



# LIBERA

*in Concert*

*Christchurch Priory  
Tuesday 28th July 2015*

# LIBERA

MARC ALVARES, SHAY BALSEKAR, LEO BARRON  
CIARAN BRADBURY-HICKEY, MERLIN BROUWER, BENEDICT BYWATER  
GABRIEL COLLINS, KAVANA CROSSLEY, THOMAS DELGADO-LITTLE  
TADHG FITZGERALD, ALEX GULA, ADAM IZGHOUTI, MATTHEW JANSEN  
TIMOTHY LEE, ISAAC LONDON, MATTHEW MADINE  
ALESSANDRO MACKINNON-BOTTI, JAMES MENEZES, MICHAEL MENEZES  
ALEX MONTORO, OLIVER MYCKA, CASSIUS O'CONNELL-WHITE  
TAICHI SHINOKUBO, CAMDEN STEWART, ROCCO TESEI  
MARK USTYNOVYCH-REPA, JOSEPH WALSH, SAM WIGGIN, LUCAS WOOD

MUSICAL DIRECTOR – ROBERT PRIZEMAN  
ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTORS – STEVEN GERAGHTY & SAM COATES

CARINA VINCE, ROWAN PATTERSON - VIOLINS  
ANDREW GILLET - VIOLA  
HILARY BOXER - CELLO  
PATRICK BUTTERLY – DOUBLE BASS  
JON FAIREY - PERCUSSION  
LUCILLE BURNS - FLUTE/RECORDER  
PAUL SANDERS - CLARINET  
JESSE BESCOBY - OBOE  
RAOUL NEUMANN - HORN  
JOSH MADINE - PIANO/KEYBOARDS

SOUND PRODUCTION - SAM COATES  
STAGE DIRECTION - STEVEN GERAGHTY  
STAGE MANAGEMENT – JONATHAN BARRINGTON & KAVANA CROSSLEY  
LIGHTING - LUKE AVERY  
LIBERA CO-ORDINATION & CHAPERONES – BARBARA GERAGHTY &  
ELEANOR LEWIS  
PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR - ANDREW WINTER

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO REV CANON CHARLES STEWART &  
THE STAFF AND PEOPLE OF CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY

Please do not video or record our Concert

# Christchurch

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JOYFUL JOYFUL

SANCTUS

AMAZING GRACE

VOCA ME

THE PRAYER

SACRIS SOLEMNIS

SONG OF LIFE

SALVA ME

EXULTATE

- INTERVAL -

MYSTERIUM

ORINOCO FLOW

HOW GREAT THOU ART

DREAMING OF HOME

O FOR THE WINGS OF A DOVE

WAYFARING STRANGER

STAY WITH ME

HOW SHALL I SING



# 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.



# 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’, 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 release 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. 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 to 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. (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."

# 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

# Sanctus

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

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





# 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

T'was 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  
T'is 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

# Voca Me

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

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

Lacrymosa dies illa  
Dolorosa Domine  
Voca  
Voca Me

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

# The Prayer

Music by David Foster  
Words by Carole Bayer Sager

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





# 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



# 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

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

# 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

# Exultate

Music by Robert Prizeman  
English words by Henry Burton

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

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



## Mysterium

Music by Robert Prizeman  
Words traditional

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand  
As the light of light descendeth

from the realms of endless day  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away

## Orinoco flow

Music by Enya  
Words by Roma Ryan

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

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 -  
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

## 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



To look at her you wouldn't know  
that Paola used to go to bed hungry,  
afraid of what tomorrow would bring.

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## Dreaming Of Home

From the film 'Joyeux Noel'  
Music: Philippe Rombi  
Words: Gary Lewis and Lori  
Bath

I hear the mountain birds  
The sound of rivers singing  
A song I've often heard  
It flows through me now  
So clear and so loud  
- I stand where I am  
and forever I'm dreaming of home  
I feel so alone, I'm dreaming of  
home

It's carried in the air  
The breeze of early morning  
I see the land so fair  
My heart opens wide  
There's sadness inside

I stand where I am  
and forever I'm dreaming of home  
I feel so alone, I'm dreaming of  
home  
This is no foreign sky  
- I see no foreign light

But far away am I  
From some peaceful land  
I'm longing to stand  
A hand in my hand  
forever I'm dreaming of home  
I feel so alone, I'm dreaming of  
home

## O For The Wings Of A Dove

Music by Mendelssohn  
Words trad.  
Arranged by Robert  
Prizeman

O for the wings,  
far away would I rove

In the wilderness  
build me a nest

And remain there for  
ever at rest



# 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



# 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





## How Shall I Sing that Majesty

Music: Robert Prizeman  
Words: 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







## Libera Round The World

Tokyo, Japan | Toronto, Canada | Los Angeles, USA  
 Seoul, South Korea | Taipei, Taiwan  
 Singapore | Moscow, Russia | Cebu, Philippines

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)

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