

GOSPEL EXPLOSION

Sunday 5 November 2023 7–9.20pm

Traditional arr **André J Thomas** Shout for Joy
Alma Bazel Androzzo If I Can Help Somebody
Florence B Price Praise the Lord
Traditional arr **André J Thomas** Band of Angels
Robert Ray Gospel Mass

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir:

Traditional Ride On, King Jesus
Andrew Berghold Holy Water
Peter Yarde Martin Nunc Dimittis
C A Tindley We Shall Overcome

Judith McAllister Hallelujah, You're Worthy
to be Praised

Glenn Burleigh Order My Steps
Donald Lawrence The Best is Yet to Come
Donald Lawrence Encourage Yourself
John Larkin III God is Great
Albert Brumley I'll Fly Away

André J Thomas conductor
Lurine Cato singer
Christian Mark Gibbs singer
NaGuanda Nobles singer
Brandon A Boyd piano
Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir
LSO Community Voices
London Symphony Chorus
David Lawrence choir director
London Symphony Orchestra

Welcome



A special welcome to this LSO concert with André J Thomas, LSO Associate Artist, who has brought his enthusiasm and expertise to the curation and presentation of a number of highly memorable symphonic gospel concerts in recent seasons.

Tonight's programme is focused on spiritual songs that express an explosion of joy. In the first half of the concert, we hear bold symphonic arrangements of iconic gospel pieces, influenced and inspired by African-American spirituals, histories and traditions. We are delighted to welcome Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir to open the second half of the concert with their selection of gospel songs ranging from the traditional to the contemporary. The concert closes with uplifting music by the likes of Donald Lawrence and Ricky Dillard, two of the most impactful gospel artists writing and performing in the US today.

It is a pleasure to be joined once again by British gospel singer Lurine Cato, tenor Christian Mark Gibbs, US gospel artist NaGuanda Nobles and pianist Brandon A Boyd. Tonight we are thrilled to welcome LSO Community Voices – a chorus of some 200 singers from the local area and other parts of London – who are singing alongside the London Symphony Chorus.

Many thanks to all those taking part in this evening's performance, and to all who join us in the audience. I hope that you thoroughly enjoy the concert and that you can continue listening to the LSO again soon, whether in person, at the Barbican and LSO St Luke's, through performances on our YouTube channel, or our recordings on LSO Live. Later this month, we look forward to cellist and singer Abel Selaocoe's debut with the Orchestra, when he will perform his Cello Concerto as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival, conducted by Duncan Ward. While nearby at LSO St Luke's, on Old Street, we have regular free lunchtime concerts taking place on Fridays throughout the year, which feature both LSO and Guildhall School Musicians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn McDowell". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dame Kathryn McDowell DBE DL
Managing Director

Future Concerts

Thursday 16 November 8pm
Barbican

EFG LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

Cellist and singer Abel Selaocoe promises to captivate and electrify, as South African and European traditions meet in his music.

Wednesday 6 December 6.30pm
Barbican

HALF SIX FIX TCHAIKOVSKY 6

Kick-start your evening with a Half Six Fix 60-minute concert: one piece of orchestral music, introduced by the conductor.

Sunday 28 & Wednesday 31 January 7pm
Barbican

MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH

The life of the Biblical prophet told through dramatic song. Towering solo voices, including Gerald Finley in the role of Elijah, are backed by the rousing London Symphony Chorus.

iso.co.uk/whatson

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Please switch off all phones.
Photography and audio/video recording is not permitted during the performance.

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SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We always hope you have a great experience. Visit iso.co.uk/survey to complete a short survey about tonight's concert.

Today's Concert

Introduced by André J Thomas



Gospel music does not apologise. It comes straight out, fiery and quick. It's like lighting a firecracker – you start with a sizzle and that's it. Every section of this concert will have a 'pow'. When we hear Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn we think of their restraint, but this music says, 'To heck with restraint.' It goes straight to people's hearts and understanding. Nothing is hidden – it's wide open.

'The atmosphere will go back and forth between upbeat and meditative, but always extrovert. The music is all about hope for a new world.'

In the 1960s, Catholic churches in the United States were empty – parishioners weren't coming in anymore. The leaders tried a number of things – folk and jazz, but nothing helped. Then Father Clarence Rivers, a priest in Cincinnati, asked Robert Ray if he could write a Gospel Mass. Apart from the lines 'Kyrie eleison – Christe eleison', everything in Robert's Gospel Mass is in English, so anyone can identify with it immediately. It's about accessibility, breaking down barriers that stop people from understanding and feeling the music.

I took part in the very first performance of the Mass in 1979 at the University of Illinois – Robert was a professor there and I was a doctoral student. It had an incredible reception. Audiences – especially people of colour – thought, 'That's our kind of church.' When jazz-lovers heard it, they thought, 'Church music has come a long way!' It even fitted in non-Catholic churches. Since then, it has had innumerable performances by professional choirs, school choirs, community choirs all over the US.

Florence B Price's 1951 anthem *Praise the Lord* is a setting of Psalm 117. Price was the first African-American woman to have her work performed by a major symphony orchestra in the US – in 1933 by the Chicago Symphony – but as a Black woman, her music hasn't been deemed necessary in orchestral settings. We still have this tendency, but we're trying to correct these issues. As people become more socially conscious, Price is being rediscovered and she is now the golden child of orchestras around the world.

Donald Lawrence has become very impactful in gospel music in the US. There was a period in churches when gospel music was only written for small groups and not full choirs. Donald said, 'No, the choir is still good,' and he has proved it. We'll hear tonight his piece *The Best is Yet to Come*, which is very hip music – it sounds like the band Earth, Wind & Fire.

My own arrangements are spiritual settings that express an explosion of joy, including *Shout for Joy* and *Band of Angels*, which is like taking a trip to New Orleans in the 1950 or 60s, with parades going down the street.

'I hope that you will leave feeling uplifted. I want you to feel better than you did when you walked through the door.'

Gospel music is not generally conceived symphonically. It is usually performed with a smaller set of instruments, and we are now putting it in a symphonic envelope. Orchestras in the US are pushing heavily for this, which means that orchestrators are busy creating parts

and I'm making many transcriptions. Part of my role as Associate Artist of the London Symphony Orchestra is to find and create arrangements that work for the LSO – I'm like a detective tracking everything down!

The atmosphere tonight will go back and forth between upbeat and meditative, but always extroverted. The music is all about hope for a new world. We've been waiting for so long – when is it going to come? When you watch the news, you wonder if there is any reason to get up in the morning. I have a one-year-old granddaughter and I hope that her world will be better than this one. I also see the things that people are trying to do to make the world better. We're saying, 'Hold on. Don't give up yet.'

I hope that you will leave feeling uplifted. I want you to feel better than you did when you walked through the door. My ancestors used music to make it through their day in the fields and in their homes. Music was crucial for our survival during slavery and it was an integral part of the civil rights movement. Music, art and drama allow you to share your culture with other cultures, to help to build understanding. Music is not a hoarding thing. It's all about sharing, not appropriating. That is its incredible power.

As told to Ariane Todes

Song Texts

Shout for Joy

Traditional spiritual

Arr André J Thomas, orch Robert Elhai

**Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir, LSO Community
Choir & London Symphony Chorus**

Shout for joy!
The angels shout for joy!
Shout for joy!
All nations shout for joy.

Mary had a baby, shout for joy,
Mary had a baby, shout for joy,
Born in a stable, shout for joy,
Born in a stable, shout for joy.

He was the Prince of Peace,
Mighty Counsellor,
Lord of Lords,
King of Kings.

Laid Him in a manger, shout for joy,
Laid Him in a manger, shout for joy,
Named Him King-a Jesus, shout for joy,
Named Him King-a Jesus, shout for joy.

He was the Prince of Peace,
Mighty Counsellor,
Lord of Lords,
King of Kings.

Shepherds came to see Him, shout for joy,
Wise men brought Him presents, shout for joy,
Herod tried to find Him, shout for joy,
They went away to Egypt, shout for joy.

He was the Prince of Peace,
Mighty Counsellor,
Lord of Lords,
King of Kings.

Mary rode a donkey, shout for joy,
Joseph walked beside them, shout for joy,
Angels watchin' over, shout for joy,
Oh, Lord, shout for joy.

He was the Prince of Peace,
Mighty Counsellor, Mighty Counsellor,
Mighty Counsellor,
Lord of Lords, King of Kings.

Shout for joy!
The angels shout for joy!
Shout for joy!
All nations shout for joy.

Shout for joy!
This Festive Day we shout for joy,
Shout for joy!
Shout for joy!

If I Can Help Somebody

Alma Bazel Androzzo

Arr André J Thomas, orch Lee Reynolds

NaGuanda Nobles & London Symphony Chorus

If I can help somebody as I pass along;
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song;
If I can show somebody he is trav'ling wrong;
Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can do my duty as a Christian ought;
If I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought;
If I can spread Love's message that the
 master taught;
Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can help somebody as I pass along:
Then my living shall not be in vain.

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Praise the Lord

Florence B Price

Orch Lee Reynolds

London Symphony Chorus

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
 praise the Lord,

All ye nations, praise the Lord, all ye nations;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
All ye nations, praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord, all ye people.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
For His merciful kindness is great toward us,
For His kindness is great toward us;
For His kindness is great toward us,
 great toward us;
His great merciful kindness is great toward us.

And the truth of the Lord, and the truth of the
 Lord endureth forever, endureth forever.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
 praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
All ye nations, praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord all ye nations,
Praise the Lord all ye nations,
Praise the Lord.

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Band of Angels

Traditional spirituals

Arr André J Thomas, orch Robert Elhai

London Symphony Chorus

Evening sun is sinking fast.
Race is almost run.
Trials now are past.
Triumph is begun.

Oh, the band of angels, band of angels,
Band of angels over in Jordan.
Band of angels, band of angels,
How I long to see that day.

All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord.
All night, all day, angels watching over me.

Oh the twelve white horses, twelve white horses,
Twelve white horses over in Jordan.
Twelve white horses, twelve white horses,
How I long to see that day.

Gonna hitch 'em to the chariot, hitch 'em to
the chariot,
Hitch 'em to the chariot over in Jordan.
Hitch 'em to the chariot, hitch 'em to the chariot,
How I long to see that day.

Oh, write my name;
Oh, write my name;
Oh, write my name;
The angels in the heaven gonna write my name.

Write my name when you get home.
The angels in the heaven gonna write my name.
Write my name with a golden pen.
The angels in the heaven gonna write my name.

Oh, come, angel band.
Come and around me stand.
Bear me on snowy wings to my immortal,
To my immortal home, my home!

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Gospel Mass

Robert Ray

Lurine Cato, Christian Mark Gibbs,
NaGuanda Nobles & London Symphony Chorus

KYRIE: LORD HAVE MERCY

In the name of the Father,
In the name of the Son,
In the name of the Holy Spirit,
The Blessed Three in One.

Oh Lord have mercy.
Kyrie eleison.
Oh Lord have mercy.
Oh Lord have mercy on me.

Send us a Saviour, set my soul free.
Give us Your word and teach us to pray.
I want to praise and serve you always.

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob look down,
have mercy upon us.

Oh Christ have mercy.
Christe eleison.
Oh Christ have mercy.
Oh Christ have mercy on me.

Send us Your comfort, grant us Your peace.
You are the way, the truth and the light.
I love You more each day and each night.

Jesus the Rock of salvation, the Light of the
world, have mercy upon us.

Oh Lord have mercy, Kyrie eleison.
Oh Christ have mercy, Christus eleison.
Oh Lord have mercy.

GLORIA: GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men
of good will.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee,
we glorify Thee.

We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee,
we glorify Thee.

Lord God, King of heav'n, Father, Almighty One,
Glory be to Jesus Christ,
Lamb of God, the Father's only Son.

Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men
of good will.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world,
receive our prayers.

Thou who sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty in heav'n have mercy on us,

For only Thou art holy, only Thou art the Lord.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou are most high.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou art the Lord.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou are most high.

We come to praise your name today, we want
to serve You in ev'ry way.

Let the loud hosannas ring, shouting the praises
to God our King.

In the name of the Father, In the name of the Son,
In the name of the Holy Ghost. The Blessed
Three in One.

Amen!

CREDO: I BELIEVE IN GOD

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffer'd under
Pontius Pilate,
Crucified, died and was buried, He descended
into hell.

On the third day He arose.
On the third day He arose.

He ascended to heaven, from death He was
set free.
Now he sits at the right hand and He's waitin'
for you and me.
He will judge all the world, He will judge you
and me.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and the Church
Universal on earth.
I believe Lord in one baptism for the remission
of sin and rebirth.
I believe in the resurrection and the communion
of saints in this world.
I believe when my life is over I'm going home just
to live with my God.

I believe, I believe in God and in the Holy Ghost.
I believe, I believe in God.

ACCLAMATION: HALLELUJAH PRAISE THE LORD

Hallelujah; Praise the Lord.
Hallelujah; Praise the Lord.
Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

Praise Him with stringed instruments.
Praise Him with dance.
Praise Him on the psalt'ry and harp.
Ev'rything that has breath ought to praise Him.

Hallelujah; Praise the Lord.
Hallelujah; Praise the Lord.
Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

SANCTUS: HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD OF HOSTS

Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.
Who gave me victory.

There was a man sittin' by the roadside;
He was blind he could not see.
Then the Master of the earth and skies;
Touch'd his eyes and he look'd around saying

Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.
Who gave me victory.

Another man lay by a poolside;
Thirty-eight years with his infirmity.
Then the Lord troubled the water;
The man arose and he jump'd up for joy saying

Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.
Who gave me victory.

Bless is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
We will always sing, always sing Thy praise, sing
Thy praise.
Hosanna in the highest.
Sing hosanna in the highest.

Like the blind man and the lame man,
I was lost, living in sin.
Then I opened up my heart one day,
I let the Saviour in.

Now I shout saying
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Holy holy Lord God of hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.
Who gave me victory.

Holy holy Lord Jesus. Holy!

AGNUS DEI: LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world,
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world,
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

For You came to die for me,
Suffer'd, bled and died, died on Calvary.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world,
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world,
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

In Your word You showed us how,
We are trying Lord hear our pray'r right now.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world,
Grant us Thy peace, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

Ride On, King Jesus

Traditional spiritual

Arr Stony Brook & In His Presence Gospel Choirs

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Ride on, King Jesus,
No man can a-hinder thee.
In that great getting' up morning
Fair thee well, fair thee well.

When I get to heaven gonna wear a robe:
No man can a-hinder thee.
Gonna see King Jesus sittin' on the throne:
No man can a-hinder thee.
Gonna walk all over those streets of gold:
No man can a-hinder thee.

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INTERVAL – 20 MINUTES

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Holy Water

Andrew Bergthold, the Cash Family

Arr We The Kingdom

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

God, I'm on my knees again, God, I'm begging
please again: I need You, oh, I need You.
Walking down these desert roads, water for my
thirsty soul: I need You, oh, I need You.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey
on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears,
It's like holy water on my skin.

Dead man walking, slave to sin, I wanna know
about being born again: I need You, oh, Lord,
I need You.
So, take me to the riverside, take me
under, baptise: I need You, oh, God I need You.

I don't wanna abuse Your grace, God, I need
it every day:
It's the only thing that ever really makes me
wanna change.

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Nunc Dimittis

Music Peter Yarde Martin

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in
peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of
all people
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be
the glory of Thy people Israel. Amen.

We Shall Overcome

C A Tindley

Arr Zilphia Horton, Bishop Paul S Morton

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day.
Down in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

Hallelujah, You're Worthy to be Praised

Judith McAllister
Orch Jason Michael Webb

Lurine Cato, Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir
& LSO Community Voices

Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised!
Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised!
Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised!
Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised!

I lift my hands, I praise You, Lord!
I bow my head, I honour You Lord!
I lift my hands, I praise You, Lord!
I bow my head, I honour You Lord!

Hallelujah, You're worthy,
Hallelujah, we praise Your name.
Hallelujah, so worthy!
Hallelujah, Lord, we lift You up!
Lord, we lift You up!

Order My Steps

Glenn Burleigh
Orch David Hamilton

Christian Mark Gibbs, NaGuanda Nobles,
Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir &
LSO Community Voices

Order my steps in Your Word, dear Lord,
Lead me, guide me, every day;
Send Your anointing Father, I pray.
Order my steps in Your Word.
Please order my steps in Your Word.

Humbly I ask Thee, teach me Your will,
While You are working help me be still,
Though Satan is busy, God is real,
Order my steps in Your Word.
Please order my steps in Your Word.

Write on my tongue, let my words edify,
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in
Thy sight,
Take charge of my thoughts both day and night,
Order my steps in Your Word.
Please order my steps in Your Word.

I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfil.
Please order my steps, Lord,
And I'll do Your blessed will.
The world is ever changing,
But You are still the same.
Please order my steps,
And I'll praise Your name.

Order my steps in Your Word.
Order my tongue in Your Word.
Guide my feet in Your Word.
Wash my heart in Your Word.

Show me how to walk in Your Word,
Show me how to talk in Your Word,
When I need a brand-new song to sing,
Show me how to let Your praises ring
In Your Word, in Your Word.
Please order my steps in Your Word.
Please order my steps in Your Word.

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The Best is Yet to Come

Donald Lawrence

Orch Jon Kubis

**Christian Mark Gibbs, Soul Sanctuary Gospel
Choir & LSO Community Voices**

Hold on, my brother, don't give up,
Hold on, my sister, just look up.
There is a master plan in store for you
If you just make it through,

God's gonna really blow your mind.
He's gonna make it worth your time.
For all of the trouble you've been through,
The blessings double just for you.

The best is yet to come.
The best, the best is yet to come.

Today is the first day of the best days of your life.
Today is the first day of the best days of your life.
Today is the first day of the best days of your life.

The best is yet to come,
The best, the best is yet to come.

You ain't seen nothin', you ain't seen nothin' yet!
You ain't seen nothin', you ain't seen nothin' yet!
You ain't seen nothin', you ain't seen nothin' yet!
You ain't seen nothin', you ain't seen nothin' yet!

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Encourage Yourself

Donald Lawrence

Arr and orch Michael A Lee

**Lurine Cato, Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir
& LSO Community Voices**

Sometimes you have to encourage yourself.
Sometimes you have to speak victory during
the test.

No matter how you feel, speak the word
and you will be healed.

Speak over yourself, encourage yourself
in the Lord.

Sometimes you have to speak a word over yourself.
Depression is all around, but God is a present help.
Well, the enemy created walls, but remember,
giants, they do fall.

Speak over yourself, encourage yourself in the Lord.
Oh, as I minister to you, oh, I minister to myself.
Life can hurt you so, 'til you feel there's
nothing left.

No matter how you feel, speak the word
and you will be healed.

Speak over yourself,

Speak over yourself,

Speak over yourself.

Speak over yourself.

I'm encouraged, I'm encouraged,

I'm encouraged, I'm encouraged.

Speak over yourself, encourage yourself in the Lord.

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God is Great

**John Larkin III, recorded Ricky Dillard
Arr Raymond Wise, orch Mark Lomax**

**Christian Mark Gibbs, Soul Sanctuary Gospel
Choir & LSO Community Voices**

The greatness of the Lord is inconceivable.
The love that He shows is unconditional.
The power of the Lord is unbeatable.
Great is the God we serve.

God is great and greatly to be praised!
God is great and greatly to be praised!

God is great!
God is great!
God is great and greatly to be praised!

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I'll Fly Away

**Albert Brumley
Arr Brandon Boyd, orch John Stoddart**

**Lurine Cato, Christian Mark Gibbs, NaGuanda
Nobles, Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir &
LSO Community Voices**

Some glad morning when this life is over,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.
To a land on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life is gone,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away.
When I die Hallelujah by and by,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away, yeah, yes I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away.
When I die Hallelujah by and by,
Oh I'll fly away!

I'll fly, yes I'll fly away.
I'll fly, yes I'll fly away.
I'll fly, yes I'll fly away.
I'll fly, yes I'll fly away.

When you see, yeah, see the lightnin' flashin'
When you hear, oh, hear the thunder crashin'
When you see, yeah, see the stars are flashin'
When you hear, oh, hear the chariot callin'.

I'll fly, yes I'll fly away.
I'll fly, yes I'll fly away.

Soon as I see my Saviour
Lay down my heavy burdens.
Put on my robe in Glory,
Shout and tell the story.

When I die Hallelujah by and by,
Oh I'll, I'll fly away!

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André J Thomas

LSO Associate Artist



André J Thomas is an Associate Artist with the London Symphony Orchestra. He served as Visiting Professor of Conducting and Interim Conductor of the Yale Camerata (2020–22), is an Emeritus Professor of Music at Florida State University, and served as a faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin.

Dr Thomas is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician and director of Honor/All-State Choirs throughout North America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia and Africa. He has conducted choirs at the state, division and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (NAfME) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His international conducting credits are extensive. They include conductor/clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians' summer residency of the World Youth Choir in China and the Philippines. He was also the conductor of the World Youth Choir's winter residency in Europe and the premiere performance by an American choir (Florida State University Singers) in Vietnam.

He has been the guest conductor of numerous orchestras and choirs including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Radio

Choir, North German Radio Choir, Netherlands Radio Choir and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. From 1988 to 2019, he served as Artistic Director of the Tallahassee Community Chorus.

Dr Thomas has distinguished himself as a composer and arranger. He has also produced two instructional videos: *What They See Is What You Get* on choral conducting, and *Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice* on adolescent voices. His book *Way Over in Beulah Lan: Understanding and Performing the Negro Spiritual* (2007) has quickly become a significant resource in this area of study.

Various musical organisations have recognised Thomas. The African Diaspora Sacred Music and Musicians honoured Dr Thomas as a Living Legend. In 2011 his dedication to and accomplishments in the choral arts was recognised by his peers in Chorus America with a Distinguished Service Award. In 2017, ACDA presented him with its highest honour, the Robert Shaw Award, and the NCCO (National Collegiate Choral Organization) presented Thomas with its Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2019, he was inducted into the Florida Music Educator's Hall of Fame. In 2022 he was presented with the Award of Excellence from the Southern Region of ACDA. Yale School of Music presented him with the Simon Samuel Sanford Award, their highest honour in the School of Music.

Dr Thomas is a past president of the Florida ACDA and the Southern Division of ACDA, and the current President of National ACDA.

Lurine Cato

singer



London-based Gospel singer and songwriter Lurine Cato MBE's distinctive brand of music is infused with inspirational undertones of faith, hope and love. A 2013 MOBO Award recipient (Best Gospel Act) and 2017 MOBO nominee (same category), Lurine was a featured live act at the 2017 MOBO Awards, also featuring Cardi B, Stormzy and Idris Elba, and led the B Positive Choir to the finals on *Britain's Got Talent* in 2018. She has performed for a number of high-profile events and venues.

In March 2019 Lurine was honoured at an International Women's Day event to celebrate the talent, beauty and power of 100 influential British Black women from diverse industries. In the same month she was the featured soloist with the B Positive choir at the Commonwealth celebration at Westminster Abbey, attended by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and other dignitaries.

Lurine has a passion for prison ministry and can be found performing at prisons for men and women and remand centres of young people with Love Life Ministries UK and The Safety Box. She is an ambassador and supporter of leading charities including the Princess Diana Award.

Christian Mark Gibbs

singer



Guyanese-American tenor Christian Mark Gibbs is quickly establishing himself as an artist to watch in various mediums including opera, musical theatre, TV/film and commercials.

Most recently, Christian made his Broadway debut in Lerner & Loewe's *Camelot* at Lincoln Center Theater. In recent seasons he has made two important house debuts: with the Lincoln Center Theater in the hit opera *Intimate Apparel*, directed by Bartlett Sher; and with the Washington National Opera, as part of the production of *Written in Stone* to celebrate the Kennedy Center's 50th anniversary season. Christian also returned to the Metropolitan Opera, and made his international debut as Tony in *West Side Story* at the Savoy-teatteri in Finland.

In December 2021, he released the EP *TONY: Two Songs from West Side Story (LIVE)*, recorded live from the *West Side Story* production at the Savoy-teatteri with the Vantaan Viihdeorkesteri. An ever-versatile artist, he has appeared in commercials and on screen, including in the hit US shows *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* and *My True Crime Story*.

NaGuanda Nobles

singer



NaGuanda Nobles began singing within the supportive walls of her home church. It was there that she discovered a love for singing and developed as a soloist. She accepted a full scholarship to attend The Florida State University (FSU) and received her BM and MM degrees in Voice Performance.

Throughout her years of college, she was a featured soloist with the Florida State University Singers, directed by André J Thomas. Receiving rave reviews for her 'big, warming soprano with a lovely shimmering top that she uses with a ravishing effect', NaGuanda has made her mark on stage as a recitalist and an opera performer with the Pittsburgh Opera, Atlanta Opera, Austin Lyric Opera and The Dayton Opera, to name a few. She was also a featured soloist with Wynton Marsalis and The Boston Symphony, under the direction of Kurt Masur.

In 2014 she released her debut CD of spirituals, entitled *Homage to the Journey*, as a tribute to the enslaved people upon whose battered shoulders she stands, and to the people who have been instrumental throughout her career.

Brandon A Boyd

piano



Brandon A Boyd is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Choral Music Education at the University of Missouri, where he conducts MU University Singers and Choral Union Symphonic Chorus. He recently prepared the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and Vokalensemble for Alan Gilbert, for multiple productions of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* in Germany. In the US, he has guest conducted the Nashville, Missouri and St Louis Symphony Orchestras. He has made multiple performances at Carnegie Hall as guest conductor, composer and collaborative pianist.

As an active composer and arranger, his music is sung regularly by ensembles throughout the US and abroad. He is the curator and editor of the *Brandon A Boyd Choral Series* with Hinshaw Music Publications, helping to promote exciting and innovative works composed by established and new composers and arrangers. He is the Executive Choral Editor of Gentry Publications.

He holds degrees from Florida State University (PhD in choral music education and MM in choral conducting) and earned a BS in music education (emphasis in piano) from Tennessee State University, where he studied with Carol Stone Gafford.

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir is a London-based gospel choir committed to spreading a message of faith, hope and love through performances which are both excellent and full of life-affirming joy and soulful celebration. They collaborate with other artists and art forms, especially in the places where gospel's power to raise the human spirit is most needed. That includes their 'flagship' monthly outdoor event at St James' Piccadilly (Soul at Saint James); church ministry at St Martin-in-the-Fields, other churches, and in London Prison Chaplaincies; broadcasts and recordings which lift the soul; performances for causes dear to them, like Grenfell, BBC Children in Need and the Jesuit Refugee Service.

In addition to regular performances, they are proud to work with the UK's big broadcasters BBC TV, Radio 2, Radio 4 and Sky Arts; with Eurovision winners Secret Garden and UK soul legend Mica Paris on her maiden gospel album, *Gospel*; and with Roxanna Panufnik on a song for Ukraine. Themed productions include *The Resurrection* (BBC Radio 2, Jazz Café Camden), *The Night Watchmen's Nativity* (Sky Arts TV, St Martin-in-the-Fields), *Lost And Found: The Prodigal Son* (Liverpool Echo Arena, with Frank Cottrell-Boyce) and their live-streamed Soul at Saint James films (including *Courage*).

Singers

Bukola Abdul
Nonye Ajuonuma
Shylo Allen
Alison Beck
Marnette Bennett
Chris Bullock
Alexis Constantinou
Zena Edwards
Inez Eliassen
Jade Elliot
Antony Fernandopulle
Ethan Hackett
Erica Hesketh
Harvey Mbemba
Kathy McLeish
Parris O'Connor
Hannah Oguntade
Martha Okasili
Miniver Oliver
Rachel Owusu-Agyei
Laura Sampson
Adenike Osoliki
Ashley Sapotille
Thea Smartt Henry
Magdalena Supel
Adel Tuzani
Alexandra Wiseman
Nisha Wiseman

Choir Director

Clarence Hunte

Piano, Band Leader

Peter Yarde Martin

Legend Organ

Miko Giedroyc

Electric Bass

Johnny Cox

Kit

Joe Malone

LSO Community Voices

The LSO Community Voices is a group of some 200 singers from the local Islington community and wider London areas.

The non-auditioned chorus was formed specially for this Gospel Explosion concert, with an open invite for individuals, amateur choirs or singing groups to sign up to take part. The singers on stage tonight have been rehearsing weekly since September with chorus director David Lawrence, and accompanist Ben Smith.

Prior experience of singing or the ability to read music was not a prerequisite for taking part, and the group have used sheet music, backing tracks and lyric sheets to support all levels of experience and learning types.

Singers

Elizabeth Abbey
Vicky Annand
Carole Austin
Fiona Auty
Hannah Aziz
Allyson Bailey
Enrica Balestra
Peta-Anne Barrow
Rachel Bartels
John Barton
Friederike Beisler
Jennifer Bell
Jane Bickerton
Nathalie Blondeau
Christopher Boissiere
Béatrice Boivineau
Jess Boot-Cowie
Emma Booty
Leah Borromeo
Belinda Botchway
Kelsey Botne
Stephanie Boyde
David Brook
Gary Brown
Patricia Brown
Martina Buerge
Nevo Burrell
Lynne Burrows
Natasha Buss
Chris Caine
David Candy
Felicity Candy
Alyssa Caples
Jane Carr
Anna Casling
Ruth Cassidy
Carmela Centro
Nadia Chambers
Elzbieta Chandrasena
Julie Chapman
Gwen Clarke
Paola Concu
Stephen Coote
Linda Crow
Barbara Dann
Susan De Grazia
Judith Delevaux
Thayna Desmond
Damilola Dimeji-Ajayi
Carol Doherty
Anne-Marie Dolor
Sharon Dominique
Caroline Duncan
Arlene Dunkley
Audrey Dunkley
Stephanie Dyer
Siân Ede
Rombout Eikelenboom
Amy Elder
Elizabeth Emmanuel
Kumba Fasuluku
Nina Federley
Merthia Fell
Diana Fishley
Dawn Frampton
Tara Frances
Margaret Gaskin
Loretta Gentilini
Deonne George-Charles
Cait Goodale
Clare Gordon
Nick Grace
Helen Haile
Callum Hall
Joe Hallgarten
Katherine Hallgarten
Minna Hartikainen
Jenny Harvey
Jennifer Haynes
Will Hays
Rose Heatley
Jonathan Hersey
Philippa Hill

Theresa Hitching	Jenny Mayers	Phyllis Shortridge
Christine Hochleitner	Christie Miller	Tanya Simmons
Sue Hodgkins	Emma Mitchell	Ellen Sinclair
Anita Howard	Alison Monaghan	Janette Smalley
Fi Hunt	Helen Monaghan	Rachael Smith
Miroslava Illeckova	Linden Monck	Naresh Sonpar
Yvonne Jacobs-Jones	Meg Montes	Ana Sosa-Garcia
Pat James	Fiona Mooney	Milan Stamenkovic
Kirsty Jenkinson	Brenda Moore	Anna Standley
Jacqueline John	Reima Morgan	Richard Stonehewer-
Karen Johnson	Yasuko Morley	Smith
Dorothy Jones	Karen Munroe	Robin Tam
Gareth Jones	Belinda Murray	Pek-San Tan
Sylvia Jones	Margaret Narcisse	Yvonne Taylor
Aldana Juarez	Karen Ndebele	Bridget Teirney
Manosalva	Selena Ng	Rajesh Thind
Ros Juma	Wendy Nicholson	Josephine Thomas
Jurga Kaucikiene	Maureen Obi-Ezekpazu	Valerie Thompson
Neville Kay	Rosaline Ogunro	Clare Trueman
Meg Kelly	Leila Pacey	Sharon Tynan
Jacqueline Kelly-Jarvis	Heather Page	Herjoyt Ubhi
Esther Korner	Mel Palmer	Ashley Vetter
Jessica Korner	Caroline Pardy	Steve Wakefield
Anson Lai	Alison Parkinson	Pak Hang Wan
James Loughton-Smith	Penelope Parkinson	Chris Watson
Fiona Lean	Sophia Parsons	Carlet White-Griffiths
Marie Loney	Sangita Patel	Jo Whitehouse
Linda Long	Linda Phillips	Agnieszka Wieclawska
Monique Long	Tracey Plenty	Wendy Williams
Adriana Lopez Sanchez	Ben Plowden	Lorena Woodfine
Marcia Louzada	Mary Pauline	Helen Woodward
O'Connor	Prendergast	Jennifer Wright
James Lua	Matilde Rahtz	Azra Zakir
Lyn Lua	Sandra Rattenni Morris	Nathalie Zaroslinski
Lynda MacInnes	Trish Rogers	Eva Zienau
Lucy Maddison	Jennifer Saunders	
Imogen Malpas	Jenna Min Schmidt	
Natasha Mann	Helena Scott	
Sarah Mann	John Serocold	
Kate Marshall	Janet Shallow	
Jenny Martin	Sumayyah Sheikh	
Lucy Mathen	Yugene Shin	

London Symphony Chorus

President

Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE

Vice President

Michael Tilson
Thomas

Patrons

Simon Russell Beale CBE
Howard Goodall CBE

Chorus Director

Mariana Rosas

Associate Directors

Lucy Hollins
David Lawrence
Barbara Hoefling

Director Emeritus

Simon Halsey CBE

Chorus Accompanist

Benjamin Frost

Vocal Coaches

Norbert Meyn
Anita Morrison
Rebecca Outram
Robert Rice

Chair

Alice Jones

lsc.org.uk

The London Symphony Chorus was formed in 1966 to complement the work of the London Symphony Orchestra and is renowned internationally for its concerts and recordings with the Orchestra. The LSC has also worked with many leading international conductors and other major orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic; and has toured extensively throughout Europe and visited North America, Israel, Australia and South East Asia.

In the current season, the Chorus joins the LSO in anticipated performances of Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* under LSO Chief Conductor Designate Sir Antonio Pappano, and reunites with Sir Simon Rattle in concert performances of *Jenůfa* (the latest in the LSO's Leoš Janáček cycle). Further performances this season include Claude Debussy's *Three Nocturnes* under Susanna Mälkki, Anton Bruckner's *Te Deum* under Nathalie Stutzmann, Gustav Mahler's Symphony No 3 under Michael Tilson Thomas, and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* under Gianandrea Noseda.

Highlights of recent LSC seasons include a major European tour performing Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No 9 and *Christ on the Mount of Olives* with Sir Simon Rattle and the LSO; the world premieres of Howard Goodall's *Never to Forget* and Errollyn Wallen's *After Winter* with Simon Halsey at the Spitalfields Festival in July 2021; Beethoven's Symphony No 9 with the Orchestre Philharmonique in Monte-Carlo and Aix-en-Provence under Kazuki Yamada; a performance at the Barbican of Julian Anderson's *Exiles* (an LSC/LSO co-commission); and appearances at the BBC Proms for Mahler Symphony No 2 and most recently Robert Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri*, both under Sir Simon Rattle and with the LSO.

The Chorus is an independent charity run by its members. It is committed to excellence, to diversity, equity and inclusion, and the vocal development of its members. It engages actively in the musical life of London, seeking new members and audiences, and commissioning and performing new works.

Singers

Frankie Arnall	Kate Aitchison	Erik Azzopardi	Aitor Almaraz
Shona Barnes-McCallum	Enid Armstrong	Oliver Burrows	Gavin Buchan
Alana Clark	June Brawner	Kevin Cheng	Steve Chevis
Eve Commander	Gina Broderick	Conor Cook	Harry Clarke
Eleanor Craddock *	Jo Buchan	James David	Robert Garbolinski
Alice Dee	Sheila Cobourne	Ethem Demir	John Graham
Esther Elbro	Maggie Donnelly	Patrizio Giovannotti	Owen Hanmer
Joanna Gueritz	Lynn Eaton	Rajiv Guha	Robert Hare
Cora Hardy	Linda Evans	Matt Journee	Elan Higuera
Sally Ho	Amanda Freshwater	Jude Lenier	Rocky Hirst
Ruth Knowles-Clark	Julia Gervais	Diego Richardson	Anthony Howick
Luca Kocsmárszky	Charlotte Hacking	Nishikuni	Douglas Jones
Jasmine Krishnamurthy -Spencer	Kate Harrison	Mattia Romani	George Marshall
Louisa Martin	Edda Hendry	Peter Sedgwick	Hugh McLeod
Victoria McMullen *	Catherine Hulme	Ben Squire	James Nageotte
Sofia Nikolaiets *	Elisabeth Iles	Richard Street	Jesus Sanchez Sanzo
Doris Nikolic	Josephine Jeffers *	James Warbis	Robert Sanders-Hewett
Melissa Nock	Linran Jiang	Robert Ward	Rod Stevens
Emily Norton	Jill Jones	Leonard Wong	Gregory Storkan
Veronica O'Connell	Gilly Lawson		Richard Tannenbaum
Alexandra Ollendorff	Carmen Lee *		Daniel Thompson
Maggie Owen	Anne Loveluck		Robin Thurston
Sibel Demir Karaman	Jane Muir		Paweł Wysocki
Deborah Staunton	Dorothy Nesbit		
Giulia Steidl	Beth Potter		
Sasha Sumption *	Ell Potter		
Olivia Wilkinson	Susannah Priede		
	Alison St Denis		
	Toni Terriabras		
	Rafaela Tripalo		
	Franziska Truedtedt		
	Snezhana Valcheva		
	Jenny Weakley *		
	Zoe Williams		

* Members of the National Youth Choir (18–25 years)

David Lawrence

choir director



David Lawrence is one of the UK's most versatile conductors, working with orchestras, symphony choruses and national youth choirs. He has conducted in more than 25 countries, including Canada, Colombia, India, Singapore and the United States, and has worked regularly in Australia since 2005. David is the Associate Conductor of the CBSO Chorus and the London Symphony Chorus and Conductor of the Basel Proms. He was recently awarded a prestigious ARAM by the Royal Academy of Music for services to the music profession.

He has worked with most of the UK's symphony choruses, and for ten years was a regular guest conductor of the Netherlands Radio Choir. For over 20 years, David conducted for BBC's *Songs of Praise*. He is a well-known conductor of 'big sing' events, such as the 700-voice *Spem in Alium*, which he conducted for BBC Radio 4, and the annual World Festival Singers in Barcelona. He returns to Tasmania in 2025 to conduct Verdi's Requiem. As Principal Conductor of Young Voices, a position he has held for 25 years, David directs massed choirs in an annual series of concerts, with some choirs incorporating more than 9,000 singers.

London Symphony Orchestra On Stage

Leader

Benjamin Gilmore

First Violins

Peter Schulmeister
Clare Duckworth
Maxine Kwok
Laurent Quénelle
William Melvin
Harriet Rayfield
Sylvain Vasseur
Caroline Frenkel
Takane Funatsu
Gerald Gregory
Aleem Kandour

Second Violins

Olatz Ruiz de
Gordejuela
Thomas Norris
Miya Väisänen
Matthew Gardner
Belinda McFarlane
Iwona Muszynska
Csilla Pogány
Juan Gonzalez
Hernandez
Ricky Gore
Shoshanah Sievers

Violas

Gillianne Haddow
Malcolm Johnston
Anna Bastow
Germán Clavijo
Julia O’Riordan
Theodore Chung
Peter Mallinson
Natasha Wright

Cellos

David Cohen
Alastair Blayden
Ève-Marie Caravassilis
Daniel Gardner
Laure Le Dantec
Anna Beryl

Double Basses

David Desimpelaere
Patrick Laurence
Thomas Goodman
Joe Melvin

Flutes

Margaret Campbell
Liselotte Schricke

Piccolo

Sharon Williams

Oboes

Olivier Stankiewicz
Rosie Jenkins

Clarinets

Nicholas Rodwell
Chi-Yu Mo

Bass Clarinet

Thomas Lessels

Bassoons

Rachel Gough
Joost Bosdijk

Contra Bassoon

Martin Field

Horns

Diego Incertis Sánchez
Angela Barnes
Duncan Fuller
Jonathan Maloney

Trumpets

James Fountain
Simon Cox
Kaitlin Wild
David Geoghegan

Trombones

Richard Watkin
Jonathan Hollick
Philip White

Bass Trombone

Paul Milner

Tuba

Daniel Trodden

Timpani

Nigel Thomas

Percussion

David Jackson
Sam Walton
Tom Edwards

Harp

Lucy Wakeford

Bass Guitar

Andrew Pask

Kit

Matthew French

The London Symphony Orchestra

At the **London Symphony Orchestra**, we strive to inspire hearts and minds through world-leading music-making, from performing on stage, in recordings, digitally and on film, to reaching tens of thousands each year through our learning and community programme.

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was **Patron of the LSO**

Chief Conductor Designate
Sir Antonio Pappano

Conductor Emeritus
Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE

Principal Guest Conductors
Gianandrea Noseda
François-Xavier Roth

Conductor Laureate
Michael Tilson Thomas

Associate Artists
Barbara Hannigan
André J Thomas

Assistant Conductor
Nicolò Umberto Foron

MUSIC THAT INSPIRES

We were established in 1904 as one of the first orchestras shaped by its musicians. Since then, generations of remarkable talents have built the LSO's reputation for uncompromising quality and inspirational repertoires.

Today, we're ranked among the world's top orchestras. As Resident Orchestra at the Barbican since the Centre opened in 1982, we perform some 70 concerts here every year.

We also perform over 50 concerts a year to audiences throughout the UK and worldwide, and deliver a far-reaching programme of recordings, live-streams and on-demand broadcasts, reaching millions every year. We have major artistic residencies in Paris, Dortmund, Tokyo and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, a growing presence across Australasia and Latin America, and a transatlantic partnership with the Music Academy in Santa Barbara.

MUSIC THAT UNITES

Through our world-leading learning and community programme, LSO Discovery, we're connecting people from all walks of life to the power of great music. The programme is based at LSO St Luke's, our venue on Old Street. From there, LSO Discovery's reach extends across East London, the UK and the world through both in-person and digital activity.

Our musicians are at the heart of this unique programme, leading workshops, mentoring bright young talent, working with emerging composers, performing at free concerts for the local community and using music to support neurodiverse adults. We also visit children's hospitals and support training programmes for teachers.

The ambition behind all of this work is simple: to share the transformative power of music with everyone, including those who would not normally experience it. The impact is unrivalled, and every year LSO Discovery reaches thousands of people of all ages.

MUSIC THAT INNOVATES

In 1999, we formed our own recording label, LSO Live. It has become one of the world's most talked-about classical labels and the leader among the new breed of orchestra-own-labels. LSO Live is dedicated to making exciting recordings that have the power to reach and inspire new audiences, and has over 200 recordings in the catalogue so far. Its recordings have received praise from around the world, collecting Grammy, *Gramophone* and Classical Brit Awards, among many others.

As a leading orchestra for film, we've entertained millions with classic scores for *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *The Shape of Water*, and many more. We also reach a worldwide audience through streaming, with millions of music lovers listening online every month, and viewers around the world tuning into full orchestral concerts streamed on YouTube and through our broadcast partners.

MUSIC THAT LIVES

We champion new music, regularly commissioning some of the foremost British composers to write new works for full orchestra and mixed-ability ensembles, while LSO Discovery's programmes give emerging composers opportunities to collaborate, experiment and write for the Orchestra.

Through inspiring music, learning programmes and digital innovations, our reach extends far beyond the concert hall. And thanks to the generous support of The Corporation of the City of London, Arts Council England, corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, and individual donors, we're able to continue sharing extraordinary music with as many people as possible, across London, and the world.

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