

DOWN FOR THE COUNT
PRESENTS

*Swing
Into
Christmas*

featuring **CITY STRING ENSEMBLE**



Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ
Thursday 17th December 2020
Digital Programme

Welcome

from our musical director



A very warm welcome to Cadogan Hall, and to what are by far Down for the Count's most ambitious concerts to date – two performances from our 28-piece "Concert Orchestra" as we celebrate the launch of our new album, *Swing Into Christmas*.

If you and I had been sat in a pub having a drink after a Down for the Count show earlier this year (remember when we could enjoy all of those things?!), and you had said to me that Down for the Count would close out 2020 by presenting two shows at one of the UK's top concert halls, I probably wouldn't have believed you; then again, as we all know, 2020 has had a habit of throwing up many surprises, but with them many opportunities.

One of those opportunities was the chance for Down for the Count to use our unexpected free time to create a lot of new things like our set of "lockdown videos", which have now been viewed over 500,000 times across our various social media platforms (including by a certain Mr. Bubl ), and like our new (and unplanned) Christmas album, which we were able to record in September between the two lockdowns.

We couldn't be more proud of our new album, which is an evolution in Down for the Count's sound and musical approach. First of all, we've been very fortunate to work with the wonderful musicians of City String Ensemble, whose playing has added a whole new layer to Down for the Count's sound. Secondly, roughly half the songs on the album are original arrangements written by me to showcase the musicians in Down for the Count in ways that wouldn't be possible just by copying classic arrangements. We really hope that you enjoy the new sounds we're creating – and that you enjoy being some of the first people to hear them live in concert.

We are enormously grateful to a huge number of people for helping tonight's concert come to life, who we've thanked later in this programme. On behalf of the whole Down for the Count team, I'd particularly like to express our enormous gratitude to the team at Cadogan Hall who have gone to quite extraordinary lengths to get live music back in front of audiences in 2020. Whilst many venues remain closed, the team at Cadogan Hall have worked tirelessly to stage concerts – and they have done it with warmth, professionalism and a welcoming smile (and, of course, a 2 metre pole to make sure we're socially distanced on stage).

We're so grateful for the opportunity to perform here, and hope that tonight's show will help you escape the problems of the pandemic, if only for 90 minutes or so. Thanks for joining us tonight – and wishing you a very merry Christmas.

Mike Paul-Smith

Musical Director, Down for the Count, December 2020

The Orchestra

CONDUCTED BY Mike Paul-Smith

VOCALS

Lydia Bell
Hannah Castleman
Callum Gillies

PIANO

Alex Howgego

DRUMS

James Smith

BASS

Charlie Pyne

GUITAR & BANJO

Sam Ainslie

PERCUSSION

Dae Hyun Lee

TRUMPETS & FLUGELHORNS

Luke Davies
Simon Joyner

TROMBONE

Joe Fenning

REEDS

Katie Edwards
Alex Western-King
Luke Pinkstone
Jamie Hone (5pm show)
Tom Smith (8pm show)

VIOLINS

Sophie Poteratchi (leader)
Sophie Belinfante
Alicia Berendse
Matthew Bethel
Rose Hinton
Phoebe Snelling
Kasia Ziminska

VIOLAS

Jordan Sian
Martin Wray

CELLOS

Lucy Andrews
Patrick Johnson
Bryony Moody

SOUND

Jack Childs

Song list

Tonight's concert will feature a selection of the following songs. We wish we could play them all for you, but then we would all be here well past closing time - so we apologise if we don't manage to include your favourite.

All The Things You Are Kern & Hammerstein
Christmas in New Orleans Sherman & Van Winkle
Day In, Day Out Mercer & Bloom
Don't Get Around Much Anymore Ellington & Russell
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Martin & Blane
Hooray for Hollywood Whiting & Mercer
I'll Be Home for Christmas Gannon & Kent
I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm Berlin
I've Got You Under My Skin Porter
Let's Face the Music and Dance Berlin
Manhattan Rodgers & Hart
More Ortolani, Oliviero & Ciorciolini
Mr Paganini Coslow
Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps Farres
'S Wonderful Gershwin & Gershwin
Santa Baby Javits, Springer & Springer
Secret Love Webster & Fein
Stardust Carmichael
Sugar Rum Cherry Tchaikovsky
That Ole Devil Called Love Roberts & Fisher
That's Life Kay & Gordon
The Christmas Song Wells & Tormé
The Christmas Waltz Cahn & Styne
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year Pola & Wyle
The Things We Did Last Summer Cahn & Styne
This Christmas Hathaway & McKinnor
What Are You Doing New Year's Eve Loesser
White Christmas Berlin
Winter Wonderland Smith & Bernard
Zing! Went the Strings of my Heart Hanley



Our Thanks

Our thanks to the following for their help tonight and throughout 2020:

The front-of-house, technical and administrative staff at Cadogan Hall who have been so wonderful to work with;

Our sound engineer Jack Childs, who manages to do six things at once and makes life so much easier for the musicians onstage;

Our camera operators Jack Childs, Ollie Copeland, John Rixon, Ellie Jones and Helena Copeland - Ollie (who also happens to be one of our bass players) has helped with so many things on this tour, and Ellie has come up with an incredible number of great ideas for the band;

Our photographer John Rixon (another one of our bass players!), whose beautiful photos of our rehearsal at the hall are featured in this programme;

Max Fagandini (trumpet) and Amelia Forster (cello/keys), two of the original members of Down for the Count who appear on some tracks on the Christmas album but can't perform with us tonight for various reasons - we miss you and can't wait to have you back;

George Simmonds (trombone), Jennifer MacCallum (viola) and Emma McAllister (violin), three other fantastic musicians who perform on some or all of the tracks on the Christmas album but also sadly can't be with us tonight;

Sophie Poteratchi for her incredible work on our lockdown videos, and the rest of the team from City String Ensemble for embracing the mad Down for the Count world and for being so much fun to work with;

Arts Council England and the European Union Regional Development Fund, for grants which have helped us purchase camera equipment to film our shows;

Ben Thomas at Cold Stores Studios for his help recording our albums - we feel very lucky to be able to record at his studio and can't wait to return there soon.

A man with light brown hair, wearing a black tuxedo jacket over a white shirt with a loosened bow tie, is singing into a black microphone. He is looking slightly to his right. The background is a warm, out-of-focus stage setting.

About *Down for the Count*

The Down for the Count Swing Orchestra is a mini big band based in London, UK. The band brings the sounds of the Swing Era back to life, with an electrifying show full of incredible energy and musicianship.

Down for the Count burst onto the swing scene at Twinwood Festival in 2013 and have since earned themselves a reputation as one of the hardest-swinging bands in the UK.

Constantly in demand, they have sold out shows at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, The Southbank Centre, The London Jazz Festival, Hideaway Streatham, Pizza Express Jazz Club, Le Caveau de la Huchette in Paris, and now London's Cadogan Hall. The band has also performed at countless vintage dances and private events throughout the UK and abroad.

The band's stage show evokes the sounds of the Swing Era, but this is no mere nostalgia trip – Down for the Count perform each song in their own unmistakeable style, breathing new life into the best vintage music.

Combine that with the band's top class instrumental solos, sublime vocal performances, and irresistible humour and *joie de vivre*, and you get a show that will leave you feeling uplifted and wanting more.



About *City String Ensemble*

City String Ensemble is a versatile string ensemble based in London. Originally formed at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, CSE has grown from a highly sought-after string quartet within the events industry to a full scale string orchestra.

Since 2016, they have been performing across London and the UK, establishing themselves as the ensemble of choice for many award ceremonies, celebrity parties and special events. In 2019, a sister ensemble in Los Angeles, USA was formed, extending the CSE family to North America.

With an enthusiasm for all genres of music, City String Ensemble are equally as happy in the classical realm as they are performing swing classics with Down For The Count, or their very own unique arrangements of modern pop songs performed in their signature style.

Their debut EP as a string quartet *Twenty Twenty* is due for release at the end of this year, with many more planned for the future.

About Cadogan Hall

Since opening in June 2004 Cadogan Hall has hosted hundreds of concerts and welcomed a growing number of visitors every year. 2007 was marked by the first sell-out concerts in our new Zurich International Concert Series (now in its twelfth season) and the launch of our first Celebrity Recital Series. The Hall hosts the BBC Proms Chamber Music Series each year, and our Choral at Cadogan series is now in its eleventh season. The Hall increased its profile among jazz, contemporary and world music audiences too.

‘...Cadogan Hall has an excellent reputation for its acoustics in the music industry...’

Sir John Dankworth

‘Cadogan Hall is at once large enough to accommodate a reasonable sized orchestra and intimate enough for the detailed complexities of Lieder.’

Guardian Unlimited

‘The venue passed the test, the stage bathed in atmospheric lighting... By the close, with members of the audience on their feet in the balcony, we might almost have been whiling away the evening in a club.’

The Times

‘...London's newest concert hall is fast establishing itself as one of the country's top venues for classical music.’

Classic FM Magazine



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Cadogan Hall Information

Smoking All areas of Cadogan Hall are non-smoking areas.

Food & Beverages You are kindly requested not to bring food and other refreshments into Cadogan Hall. A small selection of sandwiches, confectionary and snacks is available from the bars. Concert-goers may also enjoy a wide selection of champagnes, spirits, red and white wines, beers and soft drinks from the Culford Room bar.

Cameras & Electronic Devices Video equipment, cameras and tape recorders are not permitted. Please ensure all mobile phones and pagers are switched off before entering the auditorium.

Timings Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance.

Consideration We aim to deliver the highest standards of service. Therefore, we would ask you to treat our staff with courtesy and in a manner in which you would expect to be treated.



A man with light brown, wavy hair and glasses is shown in profile, playing a gold trumpet. He is wearing a black tuxedo jacket over a white shirt and a black bow tie. The background is blurred, showing other people in a dimly lit room with warm lighting.

*Let's stay
in touch!*

Please do visit our website to sign up to our Mailing List; you'll be the first to hear about our upcoming shows and tour dates.

You can also visit our merchandise table before and after the show, or order our CDs to be delivered to you in your seat.

Finally, do follow us on social media - we hope to release footage from tonight's concert in the coming weeks.



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