

# LIBERA

*by Candlelight*



# LIBERA

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PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR - ANDREW WINTER

## Welcome to our Almost Christmas Concert!

We are especially glad that tonight is our first Libera concert to feature this year's junior boys who will join the seniors on stage for some of the songs.

Libera wishes to thank the Vicar, Fr John Pritchard, and people of St John's church for hosting this concert.

The programme is subject to change.

All forms of recording, video filming, photography, use of mobile phone cameras etc are strictly prohibited

# Norwood

JOYFUL JOYFUL  
JOY TO THE WORLD  
WHAT CHILD IS THIS

THE PRAYER

SANCTUS

VOCA ME

WEXFORD CAROL

CAROL OF THE BELLS

AVE MARIA

HOW GREAT THOU ART

- INTERVAL -

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD

AWAY IN A MANGER

WAYFARING STRANGER

AMAZING GRACE

GAUDETE

SONG OF LIFE

HOW SHALL I SING

SILENT NIGHT

IN DULCI JUBILO

# THE MUSIC OF LIBERA



Libera is true to the meaning of its Latin title, 'Free', and crosses many musical boundaries. With original repertoire, innovative textures and inventive arrangements the group brings an imaginative new perspective to the landscape of vocal music.

The core of the sound is built around the voices of the young singers with their clarity, enthusiasm and excitement - the haunting yet vibrant sound of the treble voice that has long been a feature of choral music,

particularly in the church.

Indeed, the defining inspiration for Libera sprang from the ancient music of the cathedrals and monasteries - from the earliest form of choral music - plainsong. The boys' robes of course retain a visual continuation of that history and quite closely copy what the boy monks wore when they sang and were schooled in medieval monasteries. Libera mixes the traditional chants with contemporary instrumentation and arrangement. Hence songs like 'Salva me' and 'Libera' reflect the shapes and mood of the old plainchant whilst combining it with new lyrics and harmonies. In fact, the song 'Libera' was the first to be written for the group - it uses a single line of plainsong with many overlapping tunes and harmony, which encompass the full range of the boys' voices.

Some songs are arrangements of well-known classical works. Although the originals cannot be bettered, some lend themselves to the uplifting sound and harmonies of the boys' treble voices. The famous 'Canon' by Pachelbel, for instance, provides the basis for 'Sanctus' and an opportunity for some of the highest treble notes.

The lyrics of Libera songs, many of which are sung in Latin, are most frequently drawn from a variety of contemplative and inspirational sources, both ancient and modern, including the Mass, Requiem Mass, Stabat Mater and the Psalms.



# LIBERA

The boys who make up the South London based vocal group Libera have been described as “normal” and “ordinary”. However, as their recordings and performances demonstrate, the music they produce is anything but.

Familiar to audiences across the world, the boys have a stunningly original sound, which is at once both ancient and modern. Their distinctive flowing white robes symbolise the traditional origins of their style - yet their music reaches across the generations to a new

mainstream audience. Libera’s success in album charts around the world bears witness to the extraordinary appeal of this unique ‘boy band’. Enchanting audiences wherever they go, they have attracted an enthusiastic fan base in many countries, particularly North America, the UK, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and South Korea.

In North America, Libera are known through their concert tours and TV appearances including nationwide PBS specials, NBC ‘Today’ show and ‘Tonight with Jay Leno.’ The boys had their debut at the Kennedy Center Honors, where they performed in front of the President and a hall full of celebrities - including Robert de Niro, Cameron Diaz, Diana Ross and Steve Martin. The boys were privileged to close the Kennedy Center Honours with a moving tribute to honoree Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys. This was followed by Libera’s participation in the Papal Mass at the climax of Pope Benedict XVI’s first visit to the USA. Performing to a capacity congregation of 65,000 at New York’s Yankee Stadium, Libera were the only British artists to take part in this historical event.



Libera have travelled across North America several times, appearing in venues as diverse as the Crystal Cathedral in California, the St Louis Basilica, St Paul and Minneapolis cathedrals, the Moody church in Chicago, the Riverside Church in NYC and other venues both secular and sacred from Texas to Toronto. On their last full US tour they opened the annual Starkey Awards Gala in the Twin Cities, where they were featured



artists on the same programme as Miley Cyrus and Meat Loaf. Libera was most recently in Washington DC to film a new PBS special at the National Shrine for broadcast and DVD release in March 2015.

The group is well known to British audiences through TV appearances and staged concerts at venues as diverse as the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Grassington Festival, Abbey Road Studios and Arundel Cathedral. Recent appearances have included the Edinburgh Fringe festival, the National Concert Hall in Dublin and at St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast. Libera have made many TV appearances including BBC-TV's 'Last Choir Standing', on which the Libera boys were featured as guests. They were winners of the Saturday night show 'When Will I Be Famous' and had a whole documentary devoted to them on BBC-TV's 'Songs of Praise', and in 2014 they featured in a programme to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1 in which some of the boys traced their ancestors who fought in the conflict and performed songs of remembrance in France and Belgium. Other TV/Radio appearances have included BBC Breakfast and the Chris Evans Show. The boys are regularly to be heard on Classic FM, and last Christmas scored the top classical song download at iTunes. Libera regularly sing at events and services in cathedrals and churches like Buckfast Abbey and Westminster Cathedral.

In South East Asia, the sounds of Libera are frequently heard in mainstream TV and radio programmes and their CD's ride high in the classical and pop charts of countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines. The boys have sung the music for several feature films and television programmes. On recent tours they packed out the major concert venues in Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei, where the boys were feted by thousands of enthusiastic fans who queued for hours to meet the boys and collect autographs. During the recent tour in the Philippines, Libera topped the main album charts and sung in the major concert halls in Manila and Cebu crammed full with excitable fans.

Through their involvement in Libera, the boys have travelled the world, recorded movie soundtracks and CDs and served as backing singers to mega-stars. But, as one of the boys said, "The travelling and filming is fun but even if we didn't go anywhere I'd still want to do it because I just love singing."

# Joyful Joyful

## Jubilate Adoramus

Joyful joyful we adore thee  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee  
opening to the sun above  
melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
drive the dark of doubt away,  
giver of immortal gladness  
fill us with the light of day

All thy works with joy surround thee  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around thee  
centre of unbroken praise  
Field and forest vale and mountain  
flowery meadow flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee

Thou art giving and forgiving  
ever blessing ever blest  
well spring of the joy of living  
ocean depth of happy rest  
Thou our father Christ our brother  
all who live in love are thine  
Teach us how to love each other  
lift us to the joy divine



Music based on theme from the  
9th Symphony 'Choral' by  
Beethoven  
Words by Henry Van Dyke  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

# Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!  
Let earth receive her King  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ  
while fields and streams and hills and  
plains  
repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
the wonders of his love

Music from W Holford's 'Voce di  
Melodia'  
adapted by L Mason  
Words by Isaac Watts  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman



# What Child is This

Music traditional  
Words by W Chatterton Dix  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman)

What child is this who laid to  
rest on Mary's lap is sleeping,  
whom angels greet with  
anthems sweet while shepherds  
watch are keeping

This, this is Christ the King  
whom shepherds worship and  
angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him praise,  
the babe the son of Mary

So bring him incense gold and  
myrrh all tongues and peoples  
own him,  
the King of kings salvation  
brings let every heart enthrone  
him

Raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born the  
babe the son of Mary

# The Prayer

Music David Foster  
Words Carole Bayer Sager  
Arranged by Sam Coates

I pray you'll be our eyes and  
watch us where we go  
and help us to be wise in times  
when we don't know  
Let this be our prayer when we  
lose our way  
Lead us to a place, guide us with  
your grace, to a place where  
we'll be safe

I pray we'll find your light and  
hold it in our hearts  
when stars go out each night  
remind us where you are  
Let this be our prayer when  
shadows fill our day  
Lead us to a place, guide us with  
your grace give us faith so we'll  
be safe

We ask that life be kind and  
watch us from above  
we hope each soul will find  
another soul to love  
Let this be our prayer just like  
every child needs to find a place  
give us faith so we'll be safe

# Sanctus

Music: Robert Prizeman based  
on 'Canon' by Pachelbel  
Words: trad

Sanctus  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine  
Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth  
pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria





## Voca Me

As secret as a dream you call  
As silent as the night  
for all you cry  
Lacrymosa

Lacrymosa, dolorosa  
Dies illa dolorosa  
Voca me domine lacrymosa,  
dolorosa, voca me

You whisper in my silent sleep  
You answer to my call  
when lost I cry  
Lacrymosa

English Words & Music  
by Robert Prizeman  
Inspired by 'Stabat Mater' by  
Pergolesi and a chant fragment



## Wexford Carol

O tagaigí is adhraigí  
An leanbh cneasta sa chró 'na luí  
Is cuimhnigí ar ghrá an Rí  
A thug dar saoradh anocht an naí

Good people all this Christmas time  
consider well and bear in mind  
what our good God for us has done  
in sending his beloved son.  
With Mary holy we should pray  
to God with love this Christmas Day  
In Bethlehem upon that morn  
there was a blessed Messiah born

Music & words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep,  
to whom God's angels did appear  
which put the shepherds in great fear  
'Prepare and go' the angels said  
'to Bethlehem be not afraid  
for there you'll find this happy morn  
a princely babe sweet Jesus born'  
With thankful heart and joyful mind  
the shepherds went the babe to find  
and as God's angel had foretold  
they did our Saviour Christ behold  
Within a manger he was laid,  
and by his side the virgin maid  
attending on the Lord of life  
who came on earth to end all strife

## Carol Of The Bells

Hark how the bells  
sweet silver bells  
all seem to say  
throw cares away

Christmas is here  
bringing good cheer  
to young and old  
meek and the bold

Ding dong ding dong  
that is their song  
With joyful ring  
all carolling

One seems to hear  
words of good cheer  
from eveywhere  
filling the air

Oh how they pound  
raising the sound  
o'er hill and dale  
telling their tale

Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria

Gaily they ring  
while people sing  
songs of good cheer  
Christmas is here  
Merry, merry, merry, merry  
Christmas

On on they send  
on without end  
their joyful tone to every home  
Ding dong ding dong  
That is their song

Music by M Leontovych  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman



## Ave Maria

Music by Schubert  
Words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Ave Maria, gracia plena. Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus  
ventris tui Jesus  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei.  
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et in hora  
mortis nostrae. Amen

## How Great Thou Art

Music traditional  
Words traditional translated by  
S. Hine.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder  
thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul my saviour God to thee  
How great thou art how great thou art  
Then sings my soul my saviour God to thee  
How great thou art, how great thou art

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim my God how great thou art

Conditor  
Alme  
Siderum

Trad chant

Conditor alme siderum  
Aeterna lux credentium  
Christe redemptor omnium  
Exaudi preces supplicum

Qui condolens interitu  
Mortis perire saeculum  
Salvastis mundum languidum  
Donans reis remedium

Laus honor virtus gloria  
Deo Patri cum Filio  
Sancto simul Paraclito  
In sempiterna saecula  
Amen

Angels  
We Have  
Heard

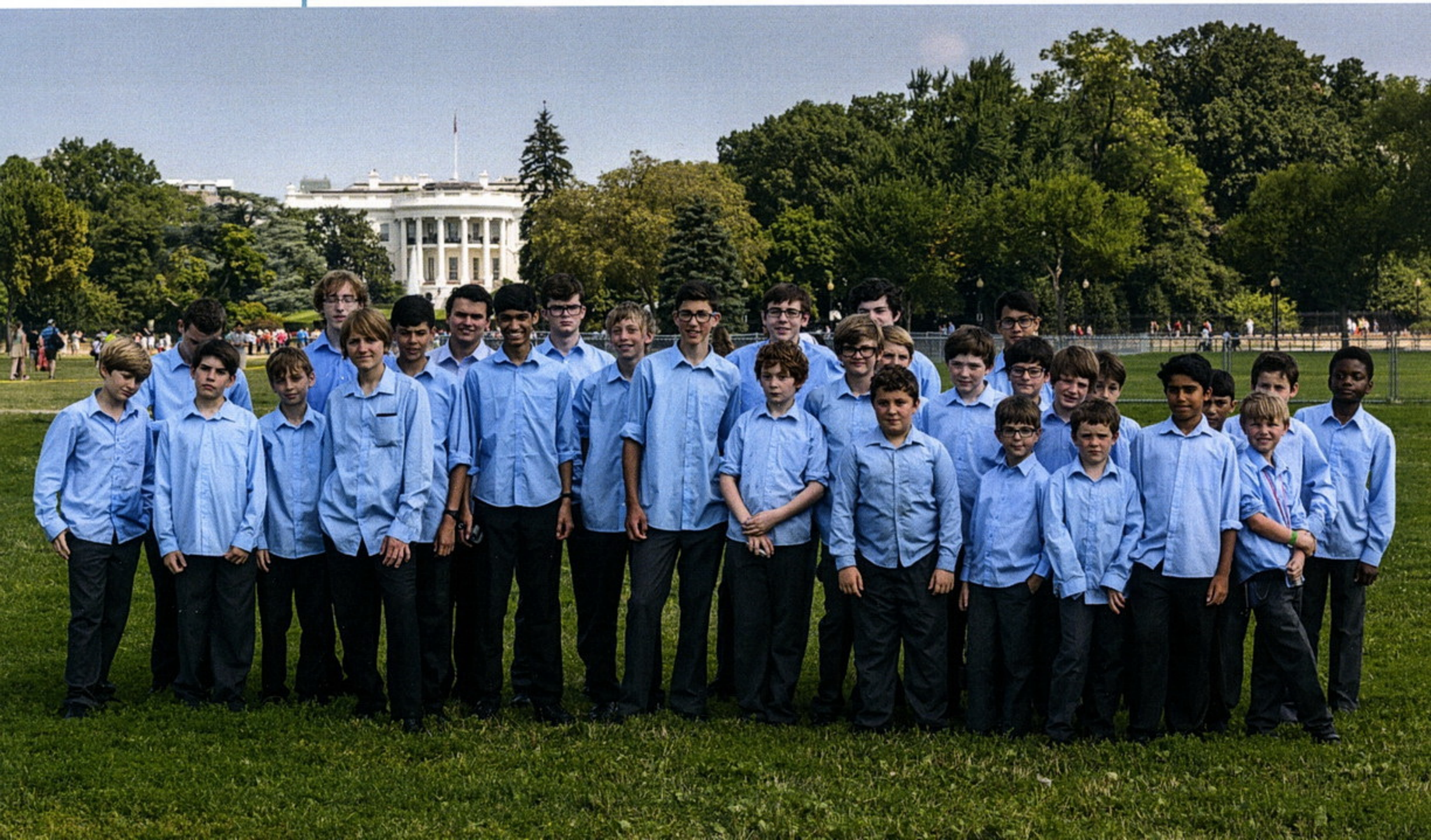
Music & words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Gloria in excelsis

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn king

See him in a manger laid  
Whom the choirs of angels praise  
Mary Joseph lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise

Gloria in excelsis



## Away In A Manger

Music by W J Kirkpatrick  
Words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes  
I love thee Lord Jesus Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there

## Wayfaring Stranger

Words and music traditional  
arranged by Sam Coates

I am a poor wayfaring stranger  
a travelling though this world of woe  
But there's no sickness toil or danger  
in that bright land to which I go  
I'm going there to see my Father  
I'm going there no more to roam  
I'm just a going over Jordan  
I'm just a going over home

I know dark clouds will gather round me  
I know my way is rough and steep  
yet beauteous fields lie just before me  
where those redeemed no more shall weep



# Amazing Grace

Music traditional  
Words by John Newton  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Amazing grace how sweet the  
sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found  
was blind but now I see  
Twas grace that taught my heart to  
fear  
and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace  
appear  
the hour I first believed

Through many dangers toils and  
snares  
I have already come  
Tis grace that brought me safe  
thus far  
and grace will lead me home  
When we've been there a thousand  
years  
bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's



# Gaudete

Music & words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Gaudete, gaudete christus est natus,  
Ex Maria virginiae, gaudete

Tempus ad est gratiae hoc quod optabamus,  
Carmina latitiae, devote redamus

Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustris  
Benedicat Domino salus regi nostro

# Song of Life

Music by Takatsugu Muramatsu  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman  
Words by Robert Prizeman

There's a whisper in the dark  
as a new life comes to be  
Then a song begins to form  
as it finds the harmony

With the chorus of sound  
of the world all around  
now it blends in the tune  
joining the endless song of life

We shall never be alone  
as we link our hearts in one  
Joining voices from above  
all in the miracle of life

# How Shall I Sing That Majesty

Music by Robert Prizeman  
Words by John Mason

How great a being  
which doth all beings keep  
Thy knowledge the only line  
to sound so vast a deep

Thou art a sea without a shore  
a sun without a sphere  
Thy time is now and evermore  
Thy place is everywhere

How shall I sing that majesty  
which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie  
Sing, sing ye heavenly choir

Enlighten with faith my heart,  
in flame it with love's fire  
then shall I bear a part with that  
celestial choir

# Silent Night

Music by Franz Gruber  
Words by Joseph Mohr  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

Silent night Holy night - all is calm all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night Holy night - shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia'  
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night Holy night - Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord at thy birth

# In Dulci Jubilo

Music & words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

In dulci jubilo  
Now sing with hearts aglow  
Our delight and pleasure  
lies in praesepio  
like sunshine is our treasure  
Matris in gremio  
Alpha es et O

O Jesu parvule  
For thee I long away  
Comfort my heart's blindness  
O puer optime  
With all thy loving kindness

O princeps gloriae  
Trahe me post te  
O patris caritas  
O nati lenitas  
Deeply were we stained  
per nostra crimina  
But thou for us hast gained  
coelorum gaudia  
O that we were there  
Ubi sunt gaudia  
in any place but there  
There are angels singing  
in nova cantica  
and there the bells are ringing





### Libera Round The World

Cebu, Philippines | Taipei, Taiwan | Chicago, USA  
 Hollywood, California, USA | Toronto, Canada | Seoul, South Korea  
 Tokyo, Japan | Singapore

LIBERA IS A NON-PROFIT CHARITY REGISTERED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND AS SUCH IS DEPENDENT ON THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ITS PRIVATE LISTENERS AROUND THE WORLD. WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO HOLD PUBLIC CONCERTS OF THIS NATURE. THE COST OF TRAINING AND TOURING IS CLOSE TO £5,000 PER CHORISTER PER YEAR, MUCH OF WHICH IS NOT RECOVERED THROUGH ROYALTIES, TICKET OR ALBUM SALES. IF YOU WISH TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING LIBERA, OR KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO MIGHT, WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU AT [OFFICE@LIBERA.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@LIBERA.ORG.UK)

TO MAKE A DONATION OF  
 £10 TO LIBERA TEXT LBRA01  
 £10 TO 70070  
 THANK YOU.

Seb

Camden

Tim

Matt

Handwritten scribble

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Mike\*

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