

Undersong – overview for promoters



A nine-piece ensemble of highly-skilled vocalists create a live surround-sound experience. Audience members are scattered through the space on stools, leaving pathways for performers to weave amongst the crowd – one moment whispering close to individual ears, the next hurling rich harmony into the air. The trailer on Verity’s website gives a good sense of the piece. And here’s a description taken from a review of an early performance in London:

Standen’s polyphonic compositions range from choral-sounding to pop music-esque, to gargles. There are only half a dozen words in the piece, yet it seems to feature the entire range of the human voice...

We can face one another if we wish. A couple of people are quietly crying, some have their eyes closed, some are smiling. And many are laughing, particularly when the singers slap their tongues around the outside of their mouths. The tone of this world often feels melancholic, so it is pure joy to hear silliness.

The word Undersong is defined as ‘the subtle murmur of a landscape, often drowned out by other sounds’. Standen’s collection is a soundtrack, a journey that exposes an array of life’s acoustics that we’re often too busy to either hear or appreciate... Undersong is truly transformative. Both the compositions and the singers’ otherworldly voices transport me from the outside world to a place of calm.

- Miro Magazine, June 2018.

While the music is intricate and at times challenging, the invitation to audiences is simple: sit, and let the music wash around you. Working in partnership with host venues and festivals, we are excited by the possibility of gathering diverse community groups to share this special experience – for example, inviting primary school children and older adults to attend shows together. And while there is a full lighting and sound

design to accompany the show in theatrical settings, these elements are flexible so that we can stage the piece in other community settings.

The show requires a team of 12 on the road, with a maximum audience capacity of 80 per performance (we often perform 2 or 3 times per night). Please get in touch if you'd like full technical specifications or any other details.

Performances of Undersong can be combined with fun community singing workshops and/or vocal skills sessions for emerging artists. It can also be run alongside HUG (taught by Verity's ensemble and performed by local singers).

For more information and all enquiries, please contact producer Tom Spencer
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