

## Rupert Gough - Biography

Rupert Gough has been Director of Choral Music and College Organist at Royal Holloway, University of London since 2005. He is also Organist and Director of Music at London's oldest surviving church, Great Saint Bartholomew, which maintains a professional choir. He previously spent 11 years as Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral where he worked closely with the choir both as accompanist and choir trainer. During this time he featured on 19 recordings as either organist or conductor, including six discs for Hyperion Records.

His overall discography of nearly 50 commercial recordings encompasses work as a choir director, organist and harpsichordist, and includes the organ and choral works of Sir Percy Buck (Priory), the instrumental and choral works of Carson Cooman (Naxos and Albany), the complete works for violin and organ of Josef Rheinberger and choral works of Rihards Dubra, Vytautas Miškinis and Bo Hansson (Hyperion).



At Royal Holloway Rupert has developed the choral programme to include weekly choral recitals, choral conducting courses for undergraduates, new choral commissions and transformed the Chapel Choir into an elite group of 24 choral scholars. The Choir has particularly come to prominence in the last three years through their series of recordings for Hyperion Records. They have developed a particular reputation for their performances and recordings of music from the Baltic States. They also regularly commission from, and collaborate with, contemporary composers including James MacMillan, Gabriel Jackson, Richard Rodney Bennett, Bo Hansson and, Tim Garland.

Born in 1971, Rupert was a chorister at the Chapels Royal, St. James's Palace, and won a scholarship to the Purcell School. He received (with distinction) a Masters degree in English Church Music from the University of East Anglia whilst Organ Scholar at Norwich Cathedral. In 2001 he won Third Prize at the St. Alban's International Organ Competition. He is particularly renowned for his work in combination with violin as a member of the Gough Duo. The Duo's many American tours have taken them all over the USA from Florida to Alaska. Recently they performed to audiences of 1,800 in Moscow and 1,200 in Hong Kong.

As a conductor he has worked with a variety of professional choirs and orchestras including the Britten Sinfonia, the London Mozart Players, the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and Florilegium. He has also been fortunate to work with many distinguished soloists including Julian Lloyd Webber, Antony Rolfe Johnson, Felicity Lott, Susan Bullock, Emma Kirkby, James Bowman and Wayne Marshall. This summer he will be assisting the King's Singers with their second UK Summer School.

*Press quotes:*

"This recording, devoted to the choral works of Bo Hansson, not only pays tribute to the Swedish composer's melodic choral writing but also to the elegant delivery given by the Choir of Royal Holloway and their director, Rupert Gough"

"credit must go to Gough's performance with its shape, at each stage of this piece, crafted flawlessly"

**(Critic's Pick: International Choral Magazine)**

"a uniformly excellent vocal ensemble at Royal Holloway under their inspirational director, Rupert Gough... Highly recommended"

**(Choir and Organ Magazine)**

"an example of choral singing at its most elegantly fashioned... stunningly delivered in terms of tonal quality and technical brilliance under Rupert Gough's unobtrusive direction"

**(The Birmingham Post)**

"Under Rupert Gough's care since 2005, the Choir of Royal Holloway College has attained standards of musicianship and technical refinement high above the reach of most student ensembles...Gough and his choristers are outstanding."

**(Classic FM Magazine)**

"Rupert Gough has wrought wonders with his Egham choristers... such compelling and committed singing, this benchmark recording has whetted my appetite for much more. Enjoy!"

**(Gramophone Magazine)**

"Rupert Gough's organ playing is marvellous, with a tremendous sense of colour and atmosphere and a wonderful ear for the challenging acoustic."

**(MusicWeb International)**

"Rupert Gough's organ accompaniments are exemplary".

**(BBC Music Magazine)**

"Un Duo exceptionnel: The audience savoured the partnership of these two instruments: the organ with its varied colours supporting the rich timbre of the very expressive violin. A superb performance and well balanced with the highly musical relationship between the two artists winning over the public. The finesse and virtuosity of this concert enchanted the large audience."

**(Press review, Alpe d'Huez, France)**