

David Hill

Conductor



“Could anyone but David Hill have achieved such a fusion of English choral tradition and state-of-the-art baroque performance practice? I don't think so. What an extraordinary contribution to our nation's musical life he has made.”

The Telegraph

Renowned for his fine musicianship, **David Hill** is widely respected as both a choral and orchestral conductor. His talent has been recognised by his appointments as Musical Director of The Bach Choir, Music Director of Leeds Philharmonic Society, Associate Guest conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor of Yale Schola Cantorum. He was Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers from September 2007 to September 2017 and is a former Music Director of Southern Sinfonia. In March 2018, he was honoured with the prestigious Royal College of Organists medal, in recognition of distinguished achievement in choral conducting and organ playing.

Born in Carlisle in 1957, David Hill was educated at Chetham's School of Music as a

violinist and pianist, where he led the school orchestra. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists at the age of 17 and won an organ scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge where he served under the direction of the late Dr George Guest. His previous posts have included Master of Music at Winchester Cathedral (1987–2002) and Westminster Cathedral (1982–7), Associate Conductor and then Artistic Director of the Philharmonia Chorus (1986–97), Music Director of The Waynflete Singers (1987-2002) and Director of Music at St John's College, Cambridge (2003-2007).

He is in great demand for choral training workshops worldwide, and his handbook on the subject *Giving Voice* was published in 1995. He is a choral advisor to music publishers Novello, for whom he has edited several publications including the carols anthologies *Noël!*, and he regularly contributes articles to *Choir and Organ*. As an organist, he has given recitals in most of the major venues in the UK and has toured extensively abroad.

David Hill's broad-ranging discography of over 80 recordings, spanning repertoire from the Renaissance to the present day and including many award-winners, can be found on the Decca/Argo, Hyperion, Naxos and Virgin Classics labels. The third in his English series for Naxos with The Bach Choir and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra – *Delius's A Mass of Life* – was widely acclaimed on its release in 2012 and won a coveted Choc de Classica. With The Bach Choir David Hill has contributed to the film sound tracks of *Kingdom of Heaven*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Shrek the Third*.

Hill has appeared as guest conductor with the London, Royal Liverpool, BBC, Strasbourg and Zagreb Philharmonic orchestras; the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Royal Northern Sinfonia, BBC Symphony, RTÉ National Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Copenhagen Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, as well as the Netherlands Radio

Choir and RIAS Chamber Choir, Berlin.

His commitment to new music has led to him premiering works from leading composers including Judith Bingham, Carl Rütli, Francis Pott, Bob Chilcott, Gabriel Jackson, James Macmillan, Philip Moore, Naji Hakim, Sir John Tavener, Philip Wilby and Jonathan Dove.

Recent highlights include a highly praised BBC Prom in which he conducted the BBC Singers and the chamber ensemble Endymion in *The Desert Music* by Steve Reich; a celebratory concert for the BBC Singers' 90th Anniversary at the Barbican; and performances with the Portland Baroque, London Symphony, the Philharmonia and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, and the National Youth Choir of Australia. Other highlights include Elgar's *The Kingdom* with the BBC Philharmonic, Beethoven 9 with the Royal Philharmonic at the Royal Albert Hall, and Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. In 19-20, David Hill also released three outstanding recordings with the Yale Schola Cantorum and an “electrifying” recording of Howells' *Missa Sabrinensis* with The Bach Choir.

In the 20-21 season, his work continues with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Yale Schola Cantorum and Leeds Philharmonic Society, with returns to conduct the BBC Singers and the BBC Concert Orchestra. David Hill also conducts the premiere of Gabriel Jackson's *The World Imagined* at the Three Choirs Festival.

In recognition of his services to music, David has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Southampton, an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal School of Church Music, and an Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Music. He received an MBE in the New Year 2019 Honours list for services to music.

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