

Thursday 8 October | 1pm

The Mancunium Consort

Wood	Hail Gladdening Light
Walker	There Will Come Soft Rains
Macdonald	When the Earth Stands Still
Grieg	Ave Maris Stella
Briggs	Media Vita
Stanford	The Blue Bird
Aleotti	Surge, Propera Amica Mea
Barnard	The Thrushes Sing
Gorecki	Miserere Nobis
Barnard	The Oak and the Ash
Byrd	Vigilate
Arr Erb	Shenandoah
Barnard	These Woods (Earthsong Foundation commission)
Whitacre	Sleep
Tallis	If Ye Love Me
Barnard	I Will Not Leave You Comfortless

This programme, *Nature's Solace*, is a deeply restorative choral journey from The Mancunium Consort, offering calm and reflection in an unpredictable and restless world. Generously supported by the Vaughan Williams Foundation and Earthsong Foundation, and rooted in themes of nature and renewal, the programme weaves together luminous works by Stanford, Grieg, Whitacre and Tallis, alongside multiple works by contemporary British composer Richard Barnard. This concert creates space to breathe, listen, and reconnect—a moment of warmth, beauty, and gentle escape through sound.

The Mancunium Consort

Founded in the heart of Manchester in February 2023 by Harry Mobbs and Joseph Taylor, The Mancunium Consort was established to widen opportunities for professional singers in the North of England. In just over 3 years, the ensemble has developed a distinctive artistic voice, marked by stylistic clarity, expressive immediacy, and an unwavering commitment to communicative performance.

What began as an ambitious regional initiative has quickly evolved into a nationally recognised ensemble with a growing international presence. By the end of 2025, the Consort had delivered over twenty performances within a single calendar year, appearing in a range of venues and festivals while continuing to cultivate a substantial global online following, with the year culminating in a *Christmas Crackers* online series that reached over 19 million views in a single month.

October 2025 marked a major milestone with the release of the group's debut album, *A New Light*, on VOCES8 Records. The album has been met with critical acclaim and firmly established the ensemble's place within the UK's professional choral landscape. Building on this momentum, The Mancunium Consort has recently a record deal with VOCES8 Records, signalling a long-term artistic partnership and a shared commitment to producing high-quality choral recordings. As part of this collaboration, the ensemble will release its second album, *Still Waters*, in September 2026.

Rooted in Manchester yet outward-looking in ambition, The Mancunium Consort is driven by a clear artistic vision: to champion the highest standards of professional choral singing all over the world, to create meaningful connections with audiences both live and online, and to contribute to a vibrant and sustainable cultural ecosystem in the North of England.

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