



# LIBERA

Romsey Abbey  
23rd April 2016



# LIBERA

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HORN - RAOUL NEUMANN

PERCUSSION - JON ORMSTON

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LIBERA MANAGEMENT – STEVEN PHILIPP

WITH THANKS TO THE VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS  
AND ALL THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE ABBEY



# Romsey

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JOYFUL JOYFUL

SANCTUS

THE PRAYER

SALVA ME

STAY WITH ME

WEXFORD CAROL

AMAZING GRACE

HOW GREAT THOU ART

ANGEL

EXULTATE

INTERVAL

VOCA ME

ORINOCO FLOW

SONG OF LIFE

WAYFARING STRANGER

WONDERFUL WORLD

SACRIS SOLEMNIS

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

LIBERA



# 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 an original sound, which is at once both ancient and modern. Their distinctive 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 the US & Canada, Russia, UK, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea.

The group is known to British audiences through TV appearances and staged concerts at venues as diverse as the Queen Elizabeth Hall & the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Grassington Festival, Abbey Road Studios, and several UK cathedrals. 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 the US & Canada, 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 in 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. 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 recently filmed a PBS special live concert in Washington DC at the National Shrine for broadcast and DVD released in March 2015. The Spring tour in 2015 whisked the boys across the country from Boston to San Antonio, from Chicago to Atlanta.

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 in several countries of the far east.

Through their involvement in Libera, the boys have travelled the world, recorded movie soundtracks and CDs and served as backing singers to mega-stars. (Just recently they appeared on the soundtrack of the major video game 'Destiny' with Paul McCartney who co-wrote the music.) 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."





# 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 - plainchant. 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. Some songs are arrangements of well-known popular and 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.





# Joyful Joyful

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

## 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

# 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

# The Prayer

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

Music David Foster  
Words Carole Bayer Sager  
Arranged by Sam Coates





# Salva me

Domine deus miserere mei  
Carry me away  
From the dark I fear  
When the storm is near  
From the endless night  
From my blinded sight  
To a sky of light  
Free me to fly away

Salva me  
Carry me away  
From the things that harm  
On a sea of calm  
From the endless night  
From my blinded sight  
To a sky of light

Words & Music by Robert Prizeman



# Stay with me

You are everything I know  
Which ever way I go  
For ever stay with me

Venite angeli, cantate domino,  
Laudate

You see me through when ever  
I'm afraid

However far away  
For ever comfort me

You're on my side whichever  
way I choose  
In everything I do  
For ever stay with me

Words & Music by Robert Prizeman





## Wexford Carol

Music & words traditional  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

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

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

## 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

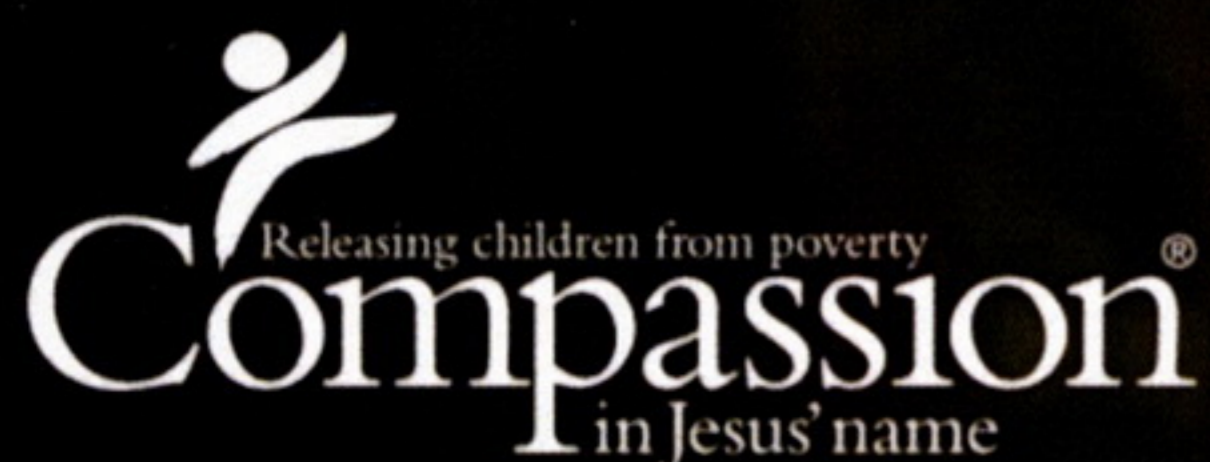
Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear  
and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed

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 praise  
than when we first begun







ANNA MARIA LORETO, AGE 7, PHILIPPINES, PH 574

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CHILDREN  
FROM  
POVERTY**

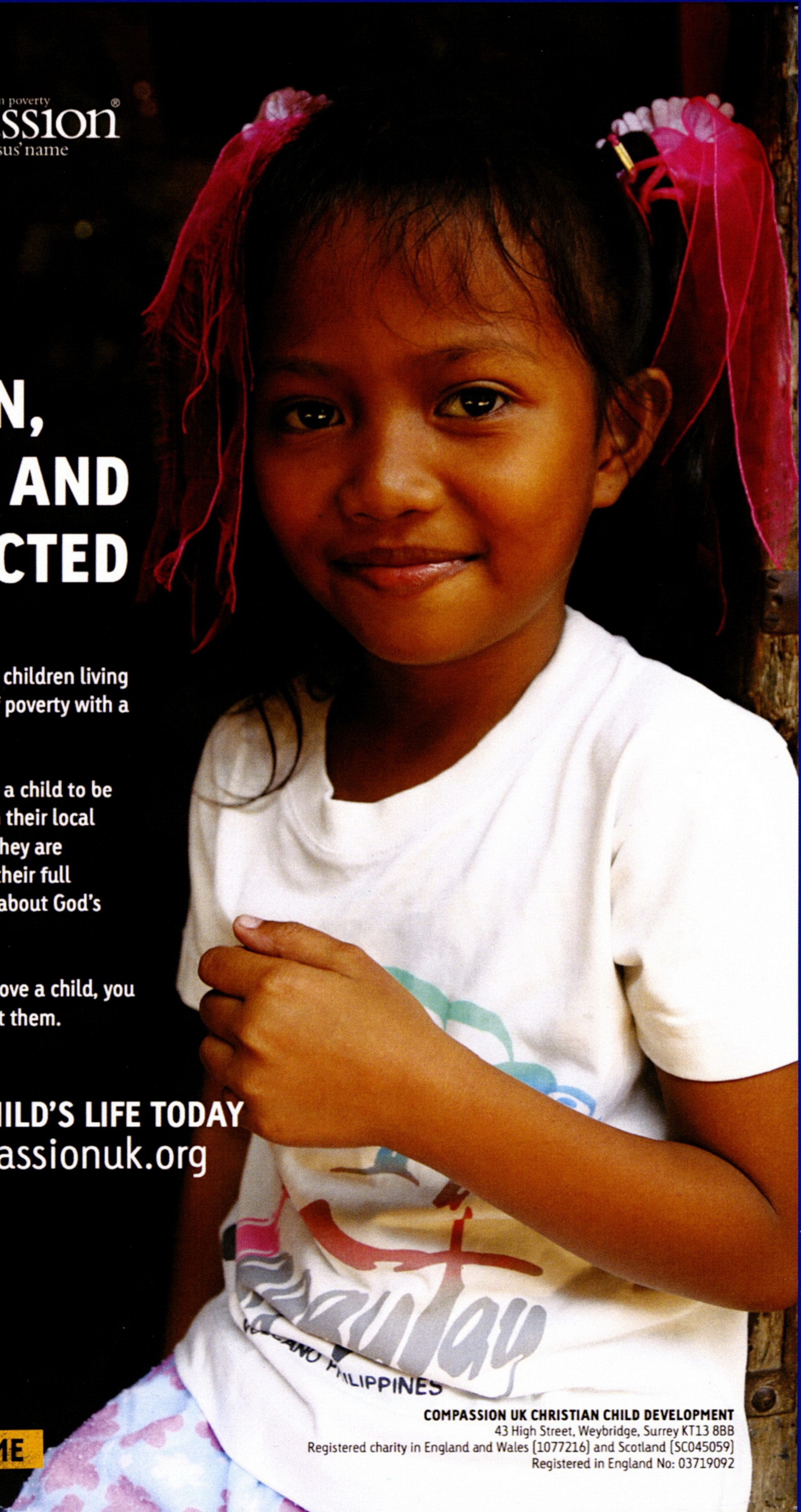
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# How Great Thou Art

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

Music traditional  
Words traditional translated by  
S Hine.

# Angel

Angel take your wings and fly,  
watching over me  
See me through my night time  
and be my leading light  
Angel you have found the way,  
never fear to tread  
You'll be a friend to me,  
angel spread your wings and fly

Voces angelorum gloria,  
dona eis pacem  
For you're always near to me,  
in my joy and my sorrow  
For you ever care for me,  
lifting my spirit to the sky

Where a million angels sing,  
in amazing harmony  
And the words of love they bring

to the never ending story  
A million voices sing  
to the wonder of the light  
So I hide beneath your wing  
you are my guardian, angel of mine

Cantate caeli chorus angelorum  
Venite adoramus in aeternum  
Psallite saecula et saeculorum  
Laudate Deo in gloria

Can you be my angel now  
watching over me  
Comfort and inspire me  
to see our journey through  
Can I be your friend indeed,  
from all cares set free,  
The clouds would pass away,  
then I'd be an angel too

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





## Exultate

There's a light upon the mountains  
and the day is at the spring  
when our eyes shall see the  
wonder  
and the glory it will bring

et laudate Domino in laetitia  
et cantate Domino gloria  
saecula et saeculorum Alleluia

Hark we hear a distant music  
and it comes with fuller swell,  
tis the glorious song of heaven  
and our fears it will dispel

Music by Robert Prizeman  
English words by Henry Burton

Angeli et archangeli, psallite et  
laudate in hymnis et psalmis et  
canticis

We hear a distant music  
it comes with fuller swell  
For the angels here are human  
not the shining hosts above  
For the drumbeats of the army  
are the heart beats of our love

## Voca Me

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

Lacrymosa dies illa  
Dolorosa Domine

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

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

## Orinoco flow

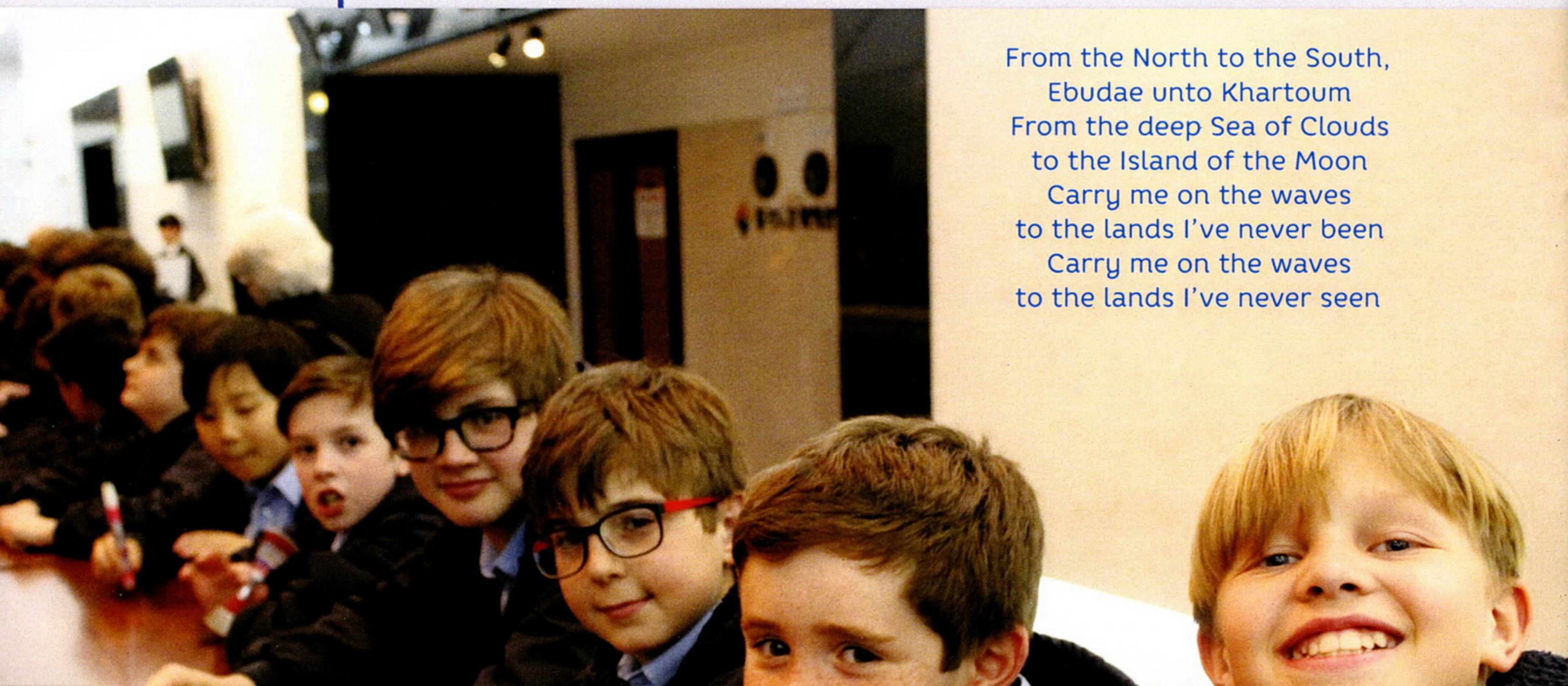
Let me sail, let me sail,  
let the Orinoco flow  
Let me reach, let me beach  
on the shores of Tripoli  
Let me sail, let me sail,  
let me crash upon your shore  
Let me reach, let me beach  
far beyond the yellow sea  
Sail away

Music by Enya  
Words by Roma Ryan

From Bissau to Palau  
in the shade of Avalon  
From Fiji to Tiree  
and the Isles of Ebony

From Peru to Cebu,  
feel the power of Babylon  
From Bali to Cali  
far beneath the Coral Sea  
Turn it up, turn it up, turn it up, up -  
Adieu

From the North to the South,  
Ebudae unto Khartoum  
From the deep Sea of Clouds  
to the Island of the Moon  
Carry me on the waves  
to the lands I've never been  
Carry me on the waves  
to the lands I've never seen





## Song of Life

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

Through the ages we will grow  
only time will ever know  
as our voices magnify  
all in the miracle of life  
Love plays along  
in our lives yet to come  
as we join in the song of life

Now the music starts to build  
as the words begin to rhyme  
then another lends a tune  
as their voices now combine  
With the chorus of sound  
of the world all around  
now they blend in their tune  
sharing the endless song of life

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

## Wayfaring Stranger

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

I'm going there to see my mother  
she said she'd meet me when I come  
I'm just a going over Jordan  
I'm just a going over home

So I will wear a crown of glory  
when I get home to that good land  
and I will sing redemption's story  
in concert with that heavenly band  
I'm going there to see my brother  
I'm going there no more to roam  
I'm just a going over Jordan  
I'm just a going over home

Words and music traditional  
arranged by Sam Coates





# Wonderful World

Words & Music by Bob Thiele  
and George David Weiss  
Arranged by Sam Coates

I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom for me and you  
and I think to myself, what a  
wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white  
bright blessed day, dark sacred night  
and I think to myself what a  
wonderful world

The colours of the rainbow, so pretty  
in the sky are also on the faces of  
people going by.  
I see friends shaking hands, saying  
'how do you do' - they're really  
saying, 'I love you'

I see babies cry, I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more than we'll  
ever know and I think to myself,  
what a wonderful world



# Sacris Solemnis

Music - Based on 2nd  
movement of the 7th Symphony  
by Ludwig van Beethoven  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman  
Words traditional

Sacris solemnis - Juncta sint gaudia  
Corda et voces - et opera  
Recedant vitæ - Nova sint omnia  
Sacris solemnis gaudia  
Te trina deitas - unaque poscimus  
sacris solemnis gaudia

Corda, Voces opera  
Lucem ad inhabitas

## SUPPORTING LIBERA

Libera is a non-profit charity registered in the UK and the US, 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)



# Nearer

Nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee  
e'en though it be a cross that raiseth me  
Still all my song shall be nearer my God to thee  
nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down  
darkness be over me, my rest a stone  
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer my God to thee  
nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee

Or if on joyful wing, cleaving the sky  
sun moon and stars forgot, upwards I fly  
Still all my song shall be nearer my God to thee  
nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee

Music by L Mason  
Words by S F Adams  
Arranged by Robert Prizeman



# Libera

Libera

Libera

De profundis clamavi  
ad te Domine  
exaudi vocem meam  
de profundis

Are you my hope of liberty  
are you the door, are you the key  
It's only you can set me free - aeterna

Are you the friend I cannot see  
Are you the one who cares for me  
It's only you can set me free - aeterna

Music & English words by Robert Prizeman



## Music by Libera

[libera.org.uk/shop](http://libera.org.uk/shop)





# Libera Round The World

Tokyo, Japan | Toronto, Canada | Los Angeles, USA  
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