



COMMONWEALTH

CARNIVAL OF MUSIC



3.00pm – 6.30pm
Monday 2nd July 2012
Westminster Hall
Houses of Parliament

WELCOME



Welcome to the Commonwealth Carnival Of Music

The **Commonwealth Carnival of Music**, a spectacle of music and dance with a Commonwealth theme, is taking place in Westminster Hall - inside the Houses of Parliament as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations for **Her Majesty The Queen**.

This wonderful event is the result of a collaboration between diverse groups of volunteers, performers and sponsors and is being staged in association with the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK Branch)** and **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**.

Combining the spirit of the Eisteddfod with the Commonwealth **Connecting Cultures** theme for 2012, choirs and dancers representing all corners of the Commonwealth have travelled far and wide to perform in the glorious setting of Westminster Hall – right at the heart of the *"Mother of Parliaments"*.





Lord Roberts of Llandudno



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The idea of a musical celebration to be held inside the Palace of Westminster was first considered about three years ago. The aim was to restore confidence in parliamentary government and outline the many achievements of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Westminster was the model for parliamentary government for the countries of the Commonwealth and beyond.

This Celebration became, after much deliberation, the **Commonwealth Carnival of Music** of which we are part today. Our links through **Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod** and the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** made this possible.

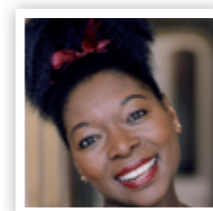
Rarely can any such proposal have been put together by a better team. David McBride who became our chairman, his sister, Janet McBride - our tireless producer, Peter Lesniak and Mike Sani who run my office and Oliver Sidorczuk, Jane Ashley, Paul Coleman and Paul Carroll who joined our core team. Lord Watson of Richmond was our incredible fund raiser! So many others co-operated to make this event possible, especially parliamentary officers and staff led by The Yeoman Usher, Lt Col Ted Lloyd-Jukes. To them and all our stewards and other helpers a million thanks.

We welcome a whole galaxy of talented artistes and other representatives of the Commonwealth to Westminster Hall. The democracy which started here must be protected and strengthened as we hand it over to future generations.

Lord Roger Roberts of Llandudno
President, Commonwealth Carnival of Music



Baroness Floella Benjamin, OBE



Baroness Floella Benjamin, OBE was born in Trinidad in 1949 and came to England as a 10 year old child in 1960. She left school at 16 with the aim of becoming Britain's first ever black woman bank manager but changed direction and became an actress, presenter, writer, independent producer, working peer and an active advocate for the welfare, care and education of children throughout the world. She became a household name as presenter of the legendary children's programmes, **Playschool** and **Playaway**.

Floella's broadcasting work has been recognised with a **Special Lifetime Achievement BAFTA** and an OBE. She has written over 30 books including *Coming to England*, which is used as a resource in schools in social and cross-curricular areas. Floella is also President of the **Elizabeth 'R' Commonwealth Broadcasting Fund**, a Governor of the **National Film & Television School** as well as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London. She was elevated to the peerage as **Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham**, in 2010.



Huw Edwards

Huw Edwards is an award winning journalist, presenter and newsreader. Currently anchorman of the BBC Ten O'Clock News, he began his career as a reporter for local radio station **Swansea Sound**. By 1986 he had become a political reporter for **BBC Wales**, later rising to the position of chief parliamentary reporter for BBC News, a role which regularly brought him here to Westminster to report across a range of BBC programmes.

Born and brought up in Wales, Huw is passionate about the use of its beautiful language both at home and in his work. This passion was reflected in *The Story of Welsh*, which won him a **Bafta Cymru Award for Best Onscreen Presenter**.

As one of Britain's most respected presenters, Huw Edwards also has the honour of being the face or voice of the BBC at many prestigious national events, including the **Festival of Remembrance, Trooping of the Colour, the State Opening of Parliament** and **The Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton**.

Huw has the pleasure today of being able to introduce two choirs to which he has very close connections. He became President of **Cor Meibion Gwalia** in 2005, and was appointed President of **The London Welsh Male Voice Choir** earlier this year.



Michael Sani

Michael Sani is the co-founder of the grass roots youth engagement campaign, **Bite the Ballot**. It was whilst spreading the word of the campaign and its aims of inspiring everyday young people to play a role in democracy that Michael met Lord Roberts. The two quickly developed a working relationship and friendship and have enjoyed making politics accessible to many young people across England and Wales. Michael was delighted to be offered the chance to help develop Lord Roberts's vision for the Commonwealth Carnival and is honored to be one of your hosts today. A young man raised on a council estate in Nottingham he dares to challenge the norm and truly believes in change. For Michael, the carnival is a way of uniting the public with one of the most amazing buildings in the world and he hope this is spoken about for many years to come.



THE PRODUCERS

Janet McBride

Producer and Director



Janet McBride is a television producer, writer and archive film consultant. She began her career at the BBC, digging out archive film for such diverse programmes as **Newsnight**,

Reportage, **Rory Bremner** and **Shooting Stars**.

Later, as Head of Production for an independent production company, she was responsible for bringing to screen a variety of highly successful television series, including **Baddiel & Skinner Unplanned**, **Harry Hill** and the Al Murray sitcom **Time Gentlemen Please**. By 1998 she was producer of **Baddiel & Skinner's Fantasy World Cup Live** and by 2003 had become Series and Executive Producer at ITV Entertainment where she was responsible for the flag-ship entertainment shows, **Denis Norden's It'll be Alright on The Night**, **TV's Naughtiest Blunders** and the award winning **Kirsty's Home Videos**.

In recent years, Janet has divided her time between producing, writing, archive research and lecturing in Film & TV Production. Over the past 6 months she has generously donated both her time and expertise in order to bring the **Commonwealth Carnival of Music** to life.

Lord Roger Roberts of Llandudno

President



John Roger Roberts is from the Conwy Valley in North Wales. He was ordained as a Methodist Minister and one of the areas in which he served was Llangollen the home of the International Eisteddfod. Roger was delighted to have a small involvement in that incredible event which promotes understanding between so many countries. His ministry and political involvement (now as a member of the House of Lords) are part of that deep commitment to building bridges between people and, hopefully, moving towards a world fit for all children to live in. It is Roger's vision for this **Commonwealth Carnival of Music** and his limitless ability to motivate those around him which brings us all here today.

David McBride

Chairman and Chief Executive



David McBride is a chartered accountant and has been involved in politics and public life since the age of 15.

When asked by Lord Roger Roberts to lead the team organising the **Commonwealth Carnival of Music** he leapt at the chance to be involved in such a unique event. Roger and David have co-operated on many projects, but this is by far the most exciting. David has been able to combine his keen eye for figures with his longstanding interest in the performing arts; he is not only the Chairman and Chief Executive of the **Commonwealth Carnival of Music**, but also a member of the Parliament Choir.

David is a strong believer in the aims and benefits of the Commonwealth and is looking forward to celebrating today with so many representatives from around the world.



THE SPONSORS



The Commonwealth Carnival of Music would like to thank all our sponsors

Without their substantial contribution, this unique and memorable event would not have been possible.

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The Murals

Since the millennium, **Creative Peace Mural Society** has worked with communities in New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, Uruguay, Ukraine, Coast Salish, Uganda, Japan and China on 11 textile murals as part of their **Hands Around The World** project. These murals are all local art projects and draw upon values and themes important to each community. During 2012 a new piece has been created in Northern Ireland which embodies the Olympic and Paralympic values of truce, friendship and respect.

In celebration of the Olympic year, **Arts in Parliament**, in collaboration with **Creative Peace Mural Society**, brings the full collection of murals together for the first time - here in **Westminster Hall**.

Each piece features landscapes from around the world, includes the earth, sea and sky and illustrates day (sun) and night (moon) on the curve of the earth or on a horizon line.

The outer border is made up of handprints in gold, silver and copper from local participants involved in their community project, representing the people of the earth. The inner panel in the landscape shows the history, geography and culture of the local community or country.



Hands Around the World: Northern Ireland



The Diamond Jubilee Window

The stained glass window on display in the hall is a gift from Members of both Houses of Parliament on the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. It was presented to Her Majesty at the **Presentation of Addresses** by both Houses on 20 March 2012.

This beautiful window was designed and made by British artist, **John Reyntiens**, working with a dedicated and experienced team of draftsmen, painters and technicians in his

The design is a modern vision of a heraldic window. It takes its inspiration from the seventeenth century heraldic art and this country's long tradition of stained glass. The design process involved looking at heraldic art in other media, particularly woodcarving, in order to provide the three dimensional quality and the liveliness that the artist desired.

Production of the mouth-blown cylinders which form the sheets used in this project is an ancient craft; the variation and subtlety of such glass is an integral part of the window.

Producing the five crowns that can be seen in the design involved several processes. The team started with a 'flash' red glass, clear glass with a red layer, chosen for the rich velvet the crowns rest on. Acid etching was used to remove the red in the area of the crowns themselves. The crowns were then painted with a lead oxide paint, which was fired into the glass, to create both line and shade. Silver oxide stain was used to turn particular areas golden. Blue enamel was used for the sapphires and the emeralds. The emeralds have an additional layer of gold stain, which combined with the blue, form the required green.



studio. The window will remain on display so that Members and visitors can examine in detail the craftsmanship until it is installed in the three central panels of the north window in Westminster Hall during planned restoration work starting in late 2012.

The north and south windows of Westminster Hall were originally provided by **Henry VIII** and featured stained glass of the royal arms. Over the centuries the windows were re-designed and replaced several times. The north window has been fitted with plain glass since the Reformation, replaced after damage in 1974. The south window features a 1952 design by **Sir Ninian Comper**. This shows the arms or initials of Members and staff of both Houses who were killed in the Second World War, set around the centrepiece of the royal arms of **King George VI**. After installation in the north window, the new royal arms will reflect that of the south window opposite, together recalling the original provision by **Henry VIII**.

The window consists of nearly 1,500 pieces, all of which are held together in H sections of lead. The lead joints were soldered and the windows made waterproof using a putty-style product. Finally the lead was polished down to create the distinctive blue hue of a traditional stained glass window. This exacting and labour intensive technique has not changed significantly in the last 800 years.

The idea for this gift came from **Michael Ellis MP** (Northampton North) who established and chaired the **All-Party Parliamentary Group on The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**, which unanimously supported the proposal. Members from both Houses across political parties have funded in full by personal contribution the creation and installation of the window.

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The Abraham Darby Academy Showband



The **Abraham Darby Academy Showband** was formed over 30 years ago and is a culmination of the three other senior bands (Brass Band, Jazz Band & Senior Woodwind Ensemble) that are part of the Abraham Darby Academy Music Department.

The band has enjoyed unparalleled success in the Concert Band Sections of the **National Festival of Music for Youth** and the **National Concert Band Festival of Great Britain**, winning 17 National and 5 International awards since 1998.

One of the band's most recent highlights was the performance given at Carnegie Hall, New York

in March 2007. They were the only non-American band participating and came away with a Gold Award. As a result of this, and other successes since, they were invited

to perform again in Carnegie Hall in March 2010. The band played a 45 minute programme of concert band repertoire as part of the **Showcase Concert** in the **New York Wind Band Festival** and received four standing ovations!

The Showband's success continued in 2012 with a Platinum Award at the finals of the **National Concert Band Festival** held at the Royal Academy of Music in March.

The **Abraham Darby Academy Showband** is led by their Musical Director, the Academy's Head of Music, **Rachel Morton**.

Melodians Steel Orchestra

Formed in September 1987 by **Terry Noel**, the award winning **Melodians Steel Orchestra** has provided opportunities for young people from varied social and racial backgrounds to develop musical skills, techniques and a wide repertoire that includes classical, modern, calypso, pop and jazz compositions.

The London based group have performed several times at the **Commonwealth Day Service** in Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace Garden.

In February 2012, the orchestra performed their piece **Acirema** from their **Adopt a Composer Award** live on BBC Radio 3.

Melodians Steel Orchestra is well respected internationally too, having taken its distinctive sound to several countries, including a special performance for the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, an

appearance at **The Singapore Festival of Arts** and various events in Malta, Turkey, France, Dubai, Qatar, Lebanon, Poland, Austria, Russia, Morocco, Belgium, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, North Korea, India, and of course, Trinidad & Tobago. They can proudly claim to be the most travelled steel orchestra in the world.



The Melodians are the first steel orchestra to receive a **Performing Rights Society Enterprise Award**, a **Royal Anniversary Challenge Award**, and a **BT Innovation Award** but perhaps the highest accolade of all came when The Royal Chartered Borough of Arima in Trinidad recognised Terry's contribution to the spread of steelband music around the world by naming a street after him.



The Hartley Morris Men

The Hartley Morris Men were formed in 1952 in Hartley near Dartford, North Kent, but have been based in the nearby village of Wrotham for the last 34 years. Like Her Majesty The Queen, they too are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The dances they perform are in the Cotswold Style having been collected from traditional dances in villages around the Oxford area. They are a full member of



The Morris Ring, the association of men's Morris sides.

Their Diamond Jubilee

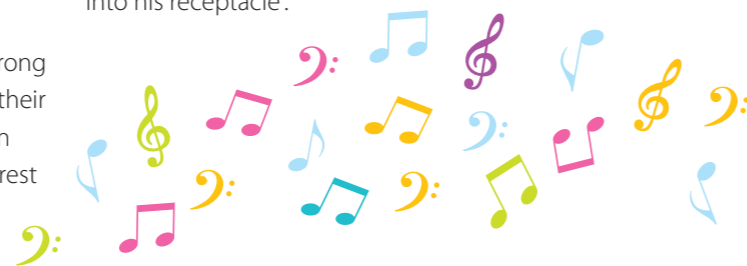
dancing season started with a performance at dawn on May 1st at the Coldrum Stones, a pre-historic Long Barrow, just off the Pilgrim's Way near Trottiscliffe. They will perform most Thursday evenings until the autumn, dancing in villages and towns throughout West Kent, generally outside the best local pubs.

The Hartley Morris Men are a strong singing side and usually round off their performances with a rousing session of folk related songs inside the nearest pub. This developed into forming

The Hartley Singers, who perform in folk clubs and at festivals.

In addition to their weekly activities they hold an annual weekend of dance and appear at various shows and major events. This year, to mark their 60th Anniversary, they will be hosting the 334th meeting of The Morris Ring in Wrotham.

As well as the dancers, a Morris side has a collection of characters. Hartley Morris has a horse, which is based upon a Kentish Hooded Horse. There is also a fool who dances solo jigs and occasionally keeps the dancers in order, a cake bearer in a tatter coat, who dispenses the cake on May Day morning, and the collector, who boosts the side's coffers and enables them to help local charities by inviting the audience to "partake of the good luck of the Morris by putting coins of the realm into his receptacle".



The Pipes & Drums of the London Scottish Regiment

The Pipes and Drums of the London Scottish Regiment are represented today by Lance Cpl Andy Parsons.

Formed in the year 1860, the band is proud of its long and unique history. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2010 and is one of the five oldest pipe bands in the world. The band also holds the distinction of being the oldest volunteer pipe band in the world, the oldest pipe band in the world still wearing the uniform of its inception, and the oldest pipe band in the world outside the regular British Army. The current band consists of a mixture of civilians, serving

Tattoo, The Royal Caledonian Ball and The Lord Mayor's Show. They have also been on tours to France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Holland, Italy and Gibraltar.

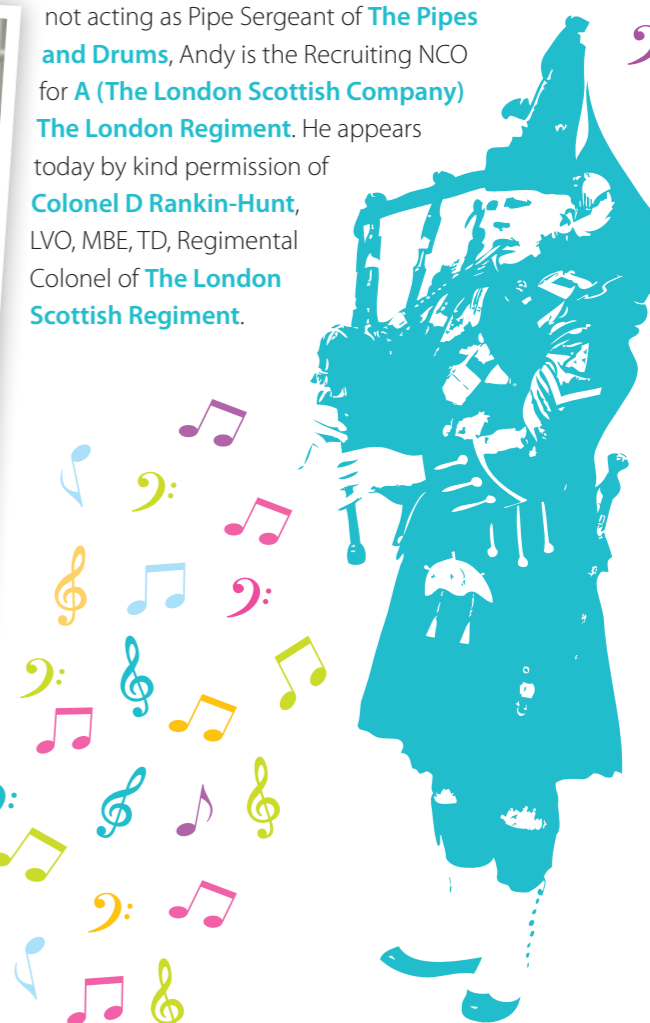
On top of their official military duties, The Pipes and Drums have appeared in stage plays and feature films such as Tunes of Glory and The Longest Day and can be spotted in any number of television and radio programmes, TV commercials or press advertisements.

There is no requirement to be of Scottish descent to join the band. Lance Cpl Andy Parsons was himself born in Newfoundland, Canada and has been a member of the Territorial Army here in the UK for 16 years. When not acting as Pipe Sergeant of The Pipes and Drums, Andy is the Recruiting NCO for A (The London Scottish Company) The London Regiment. He appears today by kind permission of Colonel D Rankin-Hunt, LVO, MBE, TD, Regimental Colonel of The London Scottish Regiment.



Territorial Army and former regular army or TA members.

The Pipes and Drums undertake many formal military duties for and on behalf of The Regiment throughout the year, including high profile events such as Beating Retreat on Horseguards Parade, The Windsor Military





Lord Watson of Richmond CBE



Connecting Cultures is the theme of the Commonwealth in this Diamond Jubilee year and this **Commonwealth Carnival of Music** celebrates that theme with joy and skill. This ancient hall which has seen and heard so much of Britain's history is today filled with the sounds and sights of the cultural wealth and diversity of the Commonwealth. Today the Commonwealth connects North and South and nations young and old. It is a network built on sharing – values, energy, imagination and it is also a family. So welcome to this family carnival as one of this year's best ways of saying thank you to the Head of the Commonwealth – **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**.

As Chairman of the **Council of Commonwealth Societies**, I have been much involved in this Commonwealth dimension of the Diamond

Jubilee and I do wish to thank all those who have organised this event, those who are performing at it, and those whose generous sponsorship has made it all possible.

Lord Watson of Richmond CBE



The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is the professional network of all Commonwealth parliamentarians, an active network of over 17,000 parliamentarians from Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK) is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual programme both in Westminster and overseas. Governed by an Executive Committee of parliamentarians from all main parties and with a membership of Members from both Houses of Parliament, CPA UK undertakes international parliamentary outreach on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA. Its specific focus is on parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary strengthening activity, seeking to foster co-operation and understanding between parliaments,

Through activities including conferences, seminars, bilateral delegations and fellowships CPA UK offers parliamentarians – from the UK and around the world – the opportunity to deepen their understanding of international issues and to explore first hand the challenges faced by countries across the Commonwealth. Topics discussed at events vary, ranging from peacebuilding to climate change,



aid effectiveness to human trafficking. CPA UK activities often serve as a launch-pad for coordinated international action between parliamentarians, laying the foundations for long-lasting positive relationships between individuals, committees and **All Party Parliamentary Groups**.

promote good parliamentary practice and advance parliamentary democracy.





OCEANIA

- 2 Australia
- 13 Fiji Islands*
- 21 Kiribati
- 30 Nauru
- 31 New Zealand
- 34 Papua New Guinea
- 39 Samoa
- 43 Solomon Islands
- 47 Tonga
- 53 Vanuatu

ASIA

- 4 Bangladesh
- 8 Brunei Darussalam
- 24 Malaysia
- 25 Maldives
- 33 Pakistan
- 42 Singapore
- 45 Sri Lanka
- 54 Zambia

NORTH AMERICA

- 1 Antigua and Barbuda
- 3 The Bahamas
- 5 Barbados
- 6 Belize
- 10 Canada
- 12 Dominica
- 19 Jamaica
- 36 St Kitts and Nevis
- 37 St Lucia
- 38 St Vincent and the Grenadines
- 48 Trinidad and Tobago

AFRICA

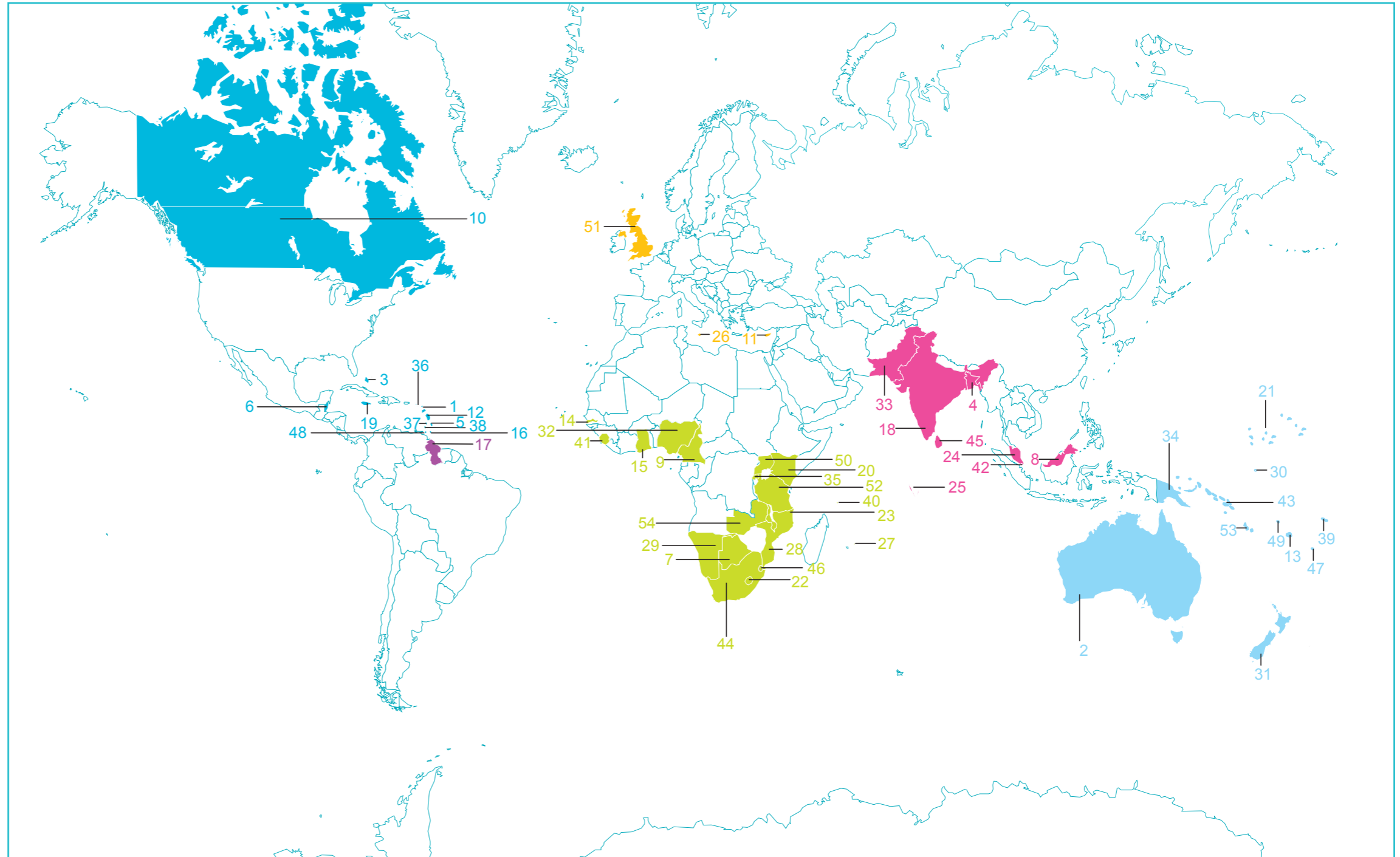
- 7 Botswana
- 9 Cameroon
- 14 The Gambia
- 15 Ghana
- 16 Grenada
- 20 Kenya
- 22 Lesotho
- 23 Malawi
- 27 Mauritius
- 28 Mozambique
- 29 Namibia
- 32 Nigeria
- 35 Rwanda
- 40 Seychelles
- 41 Sierra Leone
- 44 South Africa
- 46 Swaziland
- 50 Uganda
- 52 United Republic of Tanzania

EUROPE

- 11 Cyprus
- 26 Malta
- 51 United Kingdom

SOUTH AMERICA

- 17 Guyana



*Following the decisions taken by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on 31 July 2009, Fiji Islands was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009



Terry Waite CBE



Dear Guests

I have been fortunate enough to be President of the **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod** for the past 6 years and during that time I have met many singers and dancers from across the Commonwealth. They have brought a real sense of excitement to the gathering and to witness the procession through the streets of the town when they parade in their National Dress is an occasion not to be missed.

Now the Eisteddfod has come to London and how appropriate that Commonwealth participants in the Llangollen Festival should have an opportunity to perform there on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Llangollen, like the Commonwealth is a great family of nations and stands as a living symbol of peace. Music and the performing arts have the capacity to breathe harmony into the soul. All of us associated with the Eisteddfod owe our Commonwealth friends a special debt of gratitude for continuing to propagate the message of peace.

Long may they prosper!

Terry Waite CBE
President, *Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod*



Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

In 1947 the people of Llangollen took a very brave decision, a decision that would have an impact on the town. They voted to instigate a suggestion by **Harold Tudor**, supported by **W.S. Gwyn Williams**, the iconic Welsh composer and publisher, that Llangollen stage an International Eisteddfod based on Welsh Eisteddfodau principles that would help to bring the world together following the conflicts of the Second World War. The first International Eisteddfod saw 40 groups from 14 countries converge on a small town in a beautiful valley in North Wales and stage a Festival that would prove to be the template for similar Festivals all around the World in the forthcoming years.

Supported by a world-renowned President, **Terry Waite CBE** and with a Patron, **H.R.H., The Prince of Wales** who takes an active interest in the Festival, **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod** now regularly welcomes almost 40,000 visitors in one week in July to its town, its area and to Wales. Still at the core of the Festival, is the original aim that peace in the world can be helped by witnessing and understanding the different cultures of the world, and the peace message from the children of Wales to the children of the world remains at the heart of the Eisteddfod.



Soloists of The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir embodies the Commonwealth 2012 Theme *Connecting Cultures* by bringing together musicians of the 54 Countries of the Commonwealth, uniting them in the pursuit of musical excellence whilst transcending all cultural, political, social and economic boundaries.

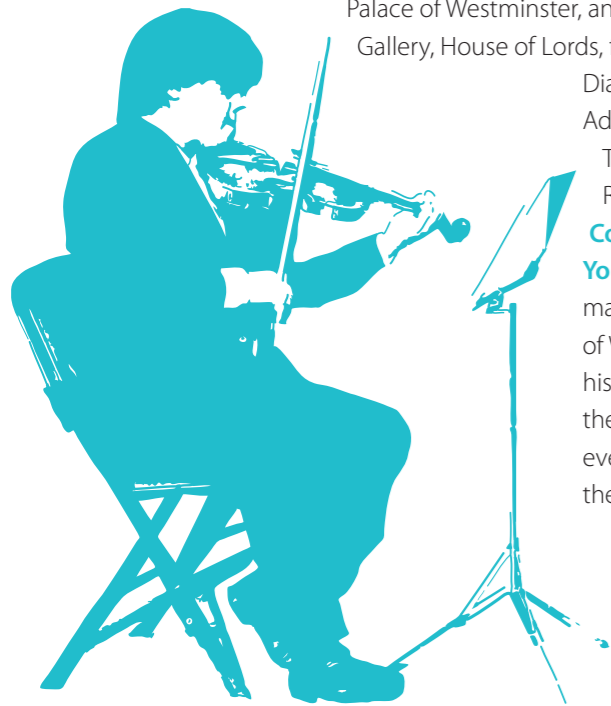


Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, honours the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir as its Diamond Jubilee Patron 2012.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir has the unanimous support of all Commonwealth Heads of Government, and this support was one of 30 unanimous agreements in the Final Communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 2011.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir regularly performs at highly prestigious events, including a 100th anniversary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association reception for The Speakers of Commonwealth countries in Speaker's House, Palace of Westminster, and in the Royal Gallery, House of Lords, following the

Diamond Jubilee Address for HM The Queen. Recently the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra made Palace of Westminster history by being the first musicians ever to perform in the Robing Room.



Playing a significant role in the 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebrations, on 5th June, following *The Diamond Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving* at St Paul's Cathedral, *The Soloists of The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir* performed for The Queen at The Mansion House and the same day they performed at Lancaster House for Commonwealth High Commissioners and Heads of State, hosted by The Foreign Secretary.

The next day they performed at a Marlborough House event, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary General for The Queen and Commonwealth Heads of Government.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir work with many celebrated international conductors and Maestro **Zubin Mehta** is its Music Patron. It has just launched a major pan-Commonwealth initiative: The Commonwealth Music Partnership.

Today *The Soloists of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra*, conducted by its Artistic Director and Composer in Residence, **Paul Carroll**, will perform the world premiere of *The Westminster Overture*, especially composed for this concert.

The work's unique line-up, designed specifically for Westminster Hall, comprises 3 trumpets, tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba, 3 clarinets, bass clarinet, 2 bassoons and 2 contra bassoons.



Guelph Chamber Choir

The Guelph Chamber Choir of Canada, founded in 1980, consists of talented amateur singers, most of whom have a formal music education, from a wide variety of occupations. With four or five concerts on its regular series, the choir's repertoire ranges from Renaissance masters to newly commissioned works, from classical repertoire to Broadway, and from masterworks for choir and orchestra to choral gems for unaccompanied voices. The GCC performs regularly with period instrument accompaniment for works such as Handel's *Messiah*, Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, Bach's *Mass in B minor* and *St. Matthew Passion*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and most recently, a Canadian premiere of the Brahms *German Requiem* with a period orchestra.

awards for Best Post-Secondary Ensemble. **Gerald Neufeld** has conducted much of the major choral/orchestral repertoire, specializing in historically informed performance practices in early music and performing works with period instruments.



Festival performances include *The Toronto International Choral Festival*, festivals in Salzburg and the Czech Republic, and the national *Guelph Spring Festival*. The GCC has toured in Great Britain, Ireland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Holland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark and has been broadcast a number of times on CBC Radio. Over its thirty two-year history, the choir has won a number of prizes in the *CBC National Competition for Amateur Chords*. Its discography includes six CDs.

Founding conductor, **Gerald Neufeld**, studied conducting in Canada, Germany and the USA (Doctor of Musical Arts degree). As a professor in the Faculty of Music, University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, he conducts choirs and teaches choral conducting at graduate and undergraduate level. Choirs under his direction have all won prizes in the *CBC National Competition for Amateur Chords*, and the UWO Singers and Thames Scholars have won three national





THE PERFORMERS

Heritage Dancers

The **Heritage Dancers** are regarded as one of the most prestigious dance schools in the whole of India. Led by **Professor RajPal Singh**, a leading figure in Indian folk dancing, their mesmerizing performances have not only thrilled audiences throughout India, but also at many festivals and folk events around the world.

They have been travelling from the Pataia in the Punjab, to perform at the **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod** for over twenty years, taking home trophies on a number of occasions.

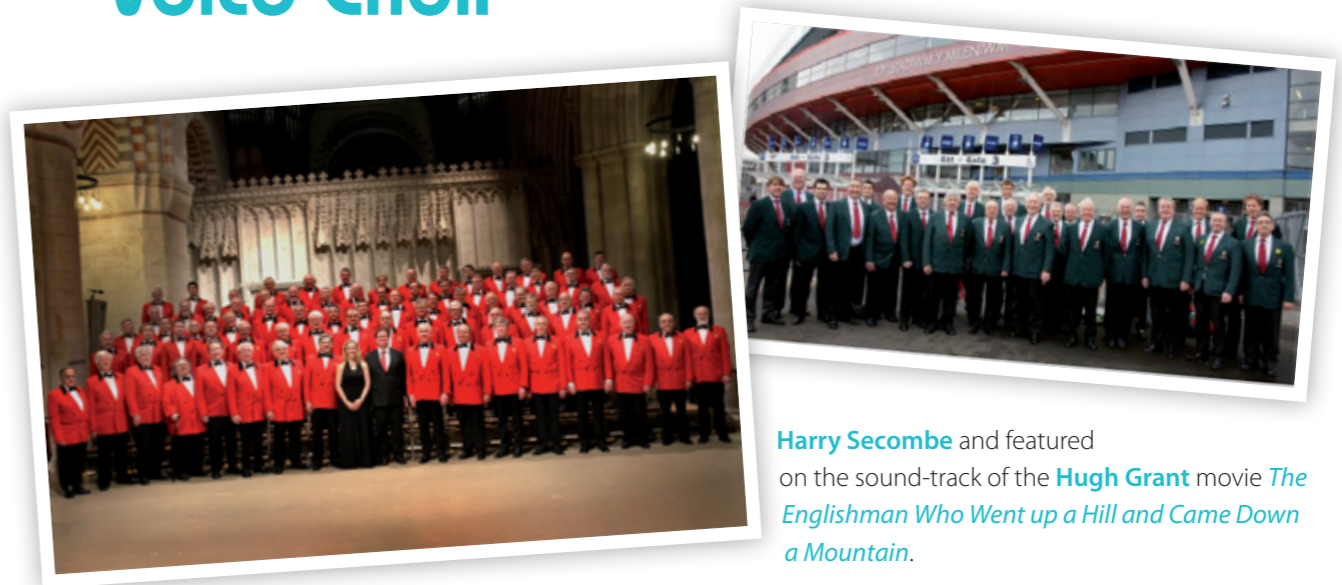
Through their colourful and energetic performances, the adults and children of the group aim not only to win trophies, but also to share their passion and knowledge of all aspects of Indian Dance by showcasing their dazzling choreographed folk dance skills on the worldwide stage.



THE PERFORMERS



Gwalia & London Welsh Male Voice Choir



Harry Secombe and featured on the sound-track of the **Hugh Grant** movie *The Englishman Who Went up a Hill and Came Down a Mountain*.

Led by **Hadyn James**

Wales and the Welsh community in London is represented by the combined voices of **Cor Meibion Gwalia** and **The London Welsh Male Voice Choir**.

In its 45 year history, **Cor Meibion Gwalia** has been a prize winner at the **Royal National Eisteddfod** and the **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**, and has toured extensively throughout Europe. The choir records regularly on radio and television and has given concerts at venues throughout the United Kingdom, including St James's Palace. It has recorded with **Shirley Bassey**, **Chris De Burgh** and the late

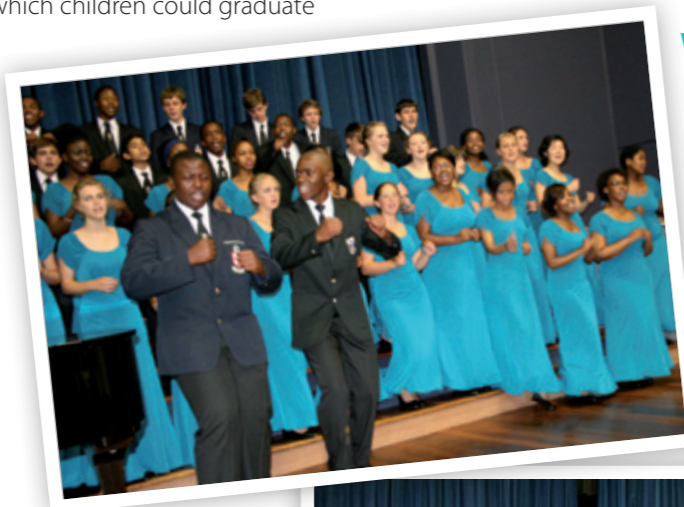
The London Welsh Male Voice Choir has a prestigious reputation which extends beyond the United Kingdom, having also toured extensively in Europe, Canada and the USA. It has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, Wembley Stadium, and in numerous cathedrals and concert halls in the UK. It is organising the **Wales Choir of The World** at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday July 7th, featuring **Bryn Terfel** as soloist and 500 voices drawn from five continents around the world, and will host a **Festival of Male Choirs** at the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Dr Haydn James was Musical Director of the **London Welsh Male Voice Choir** for 30 years. He has performed in major concert halls across the world, and has directed massed choir festivals at the Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House. As Musical Director for the **Welsh Rugby Union**, he has led the singing at more than 80 international games at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, as well as in France, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Accompanist: **Anita Mary Downing**

Midlands Youth Choir

Midlands Youth Choir of South Africa was founded in 2007 when its founder **Rykie Boeke** recognised the need for a place to which children could graduate once they had outgrown **The Pietermaritzburg Children's Choir (PMBCC)**. **Patrick Harty** subsequently took over the role of Choir Conductor in 2010, and was succeeded by **William Silk** in 2011.



accomplished performances are a wonderful testament to their talent and enthusiasm.

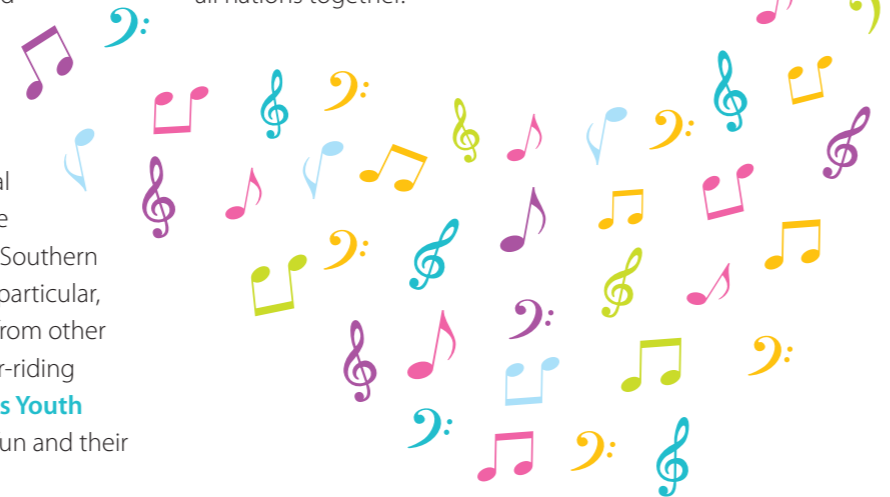
William Silk has conducted numerous choirs including **The South African National Youth Choir** and the internationally renowned **NKZN Youth Choir** with which he received a first place at the **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**.



Choristers are drawn from a broad spectrum of schools in the Pietermaritzburg district bringing with them an equally wide range of musical influences and talents, making for a diverse and interesting mix. Current membership stands at 65, welcoming students from 14 local schools. The choir strives through its membership to be fully representative of *the new South Africa*.

Children and young people are given the opportunity to expand their musical horizons through singing music more challenging than any they might ordinarily encounter in their individual school choirs. The repertoire embraces the Western and Southern African choral traditions in particular, but also showcases music from other parts of the world. The over-riding aspiration of the **Midlands Youth Choir** is to make singing fun and their

William's goal is to educate the youth of South Africa and the world through choral music. He believes that music is a language in which everyone can speak, and is one of the basic tools which can be used to bring all nations together.



Ngāti Rānana London Māori Club

In the late 1950s, a small group of New Zealanders living in London formed the **London Māori Club** and through the performance of traditional *waiata* and *haka*, began to promote the uniqueness of Māori.

As well as club nights and performances, **Ngāti Rānana** holds weekend *wananga* (extended training - learning sessions) and various social events throughout the year.



In 1971, the club was renamed the **Ngāti Rānana London Māori Club**. *Ngāti*, the Māori word for tribe, and *Rānana* the Māori transliteration of the word London.

The group went from strength to strength. Today **Ngāti Rānana London Māori Club** aims to provide New Zealanders residing in the United Kingdom and others interested in Māori culture, with an environment in which they can learn, practice and share knowledge of the traditional Māori performing arts – promoting both Māori culture and an understanding of *Aotearoa* (New Zealand) as whole.

The three guiding principles of **Ngāti Rānana** are *whanaungatanga* (togetherness), *manaakitanga* (hospitality and looking after one another) and *kōtahitanga* (unity).



Parliament Choir

Membership of **The Parliament Choir** is open to all who work in the Palace of Westminster – MPs, Peers and members of staff in either House.

The choir was founded in 2000 following a discussion between **Lord Filkin** and **Simon Over** (then Director of Music at St Margaret's Westminster) about the difficulty of belonging to a choir when working the irregular hours and fulfilling the responsibilities a career in Parliament demands. The choir now holds weekly rehearsals in St Mary Undercroft (the chapel within the Palace of Westminster) during parliamentary sessions, which allows MPs and Peers to leave rehearsals at the sound of the division bell in order to vote.

Under the inspirational guidance of Music Director, **Simon Over**, who is also Music Director of the fabulous **Southbank Sinfonia**, and Chorus Master, **Nicholas O'Neill**, **The Parliament Choir** has developed and grown.

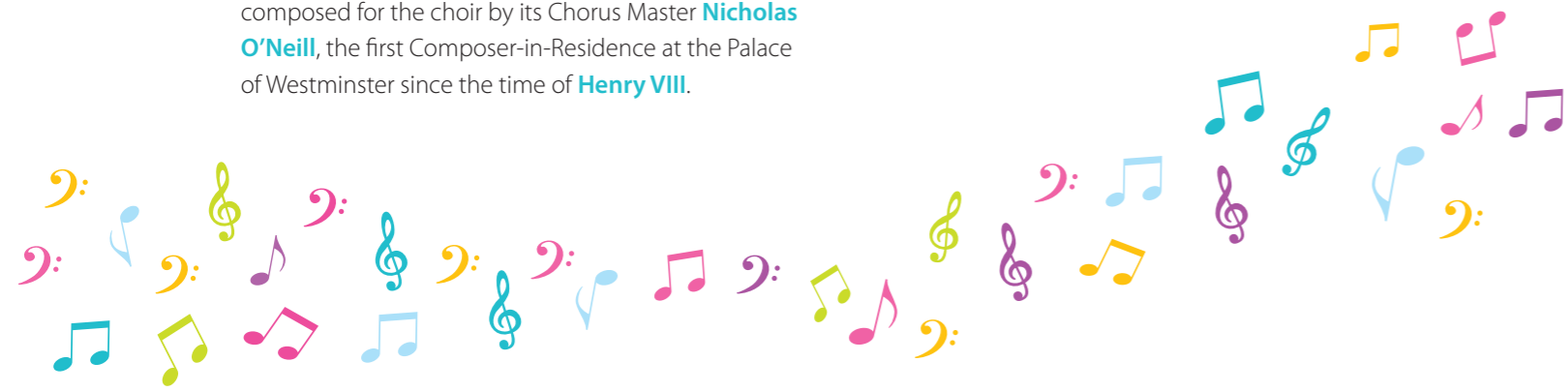
The choir's repertoire has been wide-ranging and ambitious, including an Opera Gala, Verdi's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and *Lobgesang*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Elgar's *Apostles* and *Ryba's Czech Christmas Mass* – in Czech! It has also performed several works composed for the choir by its Chorus Master **Nicholas O'Neill**, the first Composer-in-Residence at the Palace of Westminster since the time of **Henry VIII**.

The choir has been fortunate to sing with some exceptional guest soloists,



including **Sir Thomas Allen** (the choir's patron) and **Dame Felicity Lott**, and has collaborated on larger works with other choirs, including **The St. Michael's Singers** from Coventry and, in April 2012, **The Choir of the National Assembly of South Korea**.

Trumpet: **Raffaele Chieli**
Piano: **Nicholas O'Neill**
Conductor: **Simon Over**



Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir

Founded as **The Oriana Concert Choir** in November 2005 by Musical Director, **Daniel Calder**, **The Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir**, is based on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Australia. Oriana's adult choir is an auditioned SATB (Soprano Alto Tenor Base) choir which presented its debut concert to a capacity audience in April 2006.

From humble beginnings, **Oriana** has grown from strength to strength and after outstanding performances at the **Heritage Queensland Eisteddfod** in 2009 and again in 2011, the choir was awarded **Queensland Champion Choir** status.

Following its Eisteddfod success of 2009, the choir was inspired to reach for the stars and the vision was conceived to tour Europe and the United Kingdom in 2012, with the intention of performing at the **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod** in Wales.

This dream is to become reality only a few days after the **Commonwealth Carnival of Music**. During the 2012 tour **Oriana** will also perform at St Paul's Cathedral, St Martin in the Fields, Eglise St Merri and Eglise de la Madeleine in Paris, St Pieterskerk in Ypres and at the **Last Post Ceremony** at the Menin Gate.



The Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir has undertaken a variety of challenging works and productions including

Benjamin Britton's *Ceremony of Carols*, *Symphony of Psalms* by Stravinsky, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Mozart's *Requiem* with the **Brisbane Symphony Orchestra**. Embracing all genres, the choir has also performed Sixties and Seventies Musical Revues, a Movies Music Revue and a Lounge, Swing and Jazz Concert.

Musical Director, **Daniel Calder**, is acknowledged as one of Queensland's *leading choral conductors* and he is in great demand as a choral clinician and adjudicator.

Accompanist: **Fay Baker**



Watoto Children's Choir 52

Watoto means 'The Children', and through their inspirational songs and compelling stories, **Watoto Children's Choirs** are spreading a message of hope for Africa's children.

In 1992, **Gary and Marilyn Skinner** were moved with compassion concerning the critical orphan crisis in Uganda. As a result, **Watoto Child Care Ministries** was established as an outreach of Kampala Pentecostal Church, now called Watoto Church. Today, Watoto provides physical, emotional, educational and spiritual care for over 1,700 parentless children.

The goal of Watoto is to raise the next generation of Ugandan leaders by pursuing excellence in academic and practical skills, integrity in conduct and moral values, so that each child becomes a responsible and productive citizen.

Since 1994, **Watoto Children's Choirs** have toured internationally as ambassadors for orphan children in Uganda. '**Concerts of Hope**' inform people of Watoto's vital work and afford audiences the opportunity to participate in restoring hope and dignity to some of Africa's most needy children.

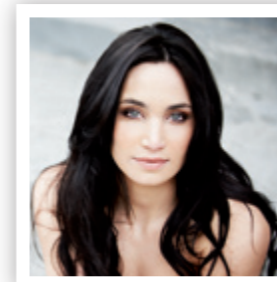
Each child in the choir has experienced tremendous personal tragedy, having lost one or both parents in the African AIDS crisis or other calamities. Now, through their music and dance, audiences around the world witness the life-transforming love of God experienced by the children of Watoto.



The choir's music and multimedia presentation is a soulful fusion of gospel and contemporary African style. Dressed in colourful costume, the children's enthusiastic song and energetic dance has moved audiences world-wide. In recent years **Watoto Children's Choirs** have had the privilege of singing for **Her Majesty the Queen** at Buckingham Palace, in the Houses of Parliament, The White House in Washington, and also at the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings** in Kampala.



Laura Wright & The Reading Blue Coat Schools Chamber Choir



Currently studying opera at the acclaimed **Royal College of Music**, Britain's exciting new soprano, **Laura Wright** won BBC Radio 2's **Chorister of the Year Award** when she was just 15 years old and has gone on to sell over one million albums to date. One of the UK's biggest-selling classical artists in 2011, she was the first female singer since Katherine Jenkins to reach Number One in the Classical Chart with her album, *The Last Rose*.

Laura, accompanied by the superb **Reading Blue Coat School Chamber Choir**, will perform *Stronger as One*, a new song specially written to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by composer (and chairman of the reading Blue Coat School Parents' Association) **Robert Hartshorne**. This performance will reprise its prestigious premier of March this year, when Laura and the choir entertained representatives from all over the Commonwealth gathered for the **2012 Commonwealth Day Observance Service** at Westminster Abbey. *Stronger as One*, again featuring **Reading Blue Coat School Chamber**



Choir, also features on Laura's album, *Glorious*, a collection of great British songs, old and new.

Beyond the Westminster Abbey, *FA Cup Final* and *Dancing On Ice Final* performances this year, Laura is proud to have performed for **HM The Queen** and **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** more times than any other artist during the Jubilee. Laura has just completed a UK tour with acclaimed tenor **Alfie Boe**, was the first soprano to perform at the Olympic Stadium and joined Russell Watson on the **Queen's Jubilee Tour**.





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THE DONORS

The Commonwealth Carnival of Music would like to thank our donors

Thanks go to the following individuals and organisations who have helped to make the Commonwealth Carnival of Music a reality

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THE TEAM



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The Commonwealth Carnival of Music is brought to you by:

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Janet McBride

President
Lord Roger Roberts of Llandudno

Chairman and Chief Executive
David McBride

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Mike Combes
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Andrew Tuggey
Julia Beck

For Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod
Paul Coleman
Gethin Davies
Christine Dukes

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Lord Alan Watson of Richmond, CBE

The Commonwealth Carnival of Music would like to thank all those, including our fabulous performers and our many volunteer helpers, who have given freely of their time to make this event possible.

Special thanks from all The Commonwealth Carnival Team go to the Yeoman Usher and all the Palace of Westminster Staff. Without the hard work of all the technical, facilities, visitor services and security staff, during a very busy year this event would not have been possible.

