	Josquin des Prez
19 Gentil señora mia	Juan Vásquez
20 Quand tu dors près de moi	Georges Auric, arr. Gordon Langford

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