

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971) is a British vocalist, choral composer and choir director. Born in North Wales she grew up in Surrey, singing as a chorister in the parish church choir of Bisley and West End and studying the piano and cello. Having graduated with a Master of Arts music degree from Oxford University she began her career with seven years at the helm of the five-time Grammy® award-winning vocal group The Swingle Singers. This experience led to a busy diary as a session singer and as a classical/jazz crossover soloist. Joanna regularly performs works such as Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert and Mass in Blue by Will Todd (which she recorded for the Convivium record label). Her distinctive, high soprano vocals can also be heard on over 300 film soundtracks, most notably a duet with Jarvis Cocker for The French Dispatch.

The international popularity of Joanna's choral compositions has been attributed to the composer's personal mission to create a body of tuneful, singable, well-crafted music which any choir can sing. "It's an integrity of purpose which infuses every musical phrase that Forbes L'Estrange writes", says BBC Music Magazine. As a professional singer Joanna specialises in contemporary and avant-garde music by such composers as Berio, Adams, Reich and Stockhausen but it is her early chorister years which inform both her accessible composing style and her belief that "new music doesn't have to be difficult to be effective." To mark the coronation of King Charles III the Royal School of Church Music commissioned Joanna to compose an anthem for its Sing for the King project; The mountains shall bring peace, a Psalm setting for choir and organ, was sung by over 600 choirs across five continents and established Forbes L'Estrange as one of the RSCM's best-selling composers. This and many more of her sacred and secular pieces have been recorded by London Voices on two albums, Heaven to Earth and Winter Light, both released on the Signum record label. Her largest, most ambitious work to date is A Season to Sing, a choral re-imagining of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, composed in celebration of its 300th anniversary in 2025.

Joanna is an ambassador for Harmony Across Borders, a choir competition which champions music by women composers. She founded and for five years directed the Cambridge-based, women's choir AQUILA and has composed many songs for upper voice choirs in support of gender equality, including A Woman (Wearing Bloomers) on a Wheel (made into a film by the National Youth Girls' Choir), A Place For Us Maids (commissioned to mark the 40th anniversary of female undergraduates at Cambridge University), Suffragette March and The Three Wise Women. With her charity single Twenty-first-century Woman Joanna made history by organising and conducting the first all-female recording session ever to have taken place at London's iconic Abbey Road Studios. Television credits include writing You Are, a 1940s-style song heard in the opening scene of series 2 of Fleabag.

She lives in Hertfordshire with her composer/jazz musician husband, Alexander L'Estrange, with whom she collaborates as a composer, performs as the aptly named jazz duo L'Estranges in the Night and co-presents their popular choral jazz workshop You can sing...but can you swing?.

Further information [www.joannaforbeslestrange.com](http://www.joannaforbeslestrange.com)

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