

The Swingles

Live at Orchestra Hall

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 2 pm | Orchestra Hall

The program for tonight's concert will be announced from the stage.
There will be one intermission.



For more than half a century, **The Swingles** have pushed the boundaries of vocal music. The seven young singers that make up today's London-based group are driven by the same innovative spirit that has defined the five-time Grammy winners since they first made waves in the 1960s.

In 1963, American-born Ward Swingle first assembled a group of Parisian session singers to sing Bach's keyboard music. The resulting album, *Jazz Sebastian Bach*, launched the Swingle Singers to fame. Since then, they have made more than 50 recordings, with a repertoire that has grown to include a huge variety of music, including new original songs. They have also appeared on numerous film and TV soundtracks, including *Sex and the City*, *Milk*, *Grey's Anatomy* and *Glee*. In 2017, they co-wrote and performed a song for the end credits of Alexander Payne's acclaimed film *Downsizing*.

The group's versatility has led to collaborations with artists as diverse as the Modern Jazz Quartet, Jamie Cullum and Labrinth. Luciano Berio was one of the first composers to explore the sound of the Swingles' amplified voices in an orchestral setting with his groundbreaking *Sinfonia*. In addition to a busy touring schedule that regularly takes them to North and South America, Europe and Asia, The Swingles present their own London A Cappella Festival at Kings Place each January in partnership with Ikon Arts Management.

Released in March 2017, The Swingles' most recent project is *Folklore*, a diverse collection of folk music from around the world, inspired by their international travels and featuring collaborations with traditional artists.

At this afternoon's performance, The Swingles present a musical retrospective in celebration of their late, great founder Ward Swingle. The group takes a look back at Ward's formative influences—in particular, Bach—and at the musical landscape as it has changed over The Swingles' extraordinary five-decade history. Moving through the singer-songwriters of the 1960s and '70s right up to current British favorites, the group brings the retro sound of the classic Swingle Singers alive as well as bringing a fresh approach on original songs from their newer releases. For more information, visit theswingles.co.uk.