Choral Composers’ Workshop by **THE 24**

**THE 24**

With a progressive approach and a reputation forged under Professor William Brooks for performing lesser-known repertoire, the choir is now conducted by Robert Hollingworth, founder/director of *I Fagiolini*, one of the UK’s top professional vocal groups.

In 2013-14 The 24 sings at the music department’s Gesualdo conference (in the composer’s 400th anniversary year) and in the spring will trip its way through a mixture of English 16th, 17th, 19th and 20th century music. Plans for a trip to Hong Kong (with the choir’s director emeritus, Prof. William Brooks), are also underway, alongside a fourth tour of China under eminent conductor Zhu Bu Xi. The summer term will see a focus on France, with ravishing and rarely-performed music by Poulenc, Daniel-Lesur and Jean Francaix – and also a minimalist take on Machaut.

In recent years, as well as performing many works written specifically for them by up-and-coming student composers, the group has worked closely with Estonian composer, Veijo Tormis, culminating in a concert of his music given on Estonian independence day, with the composer in attendance. The 24 have also performed at King’s College Cambridge and the Music at Paxton festival in Scotland, as well as taking a leading role in the Music Department’s international John Cage centenary festival, Getting Nowhere in November 2012.

In June 2013, the group took part in choral collaboration with singers from the University of Niš, Serbia with performances in Niš as part of international celebrations for the 1700th anniversary of the unification of the Roman Empire by Emperor Constantine. July 2013 saw a full exchange with the German ensemble EXTRAChorLE. It also recently made the world premiere recording of Gesualdo’s earliest motet which you can hear here.

**Prof. William Brooks (conductor)**

William Brooks studied music and mathematics at Wesleyan University (BA 1965), then received degrees in musicology (MM 1971) and composition-theory (DMA 1976) from the University of Illinois. Among his teachers were Charles Hamm in musicology and Ben Johnston, Kenneth Gaburo and Herbert Brün. He has been associated with John Cage as both performer and scholar; he played in the world premiere of HPSCHD and has several times directed productions of Cage’s Song Books. Brooks taught at the University of Illinois (1969-73) and at the University of California (1973-7), then worked as a freelance composer, scholar and performer before returning to the University of Illinois (1987). There he was Associate Professor of Composition, director of the Contemporary Chamber Singers, and Chair of the Composition-Theory Division for many years. In 2000 he took up his present post at the University of York.

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**Featured composers and their works:**

- **CHAN Ka-hei Lesley**
  - Blackberry-picking
- **CHIU Hok-man Elena**
  - Jubilate Deo
- **WONG Chun-wai Ronald**
  - Lamentations 3
- **YUEN Wai-ling Viola**
  - Lullaby

**Date:** 31 March 2014 (Monday)

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Venue:** Lee Hysan Concert Hall, Esther Lee Building, C.U.H.K.

**Ticket:** Free Admission | Free Seating

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