



LIBERA

St George's Cathedral
Southwark
11th December 2015

LIBERA

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Southwark

JOY TO THE WORLD

SANCTUS

THE PRAYER

SILENT NIGHT

STAY WITH ME

WEXFORD CAROL

CAROL OF THE BELLS

EXULTATE

ANGEL

LIBERA

- *COMPASSION UK* -

INTERVAL

I VOW TO THEE

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD

SONG OF LIFE

WAYFARING STRANGER

WONDERFUL WORLD

SALVA ME

IN DULCI JUBILO

NEARER MY GOD

JOYFUL JOYFUL

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. 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."



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.



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



Sanctus

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

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

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



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



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 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

Music by M Leontovych
Arranged 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

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

Music by Robert Prizeman
English words by Henry Burton





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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

Libera

Libera

De profundis clamavi
ad te Domine
exaudi vocem team
de profundis

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

Libera

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

Music & English words by Robert
Prizeman

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 or you may make a donation at our Web site libera.org.uk



I Vow To Thee

Music: Gustav Holst – part of
'Jupiter' from 'Planets' suite
Arranged Robert Prizeman
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.

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



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

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

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



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



In Dulci Jubilo

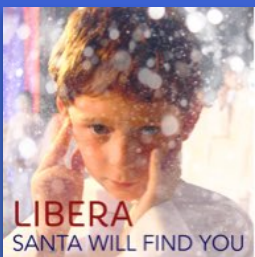
Music & words traditional
Arranged by Robert Prizeman

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 alway
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
in Regis curia
O that we were there



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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

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



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