



Alexander L'Estrange

Alexander L'Estrange (b.1974) is an award-winning choral composer, arranger and workshop leader of international acclaim. Educated at Oxford, first as a chorister in New College Choir and later at Merton College, he gained a First Class Honours Master of Arts degree in Music. His compositional voice is characterised by his love for jazz harmony and groove (he is a professional jazz pianist and double bassist as well as a jazz examiner and trainer for the ABRSM) and his background in the English choral tradition. Known for his charismatic and engaging leadership style, L'Estrange presents his music in choral workshops and is a regular presenter at the annual ACDA conference.

L'Estrange is best known for his series of large-scale choral works which draw together singers of all ages across the community. The first of these was *Zimbe! Come sing the songs of Africa!*, a 40-minute fusion of African song and jazz, which received over 150 performances worldwide within its first five years, establishing his reputation as one of Britain's most popular living composers. *Zadok Rules – Hallelujah!*, commissioned by the Hanover Band to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, is based on Royal music through the ages; *Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose* is an uplifting fusion of sea shanties and Tudor music; *Song Cycle: vive la véloration!* was commissioned for the 2014 *grand départ* in Yorkshire of the Tour de France, its ten entertaining songs telling the story of cycling; *Wassail! Carols of Comfort and Joy* is a joyous sequence of Christmas songs from the folk tradition and won the Music Teacher Award for Best Classical Music Education Initiative in 2018; most recently, *Freedom! The power of song* celebrates the role of singing in the American Civil Rights movement, the Suffragette movement, the Baltic revolution and the First World War.

Many of L'Estrange's sacred choral works have been recorded by the award-winning chamber choir Tenebrae, conducted by Nigel Short, on a disc entitled *On Eagles' Wings*. His song output includes *Love's Philosophy* (poems by Shelley, Tennyson and Byron), currently on the ABRSM Singing Syllabus, and *Winter Songs*, written in collaboration with his wife, the composer and lyricist Joanna Forbes L'Estrange. Most recently, he has set three movements from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran for unaccompanied 8-part choir.

A consummate vocal arranger, L'Estrange writes for world-class *a cappella* groups The Swingle Singers, Voces 8 and The King's Singers, for whom he wrote and produced their acclaimed *Great American Songbook* album. As Consultant Editor of Faber Music's popular *Choral Basics* series, he has written hundreds of arrangements of songs from across the musical spectrum.

For more information, sheet music and CDs visit www.alexanderlestrange.com

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