

**David Crown (conductor)**

David Crown has been singing and conducting choirs and orchestras since his teens. He won a Choral Scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, and was also a university instrumental award holder on the viola. At university he conducted many symphonies and large-scale oratorios and for a while also played the viola professionally. He also conducted his youth orchestras and at the Purcell School of Music where he attended sixth form. Immediately after leaving university he embarked on a career as bass-baritone soloist in opera, lieder and oratorio winning several competitions. He also built a considerable reputation as teacher of singing and conducting. He taught for five years at Bristol University and now teaches in Oxford. In more recent years he has left the world of solo singing and returned to his first love of conducting.

He is Director of Music at Somerville College, Oxford, and Music Director of the Reading Phoenix Choir, the Bodley Consort and vOx Chamber Choir. His work with choirs and orchestras has attracted superb notices in the UK and abroad. He is also in demand for master-classes and as guest conductor with many other choirs and orchestras. He is frequently asked to be on the judging panel of competitions, both choral, vocal and in composition. A CD of Duruflé's *Requiem* coupled with the world premiere recording of Robin Milford's *Mass for Five Voices* recorded by Somerville and featuring soloists including mezzo-soprano Christine Rice and cellist Guy Johnston was released on Stone Records in 2012 and received excellent reviews.

**Website:** [www.david-crown.com](http://www.david-crown.com)

**Robert Pecksmith, ARCO (organ)**

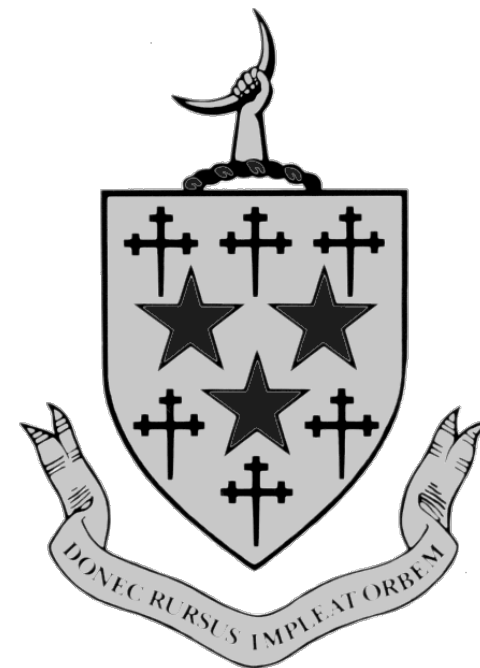
Robert Pecksmith is currently the Organ Scholar of Somerville College, Oxford, where he accompanies and occasionally directs the college choir for their regular services and concerts. He began musical life aged 5 on the piano, and moving to the organ aged 13 at the Birmingham Conservatoire under the tutelage of Henry Fairs, where he remained for five years.

Now at Oxford, Robert receives lessons from Stephen Farr, and was recently awarded an ARCO diploma, also winning the Sowerbutts Prize and Durrant Prize. He has had the pleasure of participating in numerous choir concerts and tours, notably at Blackburn Cathedral, Lancaster Priory, Birmingham Cathedral, Ampleforth Abbey and three times at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Robert regularly performs recitals as well as participating in masterclasses led by David Goode, Guy Bovet, William Whitehead and Thomas Trotter. He has twice been a finalist in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition. Recently, he collaborated with conductor Nicholas Cleobury for a concert recorded by the BBC.

Future plans include a solo recital at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston and an extensive recital tour of Germany with concerts in Berlin, Brandenburg and Weimar. After the tour he will be recording his first commercial solo CD. During the academic year 2014/2015 he will be Assistant Organist at St. Paul's, Bloor Street, the largest Anglican church in Toronto (Canada).

**Website:** [www.robertpecksmith.co.uk](http://www.robertpecksmith.co.uk)

# MUSIC FROM THE DREAMING SPIRES



## THE CHOIR OF SOMERVILLE COLLEGE, OXFORD

**David Crown (conductor)**  
**Robert Pecksmith (organ)**

July 2nd 2014  
National City Christian Church, Washington DC

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[www.somervillechoir.com](http://www.somervillechoir.com)

**Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)**

Zadok the Priest  
*Coronation Anthem, HWV 258*

**Lodovico Viadana (1564-1627)**

Adoramus te

**William Byrd (1543-1623)**

Ave verum

**Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)**

Dixit Maria

**Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)**

Choral Song

**Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)**

How lovely are the messengers  
(from *St. Paul*)

**Charles Wood (1866-1926)**

Expectans expectavi

**John Rutter (b. 1945)**

O clap your hands

-- INTERMISSION --

**John Joubert (b. 1927)**

O Lorde, the maker of al thing

**Arthur Somervell (1863-1937)**

O Saviour of the World

**Douglas Guest (1916-1996)**

For the Fallen

**Bertie Baigent (b. 1995)**

I am the good shepherd

**Herbert Howells (1892-1983)**

Like as the hart

**Edward Elgar (1857-1934)**

Nimrod, arr. William H. Harris

**Andrew Carter (b. 1939)**

Go before us, O Lord

**Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)**

Seal Lullaby

**Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)**

Were you there?

**John Rutter (b. 1945)**

A Gaelic Blessing

**The Choir of Somerville College, Oxford**

The Choir of Somerville College, founded by Francis Knights and Sam Bayliss in 2001, is one of Oxford University's leading mixed-voice college choirs and sings the weekly services at Somerville's non-denominational interfaith chapel. Since 2007 David Crown has been Director of Chapel Music. He is assisted by Robert Pecksmith (Organ Scholar) and Stefan Schwarz (Choir Manager).

In recent years the choir has toured Germany and Italy. Performances in the UK include a number of cathedral visits and high-profile concerts in Oxford and London. In 2012 the choir was invited to sing the Accession Day service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. The choir has released two CDs on the Stone Records label, *Requiem aeternam* (2012) and *Advent Calendar* (2013). As part of the *Britten in Oxford* festival, the choir recently recorded a newly commissioned work by Daniel Saleeb for BBC Radio 3.

**Soprano:** Ruth Akinradewo, Beth McMillan, Rebecca Nohl, Joanna Perkins, Megan Thomas, Alexandra Worrell

**Alto:** Katie Jeffries-Harris, Eleanor Makower, Isabel Sinagola, Orly Watson

**Tenor:** James Aldred, Antony Beere, Ian Buchanan, Robert Tilson

**Bass:** Oliver Johnston-Watt, Matthew Kerr, Nathan Mattock, Robert Pecksmith (Organ Scholar), Christoph Schnedermann, Stefan Schwarz (Choir Manager)

**Website:** [www.somervillechoir.com](http://www.somervillechoir.com)