



A new choral commission brings the best of Britain and Sweden together to inspire unity, hope and compassion

A new piece of choral music by internationally renowned Swedish composer Fredrik Sixten sets out to spread compassion, build bridges and strengthen the deep cultural bonds between the UK and Sweden. Amid an increasingly polarised world, *Lux Mundi* (Light of the world) offers a much-needed musical statement of hope for the future.

The British and The Swedish share an ancestry that reaches back to the Vikings and a fascination for each other's cultures, from design and food to nature and music. Light is also a symbol of hope the world over, as well as having a special significance in Sweden, land of the midnight sun.

The Music

Lux Mundi is a breath-taking musical journey that takes you from darkness to light in three movements – 'Faith', 'Hope' & 'Love' – filled with delicious harmonies, soaring melodic lines and intricate rhythms. Polyphony blends with folk music, Baroque fugues and that special Nordic wistful longing – all in a light, contemporary style full of exciting surprises and moments of serenity. Sixten has used the beautiful and evocative language of King James Bible, selecting English texts that are eternally poignant.

The Idea

This work was sparked in a conversation between soprano Maria Rivington and Sixten, where they discussed the musical DNA that the UK and Sweden share. This notion then developed into an exciting collaboration between the English Baroque Choir and the London Nordic Choir.

"We wanted to celebrate the musical language of my home country Sweden and the undisputed riches of the choral tradition in England. We imagined a vocal tapestry that tells of our different cultures, our common musical heritage and the times we now live in, looking to the future together in a positive 'Nordic Light'," says Rivington.

The Concerts

Jointly commissioned by the two choirs, *Lux Mundi* will have its **world premiere** on Saturday 16 May 2020 in St John's Church, Hyde Park, London, and its first performance in Sweden in the Eric Ericson Hall, Stockholm on Sunday 5 July 2020.

In the hands of choirs representing two strong European choral traditions and under the batons of musical directors Jeremy Jackman (of King's Singers fame) and Carina Einarson (Swedish choral director and former student of Eric Ericson), *Lux Mundi* will be one of the most memorable musical events in 2020.

Tickets via Eventbrite

- *World Premiere in London*
- *Stockholm concert*

Media Links

- 🌐 Website www.lux-mundi.co.uk
- 🐦 Twitter feed [/LuxMundi2020](https://twitter.com/LuxMundi2020)
- 📘 Facebook page



Background information

Participants

LUX MUNDI

5 Rossmore Road,
London, NW1 6NJ
United Kingdom

Point of Contact
Ms Maria Rivington
M +44 (0)7905 618 184
W www.lux-mundi.co.uk

Fredrik Sixten, Composer

Born in Sweden in 1962, Fredrik Sixten is a Swedish composer, cathedral organist and conductor. He studied composition with Professor Sven-David Sandström and earned his Bachelor of Arts at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm.

Although much of his choral output is liturgical, his openness has led to commissions like an opera in English about Henning Mankell's detective Wallander for Tübingen Oper in Germany; a carol for American all-male choir Chanticleer and a lullaby for the christening of a new member of the Royal Swedish family.

The English Baroque Choir

The English Baroque Choir (EBC) was formed in 1978 and has become one of London's finest choirs, developing a reputation for musicality, imaginative programming and choral enthusiasm.

Led by Jeremy Jackman, Musical Director, the choir regularly performs in St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields and other renowned London venues, receiving plaudits for its professionalism and energy.

Jeremy Jackman

An inspiring and vastly experienced musical director, trainer and composer, Jeremy Jackman is a professional musician whose work in the field of vocal/choral music is of the highest international standard.

A former member of the celebrated Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen and King's Singers, with expertise acquired through years of performing at the world's most prestigious venues, Jeremy is in great demand internationally as a conductor and workshop director.

The London Nordic Choir

The London Nordic Choir (LNC) is an independent chamber choir, particularly noted for vibrant performances of a *cappella* repertoire.

Founded in 2016 by Carina Einarson, Musical Director, the ensemble repertoire ranges from Hildegard von Bingen to distinguished living composers such as Pärt, Whitacre and Gjeilo. With performances in St John's Smith Square, York Minster, Southbank and other prominent venues; the choir is celebrated for its lyrical interpretations and dynamic tone.

Carina Einarson

Conductor, composer and professional musician, Carina Einarson studied music at Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm with legendary Professor Eric Ericson amongst others. Her technical acumen & creative versatility brought her to London, where she has performed on BBC3 Radio, led evensongs in St Paul's Cathedral and worked as Musical Director at the Swedish Church.

Carina has conducted at illustrious venues such as St John's Smith Square, Wigmore Hall, York Minster and the Old Bailey.