

# GREAT BRITAIN CHORAL FESTIVAL

## A Celebration of Peace

*Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice Ending WWI*

## ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

### Craig Jessop

*Former Director, Mormon Tabernacle Choir*

*Dean, Caine College of the Arts, Utah State University*

*Artistic Director and Conductor, American Festival Chorus and Orchestra*



Dr. Craig Jessop is Professor of Music and the founding Dean for the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University. These appointments follow Dr. Jessop's distinguished tenure as music director of the world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Head of the Department of Music at Utah State. He is the founder and Music Director of the American Festival Chorus and Orchestra and has served as the music director of the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival sponsored by the Weill Institute of Music at Carnegie Hall. Prior to his appointment with the Tabernacle Choir, Dr. Jessop was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force music programs, where he served as director of the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants in Washington, D.C. (1980-1987); as commander and conductor of the Band of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein, Germany (1987-1991); and as commander and conductor of the Air Combat Command Heartland of America Band (1991-1995). He has also been music director of the Maryland Choral Society, the Rhineland-Pfalz International Choir of Germany and the Omaha Symphonic Chorus.

Dr. Jessop has a Bachelor of Science from Utah State University, 1973; Master of Arts from Brigham Young University, 1976; and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from Stanford University, 1980.

In 2016 Dr. Jessop received the Arts Administrator of the Year Award at the National Convention of the College Orchestra Director's Association (CODA) in Salt Lake City. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Utah, Dr. Jessop received the 2014 Governor's Mansion Performing Artist Award bestowed by Governor Gary Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah. In 2013 he received the prestigious Madeleine Award for distinguished service to the Arts and Humanities by the Madeleine Arts and Humanities Council and in 2012 he was awarded the Utah National Guard's Minuteman Award for service to the State of Utah.

Under his direction, the Tabernacle Choir received numerous awards, including the coveted National Medal of Arts in a ceremony at the White House. He has recorded over 15 CDs on the Telarc and MTC labels with the Choir and in 2008 received a Grammy nomination for his work with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square.

At the Opening Ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Dr. Jessop conducted the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Utah Symphony, working with world-renowned artists Sting and Yo-Yo Ma, and composers John Williams and Michael Kamen. Other artists with whom he has collaborated include Renée Fleming, Frederica von Stade, Bryn Terfel, Audra McDonald, The King's Singers, Angela Lansbury, Claire Bloom, Walter Cronkite, and Charles Osgood. In 2003, Dr. Jessop conducted the choir and prepared the singers for a performance of A German Requiem at the prestigious Tanglewood Festival with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. A much sought-after guest conductor, Dr. Jessop has been on the American choral scene for more than three decades. His tenure as Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and as director of the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants in Washington D.C. has taken him to the most prestigious concert halls of the nation and around the world including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Royal Albert Hall in London and throughout Europe and Asia. In 2013 Dr. Jessop was selected by the American Choral Directors Association to conduct the monumental Benjamin Britten War Requiem with the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Orchestra at their national convention, the fourth time in his career to conduct at the national ACDA conventions. He is also a frequent guest conductor at the prestigious Berkshire Choral Festival in Massachusetts.

In addition to his work as a conductor, Dr. Jessop has been active as a baritone vocalist, first as a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and later with the choirs of Helmuth Rilling and John Rutter and with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers. He is a previous winner of the Metropolitan Opera regional auditions and San Francisco Opera auditions, and has participated in the Merola Opera training program of the San Francisco Opera.

He lives in the peaceful setting of the northern Utah valley of Cache County with his wife RaNae. They are the parents of four children and have eight wonderful grandchildren, 7 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

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### Stephen Cleobury

*Director of Music, King's College  
Conductor Laureate, BBC Singers*



Stephen Cleobury has been Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge for over 30 years. His work there has brought him into fruitful relationships with leading orchestras and soloists, among them the Academy of Ancient Music, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Britten Sinfonia, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Philharmonia. He complements and refreshes his work in Cambridge through the many other musical activities in which he engages.

At King's, he has sought to enhance the reputation of the world-famous Choir, broadening its repertoire, commissioning new music and developing its activities in broadcasting, recording and touring. He introduced the annual festival, Easter at King's, from which the BBC regularly broadcasts, and, in its wake, a series of high-profile performances throughout the year, Concerts at King's.

From 1995 to 2007 he was Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers and is now Conductor Laureate. He was much praised for creating an integrated choral sound from this group of first-class professional singers and for the many premieres he conducted. He has nurtured generations of young musicians during his many years as Conductor of CUMS, and became the Society's first Conductor Laureate earlier this year.

Beyond Cambridge he is in demand as a conductor, organist, adjudicator and leader of choral workshops: This season has taken him to Madrid, Paris, Stockholm, Seattle and Cleveland, Ohio and has included concerts at the Aldeburgh Festival and the BBC Proms.

Stephen is an active organ recitalist; he is a past President of the Royal College of Organists and of the Incorporated Association of Organists; he is currently President of the Friends of Cathedral Music and of the Herbert Howells Society. He was appointed CBE in 2009.

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