THE MASSED VOICES OF INSPIRATION AND ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA, ORCHESTRA OF SAGE GATESHEAD PRESENT

JOY TO THE WORLD

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2015, 3PM AND 7.30PM
HALL ONE, SAGE GATESHEAD

TICKET OFFICE: 0191 443 4661
BOOK ONLINE: WWW.SAGEGATESHEAD.COM

CINEMA PARADISO

12 JULY 2015
HALL ONE, SAGE GATESHEAD
MUSIC DIRECTOR: GARY GRIFFITHS
NARRATOR: CHARLIE CHARLTON
MUSIC MAKING AND LEARNING FOR ADULTS

The Adult Programme provides a wide variety of evening vocal and instrumental classes. If you enjoy performing there are plenty of opportunities for you to show off your skills. Some of our groups even get to perform on stage with visiting performers.

Did you know we also offer VIP experience days? We can create bespoke VIP music-making experiences – go backstage, record your music and take a copy home with you.

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MUSIC MAKING AND LEARNING FOR PEOPLE OVER 50
SILVER PROGRAMME

The Silver Programme provides a wide variety of daytime musical activities for people over 50, within a relaxed, informal and supportive environment with many classes taking place at Gateshead Old Town Hall.

There’s something for everyone, from absolute beginners to experienced players.

silver@sagegateshead.com

THE LIGHTS ARE DIMMING...

Made famous by Alison Krauss, ‘Down To The River To Pray’ is originally thought to have been composed by an African-American slave. Then titled ‘The Good Old Way’ it was published in ‘Slave Songs of the United States’ in 1867.

It always seems to fit us well when we return to the world of movie soundtracks. I think it must be the epic nature of the music, especially when the singers are used as part of the orchestra to create that filmic soundworld. Interestingly though it is the wordless songs (with the choir singing ‘ah’ or humming) that are usually the hardest to memorise – having lyrics seems to give the singers something to hang the notes on.

As usual we have had a great time this term learning the new songs and refreshing those we have done before. For the more familiar ones we always try and dig a bit deeper, thinking more about the story behind the lyrics. Songs like ‘The Rose’ can seem very familiar, but when we take the time to examine every word and the reason for the words, it makes the whole thing much more involving for the singers, and hopefully for you too in the audience.

The lights are dimming, so settle back and enjoy the sounds of... Cinema Paradiso.

Gary Griffiths, Inspiration Music Director and Founder

About Gary...

I have been singing for as long as I can remember. Wolverhampton Grammar School was my major musical influence – School Choir, Choral Society, Musical Theatre Group, Jazz Band - alongside the Youth Orchestra and the Concert Band.

When it came to University it had to be music, and so to York. Three wonderful years of music making also included being Chorus Master for York Light Opera and MD for Pickering Musical Society.

I then became a tenor in the Choir of York Minster with all that entails; daily services as well as many world tours, concerts and recordings. After 18 years, I left and became part of the creative team behind the formation of SingLive.

Now, with Inspiration as my sole focus, I really do have my dream job. Weekly rehearsals and trips around the country and abroad are a joy.
Royal Northern Sinfonia, Orchestra of Sage Gateshead, is the UK’s only full-time chamber orchestra and the leading professional orchestra in the North East. Since its inception in 1958, it has built a distinctive reputation as a fresh-thinking and versatile orchestra, performing with a trademark zest and stylistic virtuosity. It is the only UK orchestra to have a purpose-built home for all its rehearsals, concerts and recordings.

‘There is no better chamber orchestra in Britain’, The Guardian

Playing a wide repertoire of diverse orchestral music, RNS works regularly with a roster of globally renowned artists from all genres. The new season sees the orchestra work with Christian Tetzlaff, Christian Lindberg, Olli Mustonen, Paul McCreesh, Robert Levin, Montenegrin guitarist Milos Karadaglic and a host of world-class singers including Sally Matthews, Karen Cargill and Elizabeth Watts. They have also collaborated with leading popular voices such as Sting, Ben Folds and John Grant. The orchestra contributes to the continuing re-invention of orchestral repertoire with regular commissions and premieres, most recently from Benedict Mason and David Lang, John Casken and Kathryn Tickell.

Open in its approach and broad in its reach, Royal Northern Sinfonia engages audiences and communities throughout its own region as well as further afield, with residencies at festivals from Aldeburgh to Hong Kong, as well as regularly featuring in the BBC Proms and neighbouring Edinburgh Festival. Back home at Sage Gateshead, Royal Northern Sinfonia works with adults of all ages and young people, through the Young Musicians Programme and In Harmony project, both of which provide unbeatable instrumental learning opportunities.

This season is the first with new Music Director Lars Vogt, along with new Principal Guest Conductor, Julian Rachlin. Both internationally-renowned soloists perform as well as conduct throughout the season, alongside Conductor Laureate, Thomas Zehetmair.

For more information about the orchestra and its home, visit sagegateshead.com

Charlie Charlton co-presents the Breakfast Show with Alfie Joey on award-winning BBC Newcastle, weekdays, 7 – 10am. The station now reaches more people than any other local BBC radio station outside London. Charlie also presents on BBC Radio 5Live, and has reported for the World Service and 6Music. Her interviews have also featured on Panorama and Newsnight.

Charlie is a well-known face, presenting the television news for BBC Look North, and reporting for the regional current affairs programme Inside Out.

Born in Gateshead, Charlie studied and worked in London and overseas, before heading back to her beloved North East more than ten years ago.

Charlie is patron of the charity Changing Lives which helps homeless and vulnerable people across the region, and is patron for a charity in Newcastle for disabled children and their families.

Cliff Lee is an experienced BSL communicator who has worked with Sage Gateshead since 2004. Amongst other projects, Cliff has set up several signed song choirs within the North East. He also runs courses for teachers and other trainers and facilitates Sign Song workshops across the community.

Cliff holds a BSL Level 3 certificate, and has completed a teaching degree. In his spare time he is learning to play the piano and enjoys nothing more than looking after his twin grandsons.

Cliff has been working with Inspiration since they started in 2009. He loves working with the choir and is looking forward to introducing more people to the joy of song through the beauty of sign language.

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Charlie is patron of the charity Changing Lives which helps homeless and vulnerable people across the region, and is patron for a charity in Newcastle for disabled children and their families.
Mark has a wealth of experience as a pianist, performer, arranger, musical director and lecturer, and his award-winning company Music Newcastle is a recommended supplier of live music to some of the top venues in the North East. Mark’s MD credits include a recent autobiographical show for Faye Tozer (Steps), running a choir for Magic Radio’s 2013 and 2014 Cash for Kids campaigns, ‘West Side Story’, ‘Buddy’ and ‘The Sound Of Music’. He is also the MD for Inspiration’s ‘sister’ pop choir in Newcastle, Echo.

Where are we going to visit next? This is a question I’ve been asked quite frequently this term. Well, we are working on it and I’m sure you won’t be disappointed! I love this stage, looking at options and imagining singer’s reactions.

There is always much to consider in the planning stage whether it be for a concert day itself, charity concerts or full scale Inspiration trips abroad. Of course we have a bigger family now for our trips away, with Inspiration Southampton coming on board!

Bookings are already coming in from church groups and charities for us to sing for them at Christmas. We look forward to these smaller, more intimate concerts just as much as our Sage concerts. It’s going to be a busy December so if you would like us to sing for you then please get in touch. Till next time…

And yet again more foreign words to learn this term – a different African language, some Italian and Vangelis’ ‘Conquest Of Paradise’ (a ‘pseudo-Latin language’ according to Google). The English language songs also take us all over the world and through a range of musical styles. There are some firm favourites and plenty of familiar friends. I bet you’ll be struggling not to join in!

Learning the words (the proper words!) can be the biggest task for some of us. Every voice section has its own Mrs Malaprop or Mr Spooner to add to the confusion. Even our leader Gary threw us when he asked us to sing from the line ‘she broke your nose’? I’ll leave you with the challenge of identifying which song and what the words should be.

‘Suddenly’ is a song created especially for the 2012 film adaptation of the stage musical Les Misérables. It was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2012.

Dorothy lives in Birtley. She is 66 years young and works as a Grants Administrator at Newcastle University. She is also Chair of Governors at her local school.

Dorothy has been a member of Inspiration since it began in 2009.

How long have you been singing?
Many, many years. From the age of 12 I was a member of my church choir and was very lucky to have a Choir Mistress who was connected to Durham Cathedral. My Granny wanted to send me for singing lessons but I didn’t want to be different from my friends and would not go. Oh how I wish I had!

What made you join Inspiration?
Oh that’s easy, Sue Mitchell. After sharing an office with her one summer she asked if I would like to go to a concert at Sage Gateshead. I sat on the edge of my seat all the way through and told the couple next to me I’d be up there for their next concert. Come the Monday morning, my application was submitted and so it all began.

Do you sing with any other choirs?
I also sing with Inspiration’s ‘sister’ choir, Echo Newcastle. We are around 75 strong and sing all manner of pop songs. We have a wonderful time with our leader Mark Deeks (he of the nodding head sat at the piano within the orchestra). It’s a little more relaxed than Inspiration, but none the less hectic, adding another 12 or 14 songs to the brain each term.

What kind of music do you most enjoy singing?
Thankfully I like many genres of music, which is just as well as we can go from singing a metal song in Icelandic to a beautiful classical piece in Latin. Then of course there’s the odd show tune in Zulu!

How does singing make you feel?
When you’ve had a miserable day you arrive at rehearsals and within five minutes you instantly feel lifted. Afterwards you float out of the room with music in your head and a smile on your face. Research has already proved that singing in a group is a remarkable phenomenon which helps keep the brain active for longer (here’s hoping). If anyone could bottle it I’m sure they would make a fortune.

If you could sing anywhere in the world where would it be?
I think it would take somewhere like Sydney Opera House although in the meantime I would accept The Royal Albert Hall or St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

What’s your favourite Inspiration highlight?
There have been many – the first time I stood on the stage at Sage Gateshead, singing our Hunchback medley on the Seine just outside Notre Dame, but the ultimate has to be singing in New York last year and the standing ovation we received at Carnegie Hall.
The lyrics for ‘Dry Your Tears, Afrika’ are based on a poem by Ivorian writer Bernard Binlin Dadié published in 1967. It is about healing the wounds of slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism.

The lyrics for ‘I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles)’ are from the Scottish folk song ‘Loch Lomond’, with additional lyrics by James Hope and Jacklin J. Hope.

The lyrics for ‘The Rose’ are from the Scottish folk song ‘The Skye Boat Song’, with additional lyrics by Jacklin J. Hope.

The lyrics for ‘Hallelujah’ are based on a 19th-century English folk song called ‘When I survey the Wondrous Cross’. They were rewritten by Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen.

The lyrics for ‘Down To The River To Pray’ are from the American spiritual song ‘Down To The River’. They were adapted by film composer Alan Bergman.

The lyrics for ‘I See Fire’ are from the Scottish folk song ‘The Black Cauldron’, with additional lyrics by Jacklin J. Hope.

The lyrics for ‘Conquest Of Paradise’ are based on the 13th-century French chanson ‘Au clair de la lune’. They were adapted by film composer Vangelis.

The lyrics for ‘Barry Manilow Medley’ are from various songs, including ‘Mandy’, ‘Love’s In Need Of Love Today’, ‘I Write The Songs’, ‘Can’t Stop Lovin’ You’, and ‘Makin’ Love’. They are arranged by David Karp.
Keep up to date with all the latest news from Inspiration and Echo by visiting www.inspirationuk.com or join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/inspirationandecho.

*Skyfall* was the first Bond theme to win at the Golden Globes, the Brit Awards and the Academy Awards.
WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

Hello you budding singers in Southampton. How do you fancy being part of Inspiration Southampton and having the opportunity to sing with the world class Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)?

Sunday 3rd May was the date and the day before 180 singers from Leeds and Newcastle made the journey down from the north in a convoy of coaches to take part in a singing workshop. Their quest was to welcome potential new singers in Southampton and encourage them to join our Inspiration family.

At 9.30am the doors to O2 Guildhall Southampton opened and nearly 150 newbies tentatively entered the building, wondering what the day had in store.

The excitement in the O2 Guildhall Southampton was palpable! Potential new singers mingled with ‘old hands’ and after a few encouraging words from Dougie Scarfe (CEO of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra) they were off! Straight into Gary warm-ups, familiar to many of us but new to so many too, and time for Gary to try out some of his favourite jokes [groan]. That said, however many times you’ve heard them, they still manage to make you laugh.

With warmups over, Gary handed over to Pete Harrison, the new Music Director for Inspiration Southampton.

We could all feel that this was going to be the start of something great. Let’s get singing then. ‘Love Changes Everything’, ‘Blackadder’, ‘World In Union’ and ‘Do You Hear The People Sing?’ were the songs for the day. What a great mix to begin the journey!

At 2.30pm we were joined by musicians from BSO to accompany us so that we could perform for Southampton singers’ families and friends - a real showcase for what we had learned that day. We were also joined by two people, Jill and David Peters, who had sponsored the workshop day and made it possible for the Northern singers to make the trip. Clearly moved by the experience, Jill and David stayed behind to talk to the choir members to hear what being part of a large choir meant to so many. The day was almost over but there was one last thing to do...

Let’s start singing ‘Do You Hear The People Sing?’ inside the O2 Guildhall Southampton and follow Gary and Pete out into the square through the main doors singing as we go. How fitting! What a perfect end to a perfect day (there’s a song in that somewhere!).

New friendships had been forged that day. A promise of support from singers in Newcastle and Leeds to travel and see Inspiration Southampton’s first concert and for Southampton, the possibility of joining us for trips abroad and other Inspiration events as they unfold.

Inspiration Southampton are well into rehearsals now and judging by the comments on our website, they are loving every minute of it. Their first concert, called ‘Do You Hear The People Sing?’, is on 19th July. It features a fantastic mix of songs, including many of our favourites, from ‘Anthem’ to ‘World In Union’, ‘Bridge Over Troubled Water’ to ‘Hallelujah Chorus’, to name but a few.

Jealous? You bet we are. Many on stage today will remember the nerves and excitement of their first concert.

So, 3pm Sunday 19th July – ‘This Is The Hour’. May you have a fantastic day Southampton. Enjoy every minute of it, it flies by.

See you there...
How did you become a musician?
I started keyboard classes in a small room full of ten children at five years old. The noise was quite something! Then when I was about eight my grandparents took me to London to see The Phantom Of The Opera. It was the first time I had ever heard an orchestra in my life and it left a great impression on me. I started learning violin, viola, clarinet, saxophone and I sang. One day I heard the oboe being played on the radio and decided that was the instrument for me!

Where are you from originally?
Originally I hail from Northallerton, North Yorkshire, so just down the road!

How did you come into your current position within the orchestra?
I went to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and at the Paris Conservatoire. After graduating I started freelancing as guest principal oboe with many of the big London orchestras until I got the job up here in 2013.

What have been your highlights since playing with RNS?
There have been many highlights for me; Thomas Zehetmair’s leaving concert with Beethoven 5 was amazing, working with Lars Vogt our new music director has also been a great privilege. There’s been some incredibly fun stuff we’ve done too such as getting to play Red Dwarf, Star Wars and a Frozen medley!

Why do you love the Inspiration concerts?
They remind me of all the music I loved when I was growing up, from Disney to Broadway! They’re always great fun to do as well; you’ll see many smiles from the orchestra in Inspiration concerts, and the choir make such a great massive sound!

Steven Hudson was appointed as Section Leader Oboe with Royal Northern Sinfonia in 2013. He is also Professor of Oboe at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.