

Live in the United States

Libera

BASILICA of the **NATIONAL SHRINE**
of the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Washington, DC



Joyful Joyful

America The Beautiful

How Can I Keep
From Singing

Wayfaring Stranger

Be Still My Soul

Wonderful World

Morning Has Broken

Amazing Grace

The Prayer

INTERVAL

I Vow To Thee
My Country

Sanctus

Ave Maria

Song Of Life

How Great Thou Art

How Shall I Sing
That Majesty

Rest in Peace

Voca Me



7th August 2014 |

BASILICA of the **NATIONAL SHRINE**
of the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

| 7:30 PM

– PLEASE NOTE –

Program subject to change. All forms of recording, video filming, photography, use of mobile phone cameras etc are strictly prohibited.

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



LIBERA



MARC ALVARES, SHAY BALSEKAR, HENRY BARRINGTON, ANTHONY BLAKE, CIARAN BRADBURY-HICKEY, TIARNAN BRANSON, GABRIEL COLLINS, KAVANA CROSSLEY, THOMAS DELGADO-LITTLE, BEN FAIRMAN, DANIEL FONTANNAZ, ALEX GULA, MATTHEW JANSEN, TIMOTHY LEE, Sam Leggett, ISAAC LONDON, MATTHEW MADINE, EOGHAN McCARTHY, ALESSANDRO MACKINNON-BOTTI, MICHAEL MENEZES, ALEX MONTORO, SAM MORIARTY, JAKUB NIEDERMAIER-REED, ROCCO TESEI, CASSIUS O'CONNELL-WHITE, MATTHEW RANGEL-ALVARES, BERTRAMO SMART, CAMDEN STEWART, SAM WIGGIN, LUCAS WOOD

Musical Director - Robert Prizeman

Assistant musical directors - Sam Coates & Steven Geraghty

Keyboards - Joshua Madine

Strings - The Silken String Quartet

Clarinet - Steven Geraghty

Flute/Recorder - Candice Hamel

Horn - Raoul Neumann

Percussion - Jon Ormston

Sound mixing & production - Sam Coates

Stage management - Jonathan Barrington & Simon Lewis

Lighting Director - Jeroen Jans

Tour co-ordination and chaperone - Barbara Geraghty, Eleanor Lewis

Concert management - John Rexroad & Steven Philipp

Production co-ordinator - Andrew Winter

**Libera wishes to thank The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
for their generous support in mounting this concert**

Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi
Rector of the Basilica

Brandon Pettit
Associate Director of Communications
and Special Events

Doug Repass
Electrician

Rev. Msgr. Vito A. Buonanno
Rev. Michael D. Weston
Rev. Raymond A. Lebrun, O.M.I.
Priests of the Basilica

Peter Latona
Director of Music

Blair Van Oot
John Schertler
Phil Carlucci
Lighting

Jacquelyn Hayes
Director of Communications

Benjamin J. LaPrairie
Associate Director of Music

Amy Maloney
Shrine Shops

Demetri Callas
Audio Engineer

Libera would like to extend a very special thank you to Lauren Booth, Richard Chen and John Rexroad for their extraordinary efforts in making this concert possible. We would also like to acknowledge the talent and guidance of the producer of the DVD, Daniel Hart and his production team.



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.



THE STORY OF THE CONCERT, THAT WAS MEANT TO BE

- (1) A friend told me several years ago I might like Libera, so I bought a CD. Recently, I bought a few more and that led to a chain of events I hadn't foreseen.
- (2) Recently (April 2014) I wanted to know more about the history behind the group Libera, so I visited their website: www.libera.org.uk and saw the US concerts listed at Mayo (MPAC) in Morristown, New Jersey, so I went on their website and purchased tickets.
- (3) When I failed to receive my tickets, I returned to the MPAC site to see who I should contact and located the concert schedule page for Libera. I noticed sponsorship opportunities and read about the MPAC mission and commitment to making the performing arts accessible to a diverse population and schools.
- (4) I contacted MPAC and was very disappointed to find out that just hours previously, the concert had been canceled due to technical issues.
- (5) As I drove home that night I wondered if perhaps this event might be a good opportunity to support two organizations that support children and the arts. So, with only hours to spare I decided to sponsor Libera's performance.
- (6) The concert went on and Libera shared their gift with many others.
- (7) I went on, to sponsor and provide a day in New York City for the boys, and several older former boys, now young men working as a stage manager, musicians in the orchestra or other support roles. I soon learned beyond nurturing talent, the group develops boys into great young men. Libera is as much focused on providing a lifetime of experi-

ences and opportunities to these wonderful boys as it is with creating a world class musical experience. I saw that Robert Prizeman – the founding musical director – pours all his energy into this endeavour, yet he insists that the boys be the focus—and that everyone should be equally committed to the goal of developing great young vocalists, young men willing to share their diverse talents with the world. This group truly loves what they do and cares for one another.

Wo one at Libera is in it for the money. The boys aren't paid, but rather participate in their free time and out of their love for singing and the amazing experiences they are privileged to be a part of. It really is like one large musical family. Everyone involved does it out of a deep commitment to the music and raising awareness to various causes by their participation. The talents of the Libera musical family impact the fundraising efforts of many other charities. Ironically, even though Libera has produced many recordings and has participated in many high profile events, they consistently lose money when they tour. This is where my involvement began and continues. In order for Libera to continue to tour and support other charities, they need to raise an endowment for their own organization in order to remain solvent.

I believe things are often predestined, and we just need to play our part. When I financially intervened with MPAC and Libera and sponsored their concert, I was really able to help two great organizations. We can all make a difference, and even the smallest contribution can affect change.

I always live by: "I can if" and "You can if" - Anonymous Sponsor. - Focus on the boys.



The boys who make up the South London based vocal band 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 the US, UK, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea.

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 - 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. In their last full 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.

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’. 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 CDs, 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. The most recent tour packed out the major concert venues in Tokyo for 3 nights and 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. 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.”



If you are hearing Libera for the first time this evening, I hope the boys' performance is as impressive, perhaps even as moving, for you as it was for me when I first heard them live in concert. Of course, I had another reason for listening, as my son had recently joined and was singing with them in public for the first time. Libera changed his life. And Libera has impacted the lives of numerous other young men in their formative years, some of whom now join us backstage in helping to continue the traditions of this group.

I speak of traditions intentionally, although Libera has been around no more than 15 years. Robert Prizeman, the founding musical director is the genius behind Libera's sound and ethos. This is his vision.

This is a boy choir with a difference – not just vocally or stylistically. These boys volunteer of their time on evenings and weekends of their own free will. We are not a choir school; we are more like a boys club. The boys attend some 15 different schools in south London and then join us for rehearsals after school in the evenings and on weekends. We are not affiliated with any particular church, confession or denomination.

Our circumstances require that we ration carefully the limited time we have available to tour in any given calendar year. You can imagine our logistical headaches when trying to coordinate touring schedules. Nonetheless, we have been lucky enough to visit some amazing places whilst taking our music around the world. We are glad, and somewhat humbled, at the warmth of the reception we have received in so many places.

We would love to be able to tour more and to bring our music to even more people. However, we are restricted from doing so by our financial resources. We are enormously grateful for the time volunteered by parents and many other volunteers, to say nothing of the boys' time. However, ultimately we have to pay our bills – and taking the boys on tour is very expensive. We are keen that, wherever possible, tickets to our concerts should be available at relatively inexpensive prices. We even occasionally give free concerts – but this means that income from ticket sales is generally insufficient to cover the costs of touring with 25 boys and 10 support staff. Even in the UK we rarely cover the full cost of our concerts with income from ticket sales, so we rely on kind gifts from generous supporters.

Libera is a not-for-profit organization, registered as a charity in the United Kingdom. We have also applied for 501(c) 3 charity status in the US, to enable our friends across the pond to help us take this project forward. If you've enjoyed our music, perhaps you might consider joining our volunteer team in the US or making a donation to us, either as a one-off gift or on a regular monthly basis. Even small donations given on a regular basis are of great benefit as they allow us to plan prudently for the future.

Please check our relevant websites for more information, or feel free to contact me directly at steven.philipp@libera.org.uk.

The generosity of our supporters is what makes it possible to create and share the sound of Libera worldwide, simultaneously giving the boys a unique musical education, fantastic opportunities to perform, and friendships for life.

Thank you.

Steven R. Philipp

Chairman – for and on behalf of Libera
steven.philipp@libera.org.uk

SUPPORTING LIBERA

Libera is a non-profit charity registered in the UK 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 or in the USA at libera.org.

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



ow can I keep from singing

Words - Robert
Wadsworth Lowry
Music - traditional
Arranged - Robert Prizeman

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars
I know the truth it liveth
What though the darkness round me close
Songs in the night it giveth

No storms can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it.
The peace and love makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am his,
How can I keep from singing?

Be still my soul

Music based on 'Finlandia'
by Jean Sibelius
Words Katharina
von Schlegel
Arranged by
Robert Prizeman

Be still my soul - the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change - he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul - thy best thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul - when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shalt thou better know his love - his heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul - the waves and winds still
know his voice who ruled them - while he
dwelt below.

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment - grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot - love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul - when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed - we shall meet at last.

Morning has broken

Music traditional
Words by Eleanor Farjeon
Arranged by Robert Prizeman



America the beautiful

Music Samuel Ward
Words Katherine Lee Bates
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

○ beautiful for spacious
skies, for amber waves of
grain,
For purple mountain majes-
ties above the
fruited plain.
America, America God shed
his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with
brotherhood from sea to
shining sea

○ beautiful for heroes
proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their
country loved and mercy
more than life.

○ beautiful for patriot
dream, that sees beyond the
years,
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by
human tears.



The boys who make up the South London based vocal group Libera have been described as “normal” and “ordinary”.





Join us for The Boys of Libera
AUTOGRAPH LINE
After the concert, lower level.



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.

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.

I know dark clouds will gather round me,
I know my way is rough and steep,
yet beautiful 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.

Wonderful World

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



Amazing grace

Music traditional
Words by John Newton

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 praise
than when we first begun

The Prayer

Music David Foster
Words Carole Bayer Sager
Arranged by Sam Coates



I vow to thee my country

Music based on theme from
'Jupiter' from 'The Planets'
by Gustav Holst
Words Cecil Spring-Rice

I vow to thee my country all earthly things above
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice

And there's another country I've heard of long ago
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace
and all her paths are peace

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

Words traditional
translated by S Hine.
Melody traditional
arranged by S Hine
This arrangement
by Robert Prizeman



Rest in peace

Music & Words
Peter Skellern

For all who need comfort
for all those who mourn
all those whom we cherished, will be reborn
All those whom we love but see no more
they are not perished but gone before

and lie in the tender arms of he
who died for us all to set us free
from hatred and anger and cruel tyranny
May They Rest in Peace
And rise in glory

Lord give me wisdom to comprehend
why I survive and not my friend
and teach me compassion so I may live
all my enemies to forgive

All suffering and sorrow will be no more
they'll vanish like shadows at heaven's door
All anguish and grieving
will one day be healed
when all of God's purpose will be revealed
though now for a season lost from sight
the innocent slain in the blindness of 'right'
are now in the warmth of God's glorious light
where they Rest in Peace
And rise in glory

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



Song of life

Music: Takatsugu Muramatsu
Arranged Robert Prizeman
Words: 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,

How shall I sing that majesty

Music: Robert Prizeman
Words: John Mason

How great a being
which doth all beings keep
Thy knowledge is 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, inflame it with
love's fire
then shall I bear a part with that celestial
choir

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





As with many long standing traditions, the full story of where the moose mascot came from is a bit shrouded by memory.

The best recollection is that on one of the first tours, Robert Prizeman and some of the boys bought a tin of moose candy. When the tin was opened, a moose was staring up at them. To this very day this same moose travels the world with Libera as their good luck ambassador. On occasion it has been known to make stage appearances but it usually is hidden beneath one of the robes or in a secure place back stage.

Some people speculate that the Libera moose may suffer from stage fright and tries to hide away. Most moose dislike cars and trucks, which occasionally prove quite dangerous. Like them, this plush moose also avoids the spotlight.

His well-worn fur shows the years of hugs, and probably, a few games of toss the moose. Rumor is that the moose mascot may even have magical powers and protects the boy's voices. In reality, the plush Libera Moose has become a mascot for the boys, much like any iconic mascot of collegiate and professional sports. Like many boys, hours of practice require a little levity and distraction which this tiny guy provides. Whether or not he understands Latin is another matter, but it's always possible he speaks a variant of Moose-Latin which may be his chosen language (with a British accent): moolibra mooladsbra moolovebra mootobra moosingbra.

The first official plush moose was sold this year. He wears a Libera bandana, with an official Libera medieval "L". and was introduced as part of the 2014 filming of the group's concert in Washington DC. You will have to watch the DVD carefully to see if he appears on stage. Most likely he will be lurking around somewhere, just out of the spotlight. As Libera is comprised of younger boys and older ones, there is a small singer version and a large singer version. Only 200 of each have been produced and then he will retire that special bandana and we will have to see what next transpires. Given the choral group's worldwide appeal, it is fitting that the first two Libera Moose went to Australia and the second two traveled to the Philippines.

Fans are now beginning to send in moose sightings from around the world. Like a traveling ambassador, he is popping up in unlikely spots and events. We hope you will choose to share your plush Libera Moose sightings or pictures with Libera. We hope that Libera supporters will have as much fun with their plush moose as the Libera boys do.



Exclusive Libera merchandise is available on the lower level.

*All proceeds go to the production
of the concert DVD and CD.*



The Libera family wishes to thank the generous contributions of these individuals, and the ongoing support and donations which enable the boys of Libera to perform and record their music.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

John & Mimi Walsh
Nicholas Centanni
Craig Kropp
John Edward Henderson

BENEFACTOR

Patrick Marcouly
Chris Carter
Harry Trimble
Thomas Lindner
Stephen Kemp

ANGEL

Morgan Smith, Jr
Yuki Tanaka
Father Robert Duesdieker
James Mcsparran
Klaus Macherey
Wolfgang Macherey





John Boak
Honorary Trustee
Kent Ringler
Founding Member

I truly began to appreciate the profound effect Libera's music has on the lives of so many people, after attending one of the choral group's concerts. Libera's appeal transcends age, cultural, religious and geographical boundaries.

For some, the music may be a haven of peace and tranquility in times of stress.

For the religious it seems to bring about a reaffirmation or restoration of their faith.

For the non-religious, the reward might be a renewed faith in humanity or perhaps even in themselves.

For all who can hear, the ethereal harmonies and mystical chords lift the spirit, warm the heart and fill the soul.

For their sounds, we owe a huge debt of thanks to the genius of Robert Prizeman, and to the dedication of the boys and their parents who freely give of their time and bring us the miracle that is Libera.