



Sopranos: Imogen Ram-Prasad, Elizabeth Drury, Suzzie Vango
Mezzo: Shivani Rattan
Alto: Sarah Tenant-Flowers

Papagena is a rarity in the UK, an all-female consort of five professional singers set up to explore music from medieval times to the present day written specifically for female voices. The group's programming defies pigeonholing; drawing richly on traditional folk music and women's working songs from around the world, Papagena juxtaposes these pieces with more classical repertoire from Kassia and Hildegard of Bingen to Imogen Heap and Katy Perry, as well as writing its own material and commissioning from an eclectic range of composers including Errollyn Wallen, Oliver Tarney, Janet Wheeler, John Duggan and Jim Clements. Medieval, classical, folk and contemporary music is interwoven into intriguing programmes such as *Love, Legends and Lullabies*, *Nuns and Roses*, *The Darkest Midnight*, *Still Moving* and *A Winter's Dawn* which fascinate diverse audiences and the group also undertakes education projects involving both school and adult voices.

Formally launched in 2015, the group has performed at numerous festivals throughout the UK including the Edinburgh Festival, Brandenburg Choral Festival (London), the Shropshire Music Trust, Music at Christchurch, Nottingham Cathedral and Bromsgrove Festivals and the 2019 Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester.

Papagena's first album, *Nuns and Roses*, was produced and released under its own label in 2017. Its second album *The Darkest Midnight* was released in November 2018 under the SOMM record label and reached No 6 in the classical charts as well as the No 1 classical download position. It was selected as Recording of the Month in December 2018 by Music Web International. Its third album *Hush!* was released on the SOMM label in March 2020 and received stunning reviews in all major journals including *Gramophone*.

Papagena made its BBC debut in 2018, singing live during the International Women's Day concert on Radio 3. Since then the group has given several further live performances on the BBC, on both In Tune (Radio 3) and Woman's Hour (Radio 4). In 2018 Papagena was also selected to be one of Making Music's coveted *Selected Artists* for the 2019/2020 season. During lockdown the group released its own podcast *Papsolutely Fabulous!* as well as a video recordings of music by Hildegard of Bingen and Imogen Heap's iconic *Hide and Seek*. More recent video releases feature music by Monteverdi (for 2024's Breast Cancer Awareness day) and the group's own arrangement of James MacMillan's *The Gallant Weaver*.

Papagena enjoys a fruitful collaboration with the Orchestra of the Swan with whom it regularly performs in Stratford on Avon and at the Birmingham Royal Conservatoire, and also with solo instrumentalists including Lynda Sayce (theorbo), Victoria Davies (harp) and Cathy Lamb (organ). Forthcoming projects include performances in The Netherlands, Winchester Cathedral and Southwell Minster, recording and video collaborations and a major series of commissions including a new setting of the Passion.

For more information visit: <http://www.papagena.co.uk> @Papagenasingers
E: info@papagena.co.uk

MEDIA LINKS

AUDIO

[SPOTIFY PAGE](#)

- [The Darkest Midnight, 2018 \(Spotify\) / The Darkest Midnight, 2018 \(Apple Music\)](#)
- [Hush! 2020 \(Spotify\) / Hush! 2020 \(Apple Music\)](#)
- [Papsolutely Fabulous Podcast, 2021 \(Spotify\)](#)

VIDEO

[YouTube CHANNEL](#)

- [The Gallant Weaver, James Macmillan arr. S Tenant-Flowers \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Sì ch'io vorrei morire, Claudio Monteverdi \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Oy khodyt son, kolo vikon, Trad Ukrainian arr. S Tenant-Flowers \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Hide & Seek, Imogen Heap arr. S Tenant-Flowers \(YouTube\)](#)
- [O Virtus Sapientiae, Hildegard of Bingen \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Dulci Jubilo, Matthew Cullaton \(Classic FM Facebook Page\)](#)

SELECTED REVIEWS

FROM THE MEDIA...

*"I had a bit of a goosebump moment there... that was absolutely beautiful, crunchy harmonies. Loved that!"
(Katie Derham, InTune BBC Radio 3, 2024)*

"Very fine all-female British group...beautiful, controlled and blended sound. I'm surprised they're not more of a household name." (Ian Skelly, Essential Classics, BBC Radio 3, 2023)

"an exhilarating, unworked sound...leaves you marvelling. Certain well-established, all-male groups could learn a thing or two from these fine musicians." (Alexander Coghlan, Gramophone Magazine, 2020)

*"Any attempt to pigeon-hole this a cappella group is doomed to fail. The amazing variety of their repertoire and their superb vocal dexterity mark this female quintet out as la crème de la crème in the crowded a cappella space"
(FringeReviewUK - Edinburgh Festival, 2018)*

"absolutely gorgeous" (Petroc Trelawney, BBC Radio 3)

"voices of considerable bloom, enviable pitching, impeccable diction and a real sense of fun...think a young Hilliard Ensemble" (Prickle Arts, Edinburgh)

"...went down a storm...the extraordinary voices of Papagena" (Sarah Walker, BBC Radio 3)

"you will be, as I was, instantly hooked by the bewitching sound of Papagena...what sets this disc apart is the superb singing of Papagena. This really is an outstanding ensemble. Technically the singing is flawless yet there's no mere studied perfection here; the five singers really communicate the pieces in a fresh and very engaging fashion." (Music Web International)

"very fine all female British group...beautiful, controlled and blended sound. I'm surprised they're not more of a household name" (Ian Skelly, Essential Classics BBC Radio 3)

"A breath of fresh air...I want to hear them live!" (Norman Lebrecht)

FROM COMPOSERS...

"I adore your recording of 'When the earth' – it's truly exquisite – the clarity and balance of each of the parts is perfect and everything about your performance honours the text beautifully – cudos to you! (Don Macdonald)