

JAMES GILCHRIST
Tenor



James Gilchrist began his working life as a doctor, turning to a full-time career in music in 1996. His musical interest was fired at a young age, singing first as a chorister in the choir of New College, Oxford, and later as a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge.

James' extensive concert repertoire has seen him perform in major concert halls throughout the world with conductors including Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Sir Roger Norrington, Bernard Labadie, Harry Christophers, Harry Bicket and the late Richard Hickox. Recent highlights have included Britten's **Church Parables** with performances in St Petersburg, London and at the Aldeburgh Festival, Handel's **L'Allegro il Penseroso ed il Moderato** with the Mark Morris Dance Group at the Teatro Real, Madrid, **Solomon** with Les Violons du Roy, Schumann's **Das Paradies und die Peri** and **Die Schöpfung**

at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Britten's **Nocturne** with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo and **War Requiem** with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. In J.S. Bach's great Passions of **St John** and **St Matthew**, James works consistently at the highest level and is recognised as the finest Evangelist of his generation; as one recent BBC Proms reviewer noted, 'he hasn't become a one-man Evangelist industry by chance'.

A prolific and versatile recitalist, James enjoys imaginative and varied programming in collaborations with pianists Anna Tilbrook and Julius Drake, and harpist Alison Nicholls. Recent appearances include a Schubertiade weekend at St John Smith Square and **Schwanengesang** coupled with Beethoven **An die Ferne Geliebte** at the Wigmore Hall. James recently returned to the Wigmore Hall to begin his project with Anna Tilbrook, **Schumann and the English Romantics**, pairing Schumann song cycles with new commissions from leading composers, Sally Beamish, Julian Philips and Jonathan Dove, setting English poetry of the Romantic period.

James' impressive discography includes the title role in **Albert Herring** and Vaughan Williams' **A Poisoned Kiss** for Chandos, **St John Passion** with the Academy of Ancient Music, the Finzi song cycle **Oh Fair To See**, Elizabethan Lute Songs **When Laura Smiles** with Matthew Wadsworth, Leighton **Earth Sweet Earth**, Vaughan Williams **On Wenlock Edge**, Finzi songs and Britten's **Winter Words** for Linn Records and the critically-acclaimed recordings of Schubert's song cycles for Orchid Classics. James and Anna Tilbrook have recently released a new disc of Schumann song cycles for Linn Records.

Recent engagements include performances with The King's Consort at the Enescu Festival in Bucharest; concert performances of **Semele** with Concerto Köln, and **Hercules** with the English Concert; Handel's **Messiah** with Boston Handel and Haydn Society; Bach's **Christmas Oratorio** with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra in Toronto, with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and with the Academy of Ancient Music; a recital with Julius Drake at the Concertgebouw and Haydn's **Creation** with Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia and in a new staged production for Garsington Opera and Ballet Rambert, as well as appearing as the Evangelist in **St Matthew Passion** across Europe with the Monteverdi Choir.

This season, highlights include Handel **L'Allegro** with Stuttgart Bachakademie; Haydn **Creation** at Sadler's Wells (Garsington Opera / Ballet Rambert) and in Denmark (Aarhus Symphony Orchestra); **Christmas Oratorio** across Europe with Windsbacher Knabenchor; and appearances at the Lammermuir, Roman River, Hatfield House and Oxford Lieder festivals. James will also curate a concert series of Bach and Purcell for the Academy of Ancient Music, and appears in the role of Reverend Horace Adams in Britten's **Peter Grimes** for Bergen National Opera and the Edinburgh International Festival.

This biography is valid for use until December 2016. We update our biographies regularly and ask that they are not altered without permission. For updated versions, please e-mail caroline.challis@hazardchase.co.uk