



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director  
**SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO**

Director of Opera  
**OLIVER MEARS**

# SONGS FOR UKRAINE

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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### INTRODUCTION

Songs for Ukraine is a creative exchange between the Royal Opera House and displaced Ukrainians produced by ROH Learning & Participation. The project has created a space for 150 Ukrainians to make music and connect with one another, and with the Royal Opera House. Beginning in September 2022, the project has continued to grow and evolve, with the group performing for the first time at the Royal Opera House in March 2023.

The power of music to unite us in times of great difficulty has been a theme throughout and today's programme celebrates over 1,000 years of Ukrainian Christmas music, from ancient pre-Christian carols to the well-loved "Carol of the Bells". As is customary in Ukrainian song culture, this includes "Kolyadka" which signifies the birth of Christ and "Shchedrivka" which brings wishes for well-being, a rich harvest, and family happiness.

### ROYAL OPERA CHORUS SONGS FOR UKRAINE CHOIR

Conductor/Royal Opera Chorus Director **WILLIAM SPAULDING**  
Conductor **BOHDAN PARASHCHAK**  
Assistant Chorus Master **GENEVIEVE ELLIS**  
Chorus Manager **LEE BAMFORD**  
Assistant to the Chorus Manager **BRODIE SMITH**

Pianist **BERRAK DYER**  
Flautist **SOFIIA MATVIENKO**

Director of Learning and Participation **JILLIAN BARKER**  
Senior Opera Manager, Learning & Participation **TOM FLOYD**  
Project Manager **CAROLINE FOULKES**  
Opera Officer, Learning & Participation **NIAMH MURPHY**

The Royal Opera House would like to thank **JARED KEATING**,  
**THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF LONDON**,  
**ST PAUL'S CHURCH COVENT GARDEN**,  
**THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN LONDON** and **UKRAINIANS IN LONDON** for their support of Songs for Ukraine

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023

## PROGRAMME

Oh, God **TRADITIONAL** (Soloists **TETIANA MAKOVEI** and **OLHA TERLETSKA**)

Reading 1 - Ancient Songs - read by **OLGA DUDNIK**

- A Peahen walks **ANATOLY AVDIJEVSKIJ**

(Soloist **SOLOMIIA HAVRYLOVA**)

- The Crown Prince asked **HANNA HAVRYLETS** arr. **MYKOLA HOBDYCH**

(Soloist **DARIA MOSKALIUK**)

- The Grey Cuckoo arr. **KYRYLO STETSENKO**

Reading 2 - Wonder and Joy - read by **YAROSLAVA MATVIENKO**

- A Wondrous Birth arr. **VASYL BARVINSKIJ**

(Soloist **ARINA KOROLETSKA**)

- A New Joy arr. **KYRYLO STETSENKO**

- Immaculate Virgin **TETYANA VLASENKO**

(Soloists **OLHA TERLETSKA** and **OLESKII ZASIADKO**)

Clear stars covered the sky arr. **BOHDAN SERHIN**

(Soloists **DARIA MOSKALIUK**)

Reading 3 - Sorrow and Comfort - read by **SVITLANA DANKEVYCH**

- Oh, the Grey Cuckoo **MYKOLA LEONTOVYCH**

(semi-chorus marked with \*)

- Do not weep, Rachel **TEOFIL KUPCHYNS'KYJ**

(Soloist **OLESKII ZASIADKO**)

- Silent Night **FRANZ XAVER GRUBER**

Reading 4 - The Sound of Bells - read by **VALERIA ZHMINIA**

- Jerusalem Bells arr. **STEPAN HUMINILOVYCH**

(Soloist **OLESKII ZASIADKO**)

- Two falcons flew by **IVAN NEBESNIJ** arr. **MYKOLA HOBDYCH**

(Soloist **DARIA MOSKALIUK**)

- Carol of the Bells **MYKOLA LEONTOVYCH** arr. **ANATOLY AVDIJEVSKY**

(Soloists **DARIA MOSKALIUK** and **ARINA KOROLETSKA**)

Reading 5 - read by **OKSANA DUBYK**

- Auld Lang Syne **TRADITIONAL** arr. **TOM FLOYD**

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## THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron **THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES**

Music Director **SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO**

Director of Opera **OLIVER MEARS**

Director of Casting **PETER MARIO KATONA**

Administrative Director **CORMAC SIMMS**

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## MAKE A DONATION

The project is part of the Royal Opera House's wider commitment to supporting the people of Ukraine. In March 2021, we announced a series of fundraising initiatives in support of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. If you wish to make a donation, please visit the below link.

[donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal](https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal)

# UKRAINIAN CHORUS

Marina Azarchenko, Olena Banas, Mariia Bezusa, Vitalie Bilac, Darka Bilan, Tetyana Bilyk, Oksana Bilyk, Daria Bitsiuk, Daria Blyzniuk, Oksana Bolshakova, Sava Cebotari, Daryna Chorna, Nataliia Chorna, Liuba Colotelo, Mihai Colotelo, Svitlana Dankevych, Oksana Dubyk, Olga Dudnik, Volodymyr Dudro, Olga Fedorak, Tamara Fedotyiuk\*, Vladyslav Fitser, Olena Geda, Natalia Ginzburg, Alina Goncharova, Svitlana Granovska, Kateryna Gudzenko, Solomiia Havrylova\*, Tetiana Hnatiuk, Olena Hodlevska, Yuriy Holubenko, Dmytro Hovorov, Mihai Hrabatin, Nataliia Hrabovska, Orysia Hunder, Denys Iliasov, Gregory Ivahnenko, Sergei Ivanchuk, Odarka Iwanczuk, Vera Jajechnyk, Kateryna Karpenko\*, Viktoriia Khadzhyu\*, Lesia Khomichak, Valentyna Klymova, Petro Kochanskyy, Oksana Kolomiets, Nataliia Komarovska, Lidiia Kondratyk, Volodymyr Korochentsev, Yuliana Korochentseva, Arina Koroletska\*, Valeriya Kosmidaylo\*, Tanya Kot, Olena Krap, Mariia Krapivina, Nataliia Kravchenko, Milena Kravchenko, Olena Krupnova, Veronika Kryzhanivska, Halina Kuchera, Katya Kuznetsova, Anna Lapczak, Kateryna Lastenko, Lesia Lescinsca, Olena Leshchenko, Andrii Loboda, Tetiana Loskutova, Karina Luchinkina, Ivanna Lukiian, Alina Luts, Ira Luzina, Tetiana Makovei, Valentyna Malaspina, Iryna Marciuk, Yuliia Matiichuk, Yaroslava Matvienko, Anastasiia Medolyz, Julia Melenets, Yuliia Meleshyn, Olena Melnychenko, Vasylyna Melnyk, Lyuba Mikhalovska, Oleksandr Moroz, Marharyta Morozova, Valeria Morozova, Daria Moskaliuk\*, Svitlana Mykhailova, Khrystyna MysakProtsiv, Bohdan Naumenko, Olena Naumenko, Oleksandra Nepomiashcha, Renata Neporozhnia, Yulia Oborska, Yaroslav Odnorogov, Svitlana Omelchenko, Tetiana Opanasenko, Tetiana Orlovska, Kateryna Ozatska, Yousef Panchenk, Inna Panchuk, Olena Perederii, Iryna Perova, Olha Petruk\*, Anna Pikh, Kostiantyn Ponomar, Dana Puhlyk, Anastasia Pylypyshyn, Oksana Pylypyshyn, Mariia Raievska\*, Liliia Revak, Mathieu Robert, Iryna Rodionova, Kseniia Romaniuk, Demian Rud, Jurgis Rudavicius, Nataliia Rumyantseva, Nataliia Rusinko, Robin Sadler, Marharyta Saranchuk, Anzhela Savchenko, Peter Sawula, Mariana Semenکو, Svitlana Shamina\*, Nataliia Shapovalova, Anastasiia Shupyk, Olha Shvets, Olga Skachko, Darina Soldatenko, Sofiia Stelmakh, Anatolii Stepaniuk, Viktoriia Svidko, Tetiana Tanska, Oleksandr Tarabukhin, Anna Tarasenko, Olha Terletska\*, Daryna Torgovtseva, Tetiana Tsymbal, Vira Tsypuk, Olesia Turok, Maria Turynska, Anatolii Vasylyshyn, Anna Vlasenko, Larysa Vlasiuk, Anastasia Vvedenska, Olenka Yasinska, Denys Yeltarov, Roman Zahasaylo, Ihor Zapolukh, Oleksii Zasiadko, Inna Zhdanova, Valeria Zhminka\*

# TRANSLATIONS

## OH, GOD

Oh, how it was from time immemorial. Oh God.  
Oh, how there was no heaven and earth, Oh God.  
And there was only a blue sea, Oh God  
There were fires burning in the sea, Oh God.  
Saints sat around those fires. Oh God.  
They advised who should be sent down into the sea. Oh God. Oh,  
go, Peter, to the bottom of the sea, Oh God.  
And Peter, bring the yellow sand, Oh God.  
And we will sow it all over the world, Oh God.  
To give birth to heaven and earth, Oh God.  
The sky with stars, the earth with flowers, Oh God.

## A PEAHEN WALKS

A peahen walks, dropping its feathers,  
A bountiful evening to all the folks!  
Behind her, a beautiful maiden follows.  
Gathering the feathers, hiding them under her arms.  
She takes them and makes a garland.  
Carrying the garland to the dance.

## THE CROWN PRINCE ASKED

The Crown prince inquired,  
is there such a wife so admired,  
a wife like our lady, so gentle and rare,  
like our maiden, noble queen with such flair?

In her courtyard, each day's a grand fête,  
she rules the land, councils deliberate.  
The first council speaks of vineyards, you see,  
where to plant them, and make wine so free?

The second council is for caroling sound,  
how to receive them, with gifts all around?  
And the third council for her offspring's grace,  
how to guide them, teach and embrace.

Sons to wed princesses, majestic and bright,  
daughters to lords, in power's great light,  
Daughters to lords, that's the grand plan,  
And with this wish, we'll be hearty and grand!

Let it be so! Let it be so!

## OH, THE GREY CUCKOO

Oh, the grey cuckoo,  
A bountiful evening, a good evening, good health to good people!  
I fly around all the gardens...  
There is one I have not yet visited...  
Where there are three towers...  
In the first, the sun is beautiful...  
In the second, the moon is clear...  
And in the third, there are small stars...  
The clear moon, is the master of the house...  
The red sun is his wife...  
The little stars are his children...

## A WONDROUS BIRTH

What is this miracle  
What is this news that,  
The Virgin Mary gave birth to a Son.  
When he was born  
She looked upon him and said  
"My child is Jesus".

Old Joseph,  
Is standing by the manger,  
Laying out cloth for Jesus Christ,  
While the Virgin Mary sings and holds her baby close.

## **A NEW JOY**

A New joy has been revealed,  
That has never been seen before  
Above the manger, a bright star shines throughout the world.

Where Christ was born,  
Son of a Virgin,  
Like a man in a shroud,  
Humbly swaddled.

Shepherds with their lambs,  
Before the child,  
Fall on their knees,  
And praise our Lord and King.

We ask beseech thee, Oh Lord  
We beseech you this day  
Grant freedom, fortune and a happy destiny  
To our dear Ukraine!

## **IMMACULATE VIRGIN**

And all the people rejoiced at Christ's birth.  
She gave birth to a son on the hay.  
The Holy Virgin gave birth to a Son, rejoice!

And a man came to seek the Son, to seek him  
Holy Virgin, where is the work of your Son?  
The Holy Virgin gave birth to a Son, rejoice!

She carried the Son into the darkness of the forest, carried her Son into  
the blue sea.  
The Holy Virgin gave birth to a Son, rejoice!

The sea sparkled, the Son was taken away.  
And all the people rejoiced at Christ's birth.  
The Holy Virgin gave birth to a Son, rejoice!

## **CLEAR STARS COVERED THE SKY**

The sky was covered with clear stars,  
Lighting our land.  
A bountiful evening, a good evening to you.

Good evening, master of the house,  
We have brought you gifts.  
A bountiful...

Our gifts are beautiful and new  
Like the New Year renews itself.  
A bountiful...

## **WOH, THE GREY CUCKOO**

Oh, the grey cuckoo  
She flew around all the gardens,  
But did not sing in any,  
She flew to the cherry orchard:  
And sat down saying:  
"Oh, my garden, my garden,  
Did I not please you?  
Did I not sing in the early morn,  
Did I not shake the dewdrop?"

Young Maryusia  
Walked all around the gardens,  
She didn't cry in any of them.  
But when she came to her parents' garden, she stood there and cried.  
"Oh, my garden and my yard,  
Did I not please you?  
Didn't I get up early in the morn,  
Did I not notice you?  
Didn't I get up early  
Didn't I notice you?"

## **DO NOT WEEP, RACHEL**

Don't cry Rachel, don't cry,  
Look, the children are safe.  
And alive.  
Those children are now in heaven.  
For God's son, their error,  
Don't cry Rachel.

Blood poured like water on Herod's order,  
Children killed, searching for Christ,  
Although the children are gone, their souls remain,  
For loss of life, they accepted eternity.

## **SILENT NIGHT**

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,  
Sleep, in heavenly peace.

## **JERUSALEM BELLS**

The bells in Jerusalem rang out.  
The Virgin Mary gave birth to a Son.

## **TWO FALCONS FLEW BY**

Oh, how those two falcons flew by,  
And they looked into the light.  
A bountiful evening, A good evening,  
To all good people for the whole evening.

But it's yet light and still unswept,  
But the girl is still with tousled hair

Her hair is tousled, her face unwashed  
And she was angry with her father.

That the dressmaker shortened the dress,  
The shoes were sewn and tightened.

## **CAROL OF THE BELLS**

Good news I bring!  
Swallow flew in,  
Started to sing,  
Called out aloud  
"Come to the door, hear while I tell,  
What lies in store, look in the barn,  
There in the hay, sweet little lambs,  
New-born today.  
Life will be good, you will do well,  
Plenty to buy, plenty to sell.  
Grain in the barn  
Coin in the jar,  
Good looking wife, Happy new Year!

## **AULD LANG SYNE**

Should old acquaintance be forgot  
and never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
and auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne my dear  
for auld lang syne  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for auld lang syne.  
And surely you'll buy your pint cup  
and surely I'll buy mine!  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne my dear  
for auld lang syne  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty friend!  
And gi'es a hand o' thine!  
We'll take a right goodwill draught  
for auld land syne.

For auld lang syne my dear  
for auld lang syne  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for auld lang syne.  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for auld lang syne.