



LIBERA

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SOUTHWARK

2ND DECEMBER 2016

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

LIBERA

MARC ALVARES, LEO BARRON, NATHANIEL BATES-FISHER, EMANUELE BORRELLI,
CIARAN BRADBURY-HICKEY, MERLIN BROUWER, BENEDICT BYWATER,
CASSIUS COLLARD, GABRIEL COLLINS, SAMUEL-FRANCIS COLLINS,
TADHG FITZGERALD, ALEXANDER GULA, ADAM IZGHOUTI, LUKE JELLEY,
PETER KIELTY, TIMOTHY LEE, ISAAC LONDON, GREGOR LUMSDEN,
ALESSANDRO MACKINNON BOTTI, MATTHEW MADINE, FYFE McGAUGHRIN,
JAMES MENEZES, MICHAEL MENEZES, ALEXANDRE MENUET, ALEXANDER MONTORO,
MATHIAS MONTORO, OLIVER MYCKA, ARTHUR PALMER, NEO PARSON,
KOJI SHINOKUBO, TAICHI SHINOKUBO, CAMDEN STEWART, LAURENCE TAYLOR,
ROCCO TESEI, ROMEO TESEI, SAMUEL WIGGIN, VICTOR WIGGIN,
OLIVER WATT-RODRIGUEZ, FINN WOOD, LUCAS WOOD, THEO WOOD

Musical Director – Robert Prizeman

Assistant musical directors – Sam Coates & Steven Geraghty

Violin 1: Charis Jenson
Violin 2: Harri Allan
Viola: Tadasuke Iijima
Cello: Kirsten Jenson
Double Bass: Jakub Cywinski
Flute: Eimear McGeown

Clarinet: Paul Sanders
Oboe: Jesse Bescoby
Horn: Raoul Neumann
Piano: Josh Madine
Percussion: Jon Ormston

Sound mixing & production – Sam Coates

Lighting – Steve Heywood & Luke Avery

Stage management – Kavana Crossley & Eoghan McCarthy

Stage direction – Steven Geraghty

Libera co-ordination and chaperones – Barbara Geraghty & Eleanor Lewis

Production co-ordinator – Andrew Winter

Programme design and art direction – Kathy Kiely

We are grateful to John Boak and John Henderson for their generous support
of tonight's concert. This made the provision of TV screens possible

With thanks to Canon Richard Hearn, Father Oladele Craig and the staff of the cathedral

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SAN DAMIANO

SANCTUS

SILENT NIGHT

STAY WITH ME

ANGELE DEI

CAROL OF THE BELLS

VOCA ME

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

SEMPITERNA

IN DULCI JUBILO

JOY TO THE WORLD

STILL, STILL, STILL

ANGEL

WAYFARING STRANGER

ANGELS FROM ON HIGH

SALVA ME

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN

TOTAL PRAISE

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PLEASE NOTE: The programme is subject to change.

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

There will be an opportunity to purchase CDs/DVDs and some Libera souvenirs and gifts during the interval and at the end of the concert.

The boys will return at the end of the evening to sign CDs etc in the hall.



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 boys were featured as guests. They were winners of the Saturday night show 'When Will I Be Famous'; had a whole documentary devoted to them on BBC-TV's 'Songs of Praise'; and 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.

During their recent European tour, Libera joined the throng of pilgrims attending World Youth Day in Poland, and performed to packed crowds including their largest ever live appearance singing to over 1.5 million in Krakow. In the same tour they made their debut in Germany at the Schoenstatt shrine near Koblenz.

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. They are top artists on the PBS network which frequently screens Libera's 'Christmas in Ireland' concert in Armagh Cathedral and a special performance in Washington DC filmed at the National Shrine. 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 countries of the far east. In Japan they performed the Christmas music for the world's largest Universal Studios theme park in Osaka to over 10,000 and, as a reward for also singing their television advert, the boys were treated to a queue-less visit to the park.

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."





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 'Liberia' 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.



SAN DAMIANO

Music and words by Sal Solo

Sancta Maria

Oh tranquility all around
Peace and mystery to be found

Only you San Damiano
Lady of the Roses own
Only you San Damiano
Far from here but close to home

Travel the world and still
Can other places fill
Your heart and soul

I want you to go, same as me
I want you to know, all I see

Corner of paradise
A golden chain has tied
Us heart and soul

All corners of the world
A message to be heard
With heart and soul

SANCTUS

*Music based on 'Canon' by
Johann Pachelbel
Words traditional
Arranged by Robert
Prizeman*

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

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

STAY WITH ME

*Words & Music by
Robert Prizeman*

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



ANGELE DEI

Music by Robert Prizeman

Words traditional

Additional words by

Robert Prizeman

Lumina – Guberna - Angele

Angel of God, my guardian dear
To whom God's love does commit me here
Ever this night be at my side
And every day of my life with me abide
To light and guard to rule and guide
Illumina
Angel of God, watch over me this night
My guardian dear never lose me from your sight
As shadows fall stay ever at my side
And every day of my life with me abide
To light and guard to rule and guide
Illumina
Angel of God
Angel of mine
Amen

CAROL OF THE BELLS

Music by M Leontovych

Arranged by Robert Prizeman

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 everywhere
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



VOCA ME

*Music by Robert Prizeman
English words by
Robert Prizeman*

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

Lacrymosa dies illa
Dolorosa Domine
Voca Me

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

WHAT A 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

SEMPITERNA

*Words & Music traditional
Arranged by Robert Prizeman*

Creator, Conditor, perpetua
Exulta, clamava, in saeculum

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

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

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





IN DULCI JUBILO

*Music & words traditional
Arranged by Robert
Prizeman*

In dulci jubilo
Now sing with hearts aglow
Our delight and pleasure lies in praeseptio
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 principes 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 in Regis curia
O that we were there

JOY TO THE WORLD

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

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

STILL, STILL, STILL

Music traditional
Arranged by Mack Wilberg
Words by Robert Prizeman

Still still still
let all the earth be still
For Mary in her arms enfolding
Hope of all the world is holding
Still still still
let all the earth be still

Light light light
let all the earth be light
the holy star its news ablazing
sign of hope for nations raising
light light light
let all the earth be light

Sing sing sing
sweet angel voices sing
While Jesus lies in manger
dreaming
Seraph choirs from heaven
are streaming
sing sing sing
sweet angel voices sing

Sleep holy Jesus sleep

ANGEL

Music by
Takatsugo Muramatsu
Words by Robert Prizeman

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

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
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

ANGELS FROM ON HIGH

*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

SALVA ME

Words & Music by Robert Prizeman

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

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN

*Music & words traditional
Arranged by Robert Prizeman*

God rest you merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy

Fear not then said the angel let nothing you afright
this day is born a Saviour of virgin pure and bright
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface
O tidings of comfort and joy

TOTAL PRAISE

*Music by Richard Smallwood
Words by Richard Smallwood
and traditional
Arranged by Adam Sztaba &
Robert Prizeman*

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills
knowing my help is coming from you
Your peace you give me in time of the storm
You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to You
Amen



LIBERA

*Music & English words by
Robert Prizeman*

Libera

De profundis clamavi ad te domine
Domine exaudi vocem meam de profundis

Libera me domine de morte

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

Are you the door, are you the key
It's only you can set me free
Aeterna



LIBERA BOYS SAY...

"We do Libera because we really like it – it's special. We don't have to do it - it's our hobby"

"Our white robes are really old and ancient – but we are all modern. Our concerts make us all look like X-Factor or Lady Gaga but with us singing"

"Sometimes you get really moved when you are performing, and it makes you go all tingly"

"I love singing, in fact my little brother and sister think I suffer from "singing disease!"

"In the old abbey, the shadows of all the massive arches and shapes were all around us, with our hoods up. It was really cool – like we were in history"

"One of the best bits of being in Libera is being with your mates who all like doing the same thing, and we all get on really well"

"Once you start to sing, all fears and butterflies leave you and the enjoyment and thrill kicks in and I absolutely love it and forget everything else."

"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"

"During performances we always wear our white robes. They are actually quite comfy. When we sing in colder places it is quite useful to be able to slip your arms out of the sleeves and have them closer to your body to keep warm"

"I think you can feel awesome when you sing the Latin words in services & concerts, especially the big ones in cathedrals, it really makes you feel... wow"

"When I sing I don't think about anything else, it just fills my head with music - I would do it 25 hours a day!"

CELEBS, SUPPORTERS AND WEB-SITE VISITORS SAY...

I like them so much they sang at my wedding – *Aled Jones*

When I heard them sing, I said 'it does remind me a lot of the Beach Boys' – but actual boys – *Brian Wilson*

"Music is what feelings sound like. To me Libera's sound opens a door to what every soul longs for"

"This was awesome - I can't find the right words to describe this emotional, unique and touching performance last evening. I'd like to see and hear you all day long"

"A unique alchemy of ancient & modern melodies, glorious and soothing harmonies. Hauntingly beautiful"

"I love it to see how the boys enjoy every single minute of singing and being in Libera"

"I love your music even though I define the MTV generation, and never normally listen to religious music"

"Libera helped me through tough times I just needed to listen to Libera and I felt better. Libera not just changed my life, it changed me"

"Love the harmonies, there's not a group that sounds like them"

"Libera: ordinary kids with extraordinary talents"

"Libera's music is celestial, its message conveying truth & love, its voices & harmonies rousing a soothing tranquility"

**On sale tonight:
LIBERA AT CHRISTMAS**

The Ideal Christmas Gift

The latest CD EP featuring
2 new recordings, and 3 songs not
previously released internationally





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

WWW.LIBERA.ORG.UK