

SUMMER CONCERT 2020
SOLOISTS

Harriet Mountford (Soprano) was born in 1990 and grew up in the hills of Herefordshire. On leaving school she moved to Dublin, where she sang in the choir of Christ Church Cathedral under the direction of Judy Martin, and with the Charles Wood Singers, directed by David Hill. Whilst in Dublin Harriet studied singing with Lynda Lee at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Subsequently, Harriet moved to York where she read Music at the University of York, graduating with First Class Honours. She studied singing with Rachel Nicholls, and worked regularly with Richard Jackson. Whilst at York Harriet had a busy performing career both as a soloist and consort singer with many ensembles, including University Chamber Choir, Spectrum Ensemble, and Incognito with whom she performed in the UK's premiere concert for the European Day of Early Music 2013, under the direction of Robert Hollingworth. Since graduating, Harriet has moved to Rochester with her husband, John, and studies singing and performance privately with Jane Highfield. Harriet enjoys a varied career of oratorio, recital and consort singing.



Andrew Leslie Cooper (Alto) enjoys a multifaceted and multinational career as a countertenor, conductor, and keyboardist. The 2019-20 season marks his first as the new second countertenor in the acclaimed early music group The Gesualdo Six. With them, he tours domestically and internationally and records under contract with Hyperion. Other recent and upcoming ensemble engagements include Tenebrae, Gallicantus, Sansara, Ex Cathedra, and the Voces8 Foundation Choir, to name a few. Also active as a soloist, Andrew's voice has been heard alongside Academy of Ancient Music, Academy of Sacred Drama (NYC), BWV: Cleveland's Bach Ensemble (Ohio), and several choral societies around Kent. Andrew is a Gentleman of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace and regularly deputises in other ecclesiastical choirs, most frequently at the Cathedrals of Westminster, Canterbury and Rochester. Before 2018, Andrew was based in the United States, where he was active with ensembles such as TENET, the Bach Choir of Holy Trinity NYC, Westminster Choir, Spoleto Festival USA Chorus, the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir, and more.



David Booer (Tenor) has been a Principal Lay Clerk at Rochester Cathedral since September 2019. Prior to this, he held similar positions at Durham Cathedral and Selwyn College, Cambridge, with whom he made several recordings and participated in tours to Germany, Canada and the USA. Whilst at Cambridge, David performed with a number of choirs including the University Chamber Choir and vocal octet FourFour. He continues to sing with a range of choirs, including Canterbury Cathedral. David has studied under Eileen Field and Anita Morrison, and has performed extensively as a soloist, including performances of Bach's "St John Passion", Handel's "Messiah", Mozart's "Requiem" and a variety of Bach's Cantatas. He has also appeared in a number of musicals and operas, ranging from Purcell's "The Fairy Queen" to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera", as well as numerous Gilbert and Sullivan's works. Having studied Mathematics and Astrophysics at university, David combines his singing work with a career in the Actuarial profession, specifically in the pensions sector: a job he has held since leaving Durham in 2018.



Charles Cunliffe (Bass) is a Bass-Baritone studying with Giles Underwood and Joseph Middleton at the Royal Academy of Music. He was put forward as a Royal Academy of Music outstanding student, and was awarded the Silver Medal by the Company of Musicians, of which he has now become a Yeoman Young Artist. Charles began singing as a chorister at Peterborough Cathedral under Andrew Reid, singing solos on television recordings for BBC One, as well as on broadcasts for BBC Radio 3. As a choral scholar at Peterborough, Charles gained a deeper understanding in professional singing, and after auditioning, was offered a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. Charles has been part of many projects at the RAM, highlights including the RAO's production of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, Mahler's 2nd Symphony at the Royal Festival Hall under Semyon Bychkov, and the annual Royal Academy Chamber Choir residency at Neresheim Abbey, Germany. Charles has a strong affinity for song, and last summer, Charles recorded the baritone solos in both Vaughan Williams' *Love bade me welcome* and Finzi's *In terra pax* for BBC Radio 3, alongside the Ulster Orchestra. Charles is a member of the Academy's Song Circle, and this past October he was awarded second prize in the Academy's English Song competition. He is now enjoying his fourth year as an undergraduate, and has now been awarded a full scholarship, so to carry on his studies into the post-graduate programme.

