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STEPHEN LAYTON **Biography**

Stephen Layton is one of the most sought-after conductors of his generation. Often described as the finest exponent of choral music in the world today, his ground-breaking approach has had a profound influence on choral music over the last 30 years. Fellow and Director of Music at Trinity College Cambridge, Layton is also Founder and Director of Polyphony and Music Director of Holst Singers. Former posts include Chief Conductor of Netherlands Chamber Choir, Chief Guest Conductor of Danish National Vocal Ensemble, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of City of London Sinfonia, and Director of Music at the Temple Church, London.

Layton is regularly invited to work with the world's leading choirs, orchestras and composers. His interpretations have been heard from Sydney Opera House to the Concertgebouw, from Tallinn to São Paulo, and his recordings have won or been nominated for every major international recording award. He has two Gramophone Awards and twelve nominations, five Grammy nominations, the Diapason d'Or de l'Année in France, the Echo Klassik award in Germany, the Spanish CD compact award, and Australia's Limelight Recording of the Year.

Layton is constantly in demand to première new works by the greatest established and emerging composers of our age. Passionate in his exploration of new music, Layton has introduced a vast range of new choral works to the UK and the rest of the world, transforming the music into some of the most widely performed today. Longstanding

composer partnerships include Arvo Pärt and Sir John Tavener; in the Baltic, Eriks Ešenvalds, Uģis Prauliņš and Veljo Tormis; and in America, Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre, of whose music Layton made two Grammy-nominated recordings.

Other award-winning discs include recordings of Britten, James MacMillan, Bruckner, Handel (including BBC Music Magazine's "Best *Messiah* recording" with Britten Sinfonia), and Bach's *St John Passion*, *Christmas Oratorio* and *B Minor Mass* with Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Layton's recordings have consistently broken new ground, creating a new sound world in British choral music.

More information on Stephen Layton can be found by visiting www.stephenlayton.com.

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