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**International Opera Star and Recitalist SIR SIMON KEENLYSIDE
Makes Rare Atlanta Appearance**

**Vocal Sextet THE KING'S SINGERS Celebrates 50 Years of A Cappella Magic with
*CHRISTMAS GOLD***

**SPIVEY HALL CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM Marks Beginning of
25th Anniversary Season with Family-friendly Holiday Concerts**

MORROW GA (November 12, 2018) – [Spivey Hall](#) ends 2018 with British classical superstars and two milestone anniversary celebrations.

“December is traditionally a month for singing,” said Spivey Hall Executive and Artistic Director Samuel C. Dixon, “and this year, we are proud to offer glorious singing by outstanding British stars as well as our own Children’s Choir Program members, whose annual holiday concerts are among Spivey Hall’s most cherished traditions.”

Internationally celebrated British baritone [Sir Simon Keenlyside](#) makes a welcome return to Spivey with pianist **Natalia Katyukova (December 2)**, presenting a program of colorful songs in German by Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, and Hugo Wolfe, and in French by Gabriel Fauré, Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. Praised as “the superlative vocal sextet” by London’s *The Times*, [The King’s Singers \(December 8\)](#) celebrates the holiday season with a Christmas version of its golden anniversary program of a cappella music spanning the ages. The angelic harmonies of the [Spivey Hall Children’s Choir Program](#) ends the year with three 25th Anniversary concerts (**December 7, 8, and 9**), including carol sing-alongs with Spivey Organist-in-Residence **Alan Morrison** and lots of Christmas cookies.(These concerts regularly sell out, thus it’s best to purchase tickets early.)

After the Children’s Choir’s Sunday concert, Spivey Hall will close for preliminary renovations of its heating, cooling and ventilation system, in preparation for the activation of a new system later

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in 2019. The Hall is scheduled to reopen for the **Atlanta Area Suzuki Piano Association's annual Graduation Concerts on February 9.**

For tickets or more information, call the Spivey Hall Box Office at (678) 466-4200, or visit clayton.edu/spiveyhall. In addition to the standard ticket pricing indicated for each performance, there is a 20% discount available to students and Georgia educators with ID. The Spivey Hall box office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; discounted subscriptions of four or more concerts remain available both through the Box Office and online for purchase.

SPIVEY SERIES

Sir Simon Keenlyside, baritone
Natalia Katyukova, piano
Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

British baritone **Simon Keenlyside** has enjoyed an extensive career performing in operas and concerts over the past 30 years. Sir Simon began his musical career at age eight in the choir school of St John's College Cambridge with George Guest, and later attended the Royal Northern College of Music. After his 1987 professional debut at the Hamburg Staatsoper, he developed into one of the world's most sought after and charismatic singers, noted for his versatility and highly charged performances on stage. He has given song recitals internationally, garnering exceptional praise for his compelling performances of Schubert, Schumann, Strauss, Brahms, Fauré, Wolf and Mahler. He is also a renowned interpreter of English songs, many of which he has also recorded. *Gramophone* has described him as "the finest baritone singer of Lieder this country has ever produced." Sir Simon was named Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Sir Simon's pianist is **Natalia Katyukova**, a member of the vocal arts faculty of The Julliard School, assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera, and a coach for the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Katyukova has performed with singers such as Sir Bryn Terfel, Irina Arkhipova, Ekaterina Semenchuk, Ildar Abdrazakov, and Paul Appleby. She is a winner of the MTNA National Piano Competition (U.S.), the International Piano Competition (Spain), and the Ettore Pozzoli International Piano Competition (Italy).

Their program features song inspired by poems by a variety of German and French poets, masterfully set to music by foremost composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. "Armed with his dark, handsome baritone," writes *The Financial Times* of Sir Simon, "he sings the poetry as if every word matters." His undeniable stage presence is both engaging and expressive.

Tickets start at \$20 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators) and are available for purchase now.

Sir Simon Keenlyside and Natalya Katyukova's recital is made possible in part through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Frederick and Elizabeth Bliss.

**Spivey Hall Young Artists
Spivey Hall Children's Choir
Spivey Hall Tour Choir
Craig Hurley and Dr. Martha Shaw, conductors
Marcena Kinney and Judy Mason, accompanists
Alan Morrison, organ
Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Spivey Hall Children's Choir
Spivey Hall Tour Choir
Dr. Martha Shaw, conductor
Judy Mason, accompanist
Alan Morrison, organ
Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

The **Spivey Hall Children's Choir Program**, led by founding director Dr. Martha Shaw, welcomes the holiday season with a delightful mix of new compositions and familiar favorites. These holiday concerts showcase the talents of the 170-member Children's Choir Program singers who perform in three choirs, including the **Spivey Hall Young Artists** conducted by Craig Hurley, and the 50 most advanced Children's Choir singers, the **Spivey Hall Tour Choir**, conducted by Dr. Shaw. All perform a variety of music with remarkable beauty of expression, spirit and refinement.

Program selections include J.S. Bach's "Suscepit Israel" from his joyous *Magnificat*; Douglas E. Wagner's poignant setting of "Velvet Shoes" by American poet Elinor Wylie; and American spiritual "Chatter with the Angels." Familiar holiday classics on the program include "Ave Maria," "We Need a Little Christmas," and "For unto Us a Child is Born."

Each of the three concerts will also include audience sing-alongs of traditional holiday carols accompanied by famed Spivey Hall organist-in-residence Alan Morrison, on the magnificent Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ created for Spivey Hall by Fratelli Ruffatti in Padua, Italy. Best of all, there is a post-concert reception with an abundance of cookies for everyone!

To add to the Choir's 25th anniversary season celebrations, in the Saturday afternoon performance only, Spivey Hall Children's Choir alumni will join the choir on stage to perform "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

Tickets are priced at \$25, and are available for purchase now.

The Spivey Hall Children's Choir Program's December performances are made possible in part through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Rob and Judy Mason. Alan Morrison holds the McGehee Family Organist Residency at Spivey Hall.

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The King's Singers: *Christmas Gold*
Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

Help celebrate The King's Singers' Golden Anniversary Season – a half-century of excellent singing that has both enthralled and entertained audiences worldwide – with this special Christmas edition of its *Gold* program. The a cappella ensemble pays tribute to the music that has defined its first 50 years, inspired by the unique maverick spirit that guided the original six King's Singers to keep every performance as fresh and varied as possible.

The King's Singers' Spivey Hall program will celebrate ancient and modern Christmas music from across its repertoire, including selections from albums *Christmas*, *The Christmas Songbook* and their 50th anniversary *Gold*. The ensemble will also perform two new 50th anniversary commissions: "Master of Music," composed by talented Cambridge University student Toby Hession, and "We Are," by renowned British choral composer and conductor (and former King's Singers member) Bob Chilcott, using a text by the American poet Maya Angelou.

As families and friends unite to celebrate the season of togetherness, The King's Singers reflect an optimistic message of unity at the center of its *Christmas Gold* program. "Very few choral groups anywhere in the world have such mastery of tuning, coordination and ensemble as The King's Singers... Every song was immaculately delivered with a quality of tone which, especially on final chords, redefined luxury." (*The Straits Times*)

Tickets start at \$40 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators) and are available for purchase now.

The King's Singers' December performance is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsor Charles Loridans Foundation, Inc.

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About Spivey Hall

Now celebrating its 28th season, **Spivey Hall** is the South's most acoustically superior recital hall, presenting the best in classical, jazz and world music. Located on the picturesque campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, just fifteen miles southeast of Atlanta, the Hall wins accolades from artists, patrons and journalists alike. An intimate venue with just 390 seats, Spivey Hall promotes for the concert-goer a personal connection with the artist both during and after the performance. Spivey's extraordinary acoustics and reputation for distinguished programming attract outstanding international musicians who regularly perform at the nation's major concert venues such as Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Spivey Hall also presents

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regular performances on its magnificent 4,413-pipe Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, custom-built in Italy by Fratelli Ruffatti.

Clayton State University's Spivey Hall gratefully acknowledges support received for the 2018-2019 concert season from the Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation, the Chaparral Foundation and the Spivey Hall Friends, as well as from media partners [WABE 90.1 FM](#) and [Jazz 91.9 WCLK](#).

For more information, visit clayton.edu/spiveyhall, and follow Spivey Hall on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Clayton State University

A unit of the University System of Georgia, **Clayton State University** is an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university located 15 miles southeast of downtown Atlanta. For more information, visit clayton.edu.

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