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Simple Gifts  
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## FROM THE HEART

1. My Heart is a Holy Place	Patricia Van Ness	[4.04]
2. Concoit	Graham Lack	[3.46]
3. Pie Jesu	John Brunning, arr. Lawson	[3.18]
4. Out of the Woods	Sinead Lohan/Nickel Creek, arr. Lawson	[4.15]
5. Hallelujah	Leonard Cohen, arr. Lawson	[5.04]
Total Timings		[20.29]

### THE KING'S SINGERS

David Hurley countertenor  
Timothy Wayne-Wright countertenor  
Paul Phoenix tenor  
Philip Lawson baritone  
Christopher Gabbitas baritone  
Stephen Connolly bass

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### FROM THE HEART

#### My Heart is a Holy Place (2001/2009)

We first heard Patricia Van Ness's beautiful *Cor meum est templum sacrum* a few years ago, and immediately fell in love with it. Our version was arranged and extended for us by the composer last year, and has a regular place in our programmes.

#### Concoit (premiered 2009)

A long-time friend of The King's Singers, Graham Lack wrote this haunting piece as part of a larger work entitled *Estraines*. *Concoit* is a setting of a short poem by the English modernist writer and poet Mervyn Peake, and the text reminds us that things may not always be as they first appear.

#### Pie Jesu (2006)

British classical radio presenter and former rock guitarist, John Brunning, wrote this simple setting of *Pie Jesu* three years ago, and it became an instant hit in the UK. We hope you enjoy our version, in a new arrangement by Philip.

#### Out of the Woods (2000)

A recent discovery, thanks to Chris's American wife and the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?", has been the wonders of Bluegrass music. Nickel Creek's sound of fiddle, guitar and mandolin is great, and their interpretation of Sinead Lohan's *Out of the Woods* has great harmonies, a wonderful folksy melody and a mesmeric improvisation section in the middle.

#### Hallelujah (1984)

One of a huge number of hit songs from the Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, *Hallelujah* has been heard in many different versions. Here we take advantage of recording technology to produce a 'double choir' setting of the song in another of Philip's arrangements.

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## BIOGRAPHY

### THE KING'S SINGERS

David Hurley countertenor  
Timothy Wayne-Wright countertenor  
Paul Phoenix tenor  
Philip Lawson baritone  
Christopher Gabbitas baritone  
Stephen Connolly bass

Described by The Times as a group that has "stayed in character over four decades, yet returned itself to the times" and by Gramophone as "enchanting the ear from first to last note" The King's Singers are truly remarkable. They continue to be one of the most sought-after and critically acclaimed vocal ensembles in the world, performing a rich and varied repertoire from Gesualdo to György Ligeti and Michael Bublé. Internationally recognised for their work in the classical field, in early music in particular, they retain the sparkle that delights so many fans when they perform much loved numbers from the lighter end of the repertoire. Whatever the music The King's Singers are instantly recognisable for their spot-on intonation, their impeccable vocal blend, the flawless articulation of the text and incisive timing.



The King's Singers are David Hurley, Paul Phoenix, Philip Lawson, Christopher Gabbitas, Stephen Connolly and new recruit 26 year-old Timothy Wayne-Wright. The ensemble has a huge range of some three and a half octaves, from Connolly's low C, up to Hurley's high F. There have only ever been twenty-two King's Singers including the current six, very few given the demanding nature of the full-time job which requires a unique blend of musicianship, vocal ability and charisma, not to mention the stamina to be on tour for nine months of the year. The repertoire in a single concert might range from Renaissance polyphony, madrigals and world or folk music to contemporary classical or contemporary pop, because the ethos of The King's Singers has always been that it's all about the music. Whatever the genre they will find a way to arrange it successfully for their six voices. "It makes learning the repertoire tough but rewarding," says Tim who joined in January 2009. "I can hardly believe how much music I have learned from memory in such a short space of time, plus we all learn spoken introductions in the local language, and often share a joke with the audience – a real King's Singers hallmark". Unusually for a group with such a demanding schedule the six members continue to share directing responsibilities and develop their own projects. Each year the group travels around the world giving around 120

concerts as well as recording, television work, teaching and masterclasses.

The King's Singers maintain a deep commitment to new choral music and have commissioned over 200 works from a host of prominent contemporary composers including Richard Rodney Bennett, Luciano Berio, Peter Maxwell Davies, György Ligeti, Steve Martland, Gian Carlo Menotti, Krzysztof Penderecki, Ned Rorem, John Rutter, Gunther Schuller, Toru Takemitsu and John Tavener. This season The King's Singers will premiere works by Ivan Moody, Gabriela Lena Frank, John McCabe, Bob Chilcott and Eric Whitacre.

With a discography of over 100 recordings The King's Singers have garnered both awards and significant critical acclaim. Their recent studio album *Simple Gifts* was awarded a Grammy in 2009. The coming year will see the release in the UK of The King's Singers new album *Don't Let Go*, a disc that crosses genre borders in a way similar to *Simple Gifts*, using smooth jazz as the inspiration for new pieces and arrangements with The King's Singers signature style and standards. The group have recently completed a world premiere recording of music for Vespers by Pachelbel directed by Kah-Ming Ng with the Charvati Agréable Ensemble. While touring the USA The King's

Singers will make an album with the renowned Concordia College Choir, Minnesota, which will include fortieth anniversary commissions *The Stolen Child* by Eric Whitacre, *High Flight* and *A Thanksgiving* by Bob Chilcott.

In addition to their sold-out concerts worldwide, The King's Singers share their artistry through numerous workshops and master classes. The King's Singers have clocked up phenomenal sales of sheet music through three publishers over the years, with over two million pieces of print in circulation with one publisher alone. Currently signed to US giant Hal Leonard, The King's Singers arrangements are sung by schools, college choirs and amateur and professional ensembles the world over.

For the group's latest news and blog entries, information on concert dates, shop, streaming audio and video, YouTube and Tweets, visit: [www.kingsingers.com](http://www.kingsingers.com)

Also available from The King's Singers: SIX



- Down to the River to Pray  
Traditional, arr. Philip Lawson
- Blackbird  
Lennon/McCartney, arr. Daryl Russell
- The Wishing Tree  
Joby Talbot
- Lullabye (Goodnight my Angel)  
Billy Joel, arr. Philip Lawson
- Blue Skies  
Irving Berlin, arr. Richard Rodney Bennett
- After the Goldrush  
Neil Young, arr. Peter Knight

"Think gorgeous close harmony, think crossover-with-integrity, and enjoy" *Classic FM Magazine*

Recorded at The Warehouse, London on 15 July 2009.  
Producer - Adrian Parkhouse  
Recording Engineer - Mike Hatch  
Recording Assistant - Sarah Thwaites  
Editor - David Wainitt

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