

APOLLO·5

APOLLO5 – 2024/25 SEASON BIOGRAPHY

VERSION 1 (LONG)

APOLLO5 – 2024/25 Season Biography

“exceptional cohesion and effortless style... faultless. ★★★★★”

BBC Music Magazine

“an unbroken spectrum, [creating] the illusion of larger forces”

CHOIR & ORGAN

“Exceptionally beautiful singing”

CLASSIC FM

★★★★★ – “bristling, youthful economy”

THE OBSERVER

“harmonious without the slightest concession to quality... the rapt listener would be hard put to find fault”

YORKSHIRE TIMES

Celebrating its 15th year in 2025, APOLLO5 continues to thrill, move and inspire audiences as one of Britain’s smallest but most impressive vocal groups. Comprising a soprano, mezzo-soprano, two tenors and a bass, the ensemble – which takes its name from the ancient Greek god of music – has become known for its ability to connect with intimacy and directness, showcasing with rich, dynamic and distinctive sound how powerful five voices alone can be. With a versatile approach to music programming, and a repertoire spanning renaissance, classical and contemporary choral works to folk, jazz and pop, the group’s five voices bring the music of five centuries to life.

APOLLO5’s busy touring schedule has taken the group to Europe, the USA and Asia. In addition to performing at prestigious UK venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, St John’s Smith Square, the Royal Albert Hall and the Barbican Centre, the group has toured extensively across France, Germany, and other European countries, including recent appearances with an orchestra and a brass band in Lisbon (PT) and Prague (CZ) respectively. The group is a regular guest on BBC Radio 3’s *In Tune*, and often receives airplay from the national broadcaster, as well as other UK stations Classic FM, Magic Classical and NTS Radio. 2024/25 tour highlights include a three-week trip to the USA under new agency representation, appearances at European festivals such as Common Ground (NL), La Folle Journée (FR), and Koorfestival Vlaanderen (BE), and a performance at the Barbican Hall as part of sister group VOCES8’s 20th Anniversary celebrations in June.

The group is signed to VOCES8 Records and has released six solo studio albums under the label. *Haven*, which explores the music of troubled, displaced and persecuted composers and features a full setting of William Byrd’s *Mass For Five Voices*, was released in 2023 to critical acclaim. Other albums include *Where All Roses Go* and *O Radiant Dawn* (both of which charted in the top 5 of the UK Classical Charts), winter disc *A Deep But Dazzling Darkness*, and *Invocations*, a piano-accompanied treasury of favourite

songs recorded with composer and arranger Fraser Wilson. In January 2025, APOLLO5 will release their seventh album, *Anam*, a Gaelic-tinged programme of “music to move the soul”. During the pandemic, APOLLO5 was part of the launch of *LIVE From London*, a series of live broadcasts from many of the world’s leading vocal ensembles and orchestras. These online concerts brought music to the homes of millions during the pandemic, and raised funds for more than 500 artists, composers and production teams in the process; the festival continues to thrive online in today’s post-pandemic world.

As part of the VOCES8 Foundation, APOLLO5 works alongside VOCES8 and Paul Smith to deliver a transformative programme of workshops, masterclasses and concerts to over 40,000 young people annually in the UK, Europe, and the USA. Over the past few seasons, the group has worked with thousands of young people and adults across France as part of Association Sing’In projects, performing in such memorable locations as a football stadium, a circus and a royal abbey to large audiences. Much of APOLLO5’s UK-based education work is carried out at the Foundation’s home, The VOCES8 Centre at St Anne & St Agnes Church in the heart of London. The group has also helped lead an extensive singing project in the London boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets, working with inner-city schools and supporting their teachers. Now in its eighth year, this project is supported by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Worshipful Company of Glovers, The Big Give Trust, and a number of private trusts and generous individual donors.

For further information, please visit www.apollo5.co.uk.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@Apollo5Channel>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/apollo5.uk/>

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