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LONDON INTERNATIONAL **CHORAL FESTIVAL**

The sheer joy, exhilaration, and pride of achievement that I have seen in all of the young singers who have taken part in this Festival has been immensely uplifting and truly rewarding.

In creating the Festival, we have set out with the aim of making performance ever more rewarding and accessible for the young singers who participate.

The opportunities that we give for choirs to sing are quite superb, with each performance opportunity being tailored to the specific performance capabilities of the singers. We provide delightful venues and enthusiastic audiences for all of the Festival's concerts.

Our superb Choral Director is James Henshaw and he will be introducing himself and talking about his musical philosophy over the following pages. We are tremendously impressed with James. His enthusiasm is infectious, his firm belief that every human being is capable of song will inspire you, just as it has us. Perhaps most important though, is his incredible ability to connect brilliantly with all of the young people who come under his direction.

We know that if you come and participate in London's International Choral Festival, you are going to have the experience of a lifetime. Not only will you have the opportunity to sing in places with a great choral tradition, you will also be given the opportunity of singing in the great LICF Massed Choir Gala Finale Concert accompanied by the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra.



LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL, continued

A week in London enjoying all that our capital city has to offer historically and culturally, singing in the Festival's Concerts and then joining the Festival's Grand Finale, will provide you memories and experiences that will last for the rest of your lives.

If given the opportunity, might I urge you to join us for the London International Choral Festival.

Bob Bone, Director of London's International Choral Festival



DESTINATION EVENTS ABOUT US

Destination Events - the founder and owner of London's International Choral Festival - is one of Europe's foremost event organisers.

Destination Events boasts a supremely accomplished, experienced and dedicated team of staff. They are expert, not only in the production of world class events, but also in the delivery of superb hospitality arrangements and educational touring experiences for performers in their events.

The Destination Events team have to be good - their prime sponsors are The Lord Lieutenancy of Greater London and the London Mayors' Association. The sponsors need their city to be shown with excellence. That's what Destination Events do.

Meet key team members by visiting the Destination Events website.

Destination Events has found a worthy partner in the Youth Music of the World organisation. With a dedicated team of experts and consultants, Youth Music source groups who are worthy to be considered for invitation to LICF.

Once a group has been accepted for invitation by Destination Events and the patrons and sponsors, Youth Music then develops a unique performance tour to make it possible for the group to participate in LICF.

Meet key members of the Youth Music team by visiting the Youth Music website.





SINGING AT THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHORAL **FESTIVAL**

The aim of the London International Choral Festival is to give young singers from overseas the finest singing experience of their school or university careers.

Individual choirs will be offered the opportunity to present their repertoire in two of our fabulous concert venues in London. It could be that you sing in the amazing space of Holy Trinity Church or St John's Waterloo or even the state of the art concert venue Cadogan Hall, or perhaps London's most charming music venue St. John's Smith Square. You will be given two opportunities to perform your own 20 minute repertoire to our enthusiastic and appreciative audiences.

Musical participation in London's International Choral Festival starts long before you travel to London. Every choir will be personally visited in the United States by the Festival's Choral Director, James Henshaw, who will help them come to terms with the music to be performed at the concert. We promise that your choir members will be thrilled by the charismatic instruction and motivation given by James.

Choirs that participate in the Festival are also offered the opportunity of performing in the Gala Finalé Concert given at Westminster Central Hall on the 2nd of January each year. 300 singers from all of the LICF choirs gather for this Gala performance, which is accompanied by a first class professional orchestra.

Whilst in London, James and his team. of professional singers, will conduct rehearsals and give coaching to all of the choirs as the final part of their preparation for the Gala Finalé Concert.





SINGING AT THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHORAL **FESTIVAL**, continued

I think we can guarantee that the performance at the Gala Finalé Concert of the London International Choral Festival will be one of those occasions that everybody who participates will remember for the rest of their lives. It is a life changing and wonderful experience.

To give you some idea of the type of music that will be sung at the Gala Finalé Concert you will see below the 2023 selected repertoire.

- ★ I Was Glad They Said Unto Me, Sir C. Hubert H. Parry
- ★ La Calinda, Frederick Delius
- For the Beauty of the Earth, John Rutter CBE
- ★ 633 Squadron, Ron Goodwin
- ★ You'll Never Walk Alone/Climb Every Mountain, Rogers & Hammerstein
- Knightsbridge March No. 3 London Suite, **Eric Coates**
- ★ Light One Candle, Peter Yarrow
- ★ Crown Imperial, William Walton
- Zadok the Priest, George Frederic Handel
- ★ The Dam Busters, Eric Coates
- ★ Sing! sung to Toccata from Symphony No. 5, Charles-Marie Widor
- ★ Pomp & Circumstance March, Sir **Edward Elgar**



JAMES HENSHAW

James Henshaw is an award-winning Opera, Choral and Orchestral Conductor who was the assistant conductor to Jordan de Souza on La Boheme for the prestigious 2022 Glyndebourne Season.

2022 also saw James make his German conducting debut at the Hamburg Hochschule where he performed the new opera Penelope, die.

James studied music at Clare College, Cambridge where he was a choral scholar and won awards for both conducting and piano. Since graduating with distinction in Repetiteuring from Guildhall School of Music and Drama, he has conducted for an impressive number of UK opera companies starting in 2015 with La Boheme for English Touring Opera.

Before that, in 2014, he was Chorus Master for Monteverdi's L'Orfeo conducted by Ivor Bolton at the Bayerische Staatsoper. He also assisted Mark Wigglesworth on Owen Wingrave at the Aldeburgh Music Festival and went on to assist him with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, for both the 2015 and 2016 Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

James' first post in London was as assistant to Toby Purser at the Orion Orchestra, but it wasn't long before he took up the post of Music Director of Pop-Up Opera where he conducted L'elisir d'amore, Don Pasquale, Rita and La Serva Padrona.

He joined the English National Opera Company in 2015 and within a year became their youngest ever Chorus Master. His London Coliseum debut was as 2nd conductor on Birtwistle's Mask of Orpheus, for which he received his Olivier award nomination. Fiona Maddocks of The Observer reviewed it as "Musically it



JAMES HENSHAW, continued

was faultless" Other accolades achieved during his tenure at the ENO include winning the 2016 Olivier Award for 'Outstanding Achievement in Opera', 'Best Chorus' at the International Opera Award and the Guardian named his work on the UK premier of Jonathan Dove's The Day After as one of Classical Music's top 10 best things of 2017.

Also in 2017, James conducted Britten's Paul Bunyan at Alexandra Palace and in 2021, he conducted Beethoven's 9th Symphony, with the Academy of English Voices accompanied by his own orchestra The Outcry Ensemble.

Further information on James Henshaw may be found at www.jameshenshaw.co.uk



PASSPORTS & VISAS

Before embarking on an international flight to Europe you must have a valid passport. The passport should have an expiry date of at least six months after the date you return to the United States. If you need to secure a passport for the first time, please ensure that you do so as soon as possible, allowing a minimum of eight weeks.

Holders of full USA passports (American Citizens) do not need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Holders of non-USA passports may need a visa to enter the United Kingdom. Full information of which passport holders need visas are available on the UK Government Foreign Office website. The same website will tell you where and how to apply for your visa. <u>Click here</u> to visit the website.

On occasion, to secure a visa, you will need a letter from Destination Events to confirm that you are a member of a performing group in the event and that you will be entering and leaving the UK on specific dates and accommodation is provided for you whilst you are here. Destination Events can supply such a letter, but need a minimum of 10 days notice. Some visa applications can take several months. If you do not have or are not eligible to have a full US passport, you need to check if you require a visa and fill in your application as early as possible.

Non-American Citizens staying in the USA on a Green Card should also check with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that they will be able to re-enter the USA without difficulty after their visit overseas. Click here to visit the website.

We are committed to help any group members who need assistance in the visa process.

Newly issued passports are machine readable and thus once you arrive in London, you are able to gain expedited entry through the ePassport gates at border control. This option is only available to those over 12 years old, thus those younger must see a border control officer and have their passport stamped.



GETTING YOU TO LONDON

Youth Music's staff and consultants at Performance Travel (PTL) are experts in arranging air travel from the USA to London for groups invited to perform in LICF*.

It is a complicated business arranging air travel for what are often very large groups. PTL work tirelessly to secure the best blocks of seats with the best airlines and the most convenient schedules for performing groups.

Preferred carriers are British Airways, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Virgin Atlantic and United.

Flights to London are always 'overnight' and range in length from just six hours, if you are travelling from Boston, to 11 hours if you are travelling from Southern California. We always try to book you on direct non-stop services, but of course not all cities in the USA offer this service to London. We do try to take you from your nearest major airport and fly you to London with no more than one connection.

London is on GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) over the new year period. GMT is five hours ahead of Eastern, six ahead of Central, seven ahead of Mountain Time and a whopping eight hours ahead of Pacific Time. This means if you leave the East coast in the early evening you arrive in London early in the morning on the following day. Flying from the West coast, if you depart late afternoon, it is close to lunchtime the next day when you land in London.

The service on all airlines in coach (economy) is much the same. You receive a free main meal and drinks soon after take off and maybe a small snack meal before landing. All flights booked by PTL allow you one item of checked luggage and one 'carry on' as well - the sizes and weights allowed vary airline to airline. All airlines booked by PTL offer a good range of in-flight entertainment.

^{*}Using the services of PTL to book your flights is not obligatory, but is recommended.





ACCOMMODATION

It is really important to the LICF organisers that every performer in the event has a great place to stay.

The hotels used are very carefully selected and regularly checked by LICF staff to ensure that their standards are maintained.

All hotels used are categorised as superior first class. Standards of decor, furnishing and housekeeping are always high.

- ★ Most participants are accommodated two per room (two beds or one Queen or King bed). Most hotels can offer limited numbers of three bedded rooms.
- ★ All bedrooms have private bathrooms, some with tubs and showers and some with walk in showers only.
- ★ All rooms have flat screen TV's, direct dial phones and hair dryers.
- All hotels offer complimentary WiFi.
- ★ Some rooms may have mini fridges (minibar destocked).
- ★ All hotels offer irons and ironing boards - mostly in every room.
- * All hotels offer meeting room facilities to our groups and most offer rehearsal facilities.





MEALS

The LICF programme makes sure that participants don't go hungry.

Breakfast is included every day*. A special buffet breakfast is offered to all groups in their hotel. Juices, fresh fruit, yogurts, bread and pastries, ham and cold meats, cheeses, plus always at least two hot items – eggs and either bacon or sausage. Hot drinks will include coffee, hot chocolate and hot teas.

Dinner is included every day. For some days this is a prearranged buffet or plated meal served in a private room at the hotel. On other days we provide every individual with a special dine around pre-paid card, usable in all restaurants, cafes, fast food outlets and grocery stores in London. With the city now widely acknowledged as the culinary capital of the world, with more ethnic dining opportunities available than in any other place, the Ticket Restaurant Card is the perfect way to explore some of London's great restaurants.

A much appreciated addition to the food offering is a special sack lunch provided in the parade assembly area for all who take part in the parade on New Year's Day. This lunch consists of a gourmet sandwich, a variety of snacks and bottled water. Gluten free and vegan options are available.

On all other days we don't provide lunch. A good fast food lunch can be bought for around £5.00 – £7.00 (\$5.50 – \$7.50) or a sandwich lunch can be purchased for around £4.00 – £6.00 (\$3.00 – \$5.50).

^{*} Breakfast is not included in the hotel on the day of arrival. There will have been an offering of a very light breakfast or snack on the plane before it lands. Breakfast is included at the hotel on the day of departure.







SIGHTSEEING IN AND **AROUND LONDON**

It is very important to us and to our patrons, sponsors and supporters that all LICF participants get a fantastic impression of London during their time here.

We start by securing great hotels, sourcing quality meals and, of course, providing the greatest stages in the world on which to perform.

Then our brilliant team of vastly experienced itinerary planners and hosts come into play to create and deliver a stunning collection of tours, visits and opportunities that give, in a short time, a terrific overview and introduction to our long history, our rich culture and our diverse and welcoming population.

There are a wonderful array of motor coach tours with the best and most interesting guides in any city in the world. Our coaches are all 'state of the art' modern touring vehicles (never call them buses - at least in the drivers' earshot!) with panoramic windows. Our coach operator carries \$15 million of liability insurance so you are always safe and protected whilst you are on board.

Meet Stuart Cannon, our chief guide, who will tell you a little about his special Blue Badge qualification and about some of the tours that we provide for you.







Sightseeing in and around London, continued

A half day panoramic sightseeing tour of the West End and the City of London. The ideal introduction to our great City. See the Houses of Parliament with the Clock Tower that holds the bell of Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Whitehall, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and 'Theatreland' along Shaftesbury Avenue. Look in to Chinatown and Soho, see St. Paul's Cathedral, The Bank of England, Mansion House and The Tower of London. All the time you will be entertained and informed by one of our specially selected guides.

A half day tour including a panoramic boat trip on the River Thames and a visit to The Tower of London. The River Thames that flows through the heart of London is the reason that our great capital city is built where it is. From your vantage point on your private cruiser, your guide will bring the long history of the city alive. You will see many iconic landmarks along the way, including the Palace of Westminster and London Eye. The Tower of London has served as a royal palace, fortress, prison, place of execution, mint, menagerie and jewel house during its 900 year history. Attractions in the Tower include the Bloody Tower, Traitors Gate, the Chapel of St. John and the Jewel House where the Crown Jewels of England are on show.

A full day tour of Windsor and Windsor Castle. Twenty five miles to the west of London lies Windsor, whose 11th century castle is the seat and primary home of the British Royal family. Visit the castle with its State Apartments and Royal Chapel the burial place of many of our monarchs. Spend time in the delightful town and look out at the vista of Britain's most famous public (private) school, Eton College - alma mater to so many British Prime Ministers and Royal Princes.







Sightseeing in and around London, continued

A full day tour of <u>Hampton Court Palace</u>.

This superb Tudor Palace located on the banks of the Thames was originally built by Henry VIII's Chancellor, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Wolsey fell from favour - not least because he had built himself a Palace better than the king's and so Henry requisitioned it and it became a Royal Palace, which it remains to this day. A visit to the Palace includes entrance to the State Apartments with their magnificent art collections, a tour of the splendidly restored Tudor kitchens (Henry and his court were notorious for their gluttony), a look at the earliest Real (Royal) Tennis Court and the chance to lose yourselves in the famous maze.

A full day tour of Oxford. Oxford is home to the oldest university in the English speaking world. On this tour you will visit one of the historic colleges that make up the University of Oxford. The buildings that house the colleges are simply superb and full of history. The City is an interesting mix of 'town and gown' with the academics and scholars of the university representing 'gown' and the thousands of skilled workers associated with the BMW Mini plant representing much of the 'town'. It is always great fun to look out for the sites and scenes used in the famous movies such as Doctor Strange, the Harry Potter series, Young Sherlock, the X-Men series and many others, which were all set in and around Oxford.



Sightseeing in and around London, continued

Every programme includes four out of these five special tours/visits. London Panoramic, The Tower and Windsor we think are best included for all. Then you should choose between Hampton Court and Oxford for your fourth visit.

For those who have taken part previously in LICF and have been offered a subsequent invitation we have alternative tours/visits to offer. Remember though, that whilst it might be a director's second or third time around (or maybe more), it should always be borne in mind that usually group members just get one bite of the cherry. Thus we recommend choosing from the above.





VISITOR OYSTER CARD

This is your passport to London. A terrific prepaid travel card for all of London's excellent public transport systems.

The card can be used on:

- ★ The London Underground (Tube)
- ★ London Buses all those famous red double deckers and more besides
- ★ The London 'Overground 'Railway System (within certain limits)
- ★ The Docklands Light Railway
- ★ The Emirates Air Line Cable Car

It's so easy to use your Oyster Card. Touch on and off at tube, DLR and overground station barriers. Touch in when you get on a bus - no need when you get off.

If you look like you are running out of value simply top up your card at any station - quick easy and simple.

Find out all about the Oyster Card.



EXCLUSIVE AUDIO GUIDED WALKS

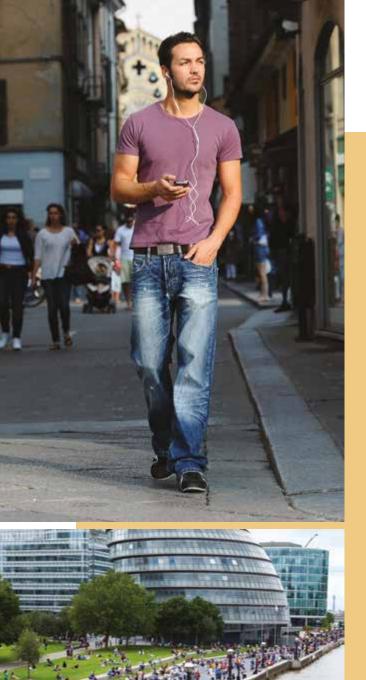
London is one of the greatest 'walking' cities in the world. At the heart of London, in the City of Westminster, in the 'Square Mile' City of London and in the historic boroughs of Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth there is something unique, arresting and fascinating around just about every corner, in every nook and cranny and in every historic narrow alley way and mews.

Destination Events think it's really important to show its special visitors the very best that London has to offer and to give a perspective of the city that can really only be achieved on foot.

So we commissioned the very best. We asked the famous radio actor and historian Tyler Butterworth if he would write and perform for us a series of unique walks showing the very best and most interesting parts of London to our performers and visitors.

All of Tyler's walks, produced exclusively for LICF, are presented as downloadable files straight to your smartphone or electronic device and are accompanied by printed material to assist you. These walking tours are a fabulous educational tool and should make the LICF programme worthy of a history credit!

You will receive a total of three seperate walks, which can be undertaken in your unstructured time if you so wish. They will be sent to you as MP3 files to download onto your electronic device before you arrive in London.





Get a taste of each walk by clicking on the links below:

- ★ London's New Year's Day Parade Route - learn about the history and all of the stories behind this iconic parade route.
- ★ The South Bank Stroll a walk from the London Eye to Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market. Historic Southwark to 21st century Southwark in one walk.
- ★ London, Rock & Roll Capital of the World - exploring the history of the Swinging Sixties, Glam Rock, Punk Rock, Brit Pop and much more.







NEW YEAR'S EVE

It's time to party - but not till too late as you may be taking part in the greatest show on earth the following day - and there may well be an early morning call for performers in LICF!

But we do throw a great party to welcome in the New Year.

- ★ A private room is reserved for you and all the other groups of performers staying in your hotel.
- ★ The room will be prepared for the party by your tour assistant.
- ★ We provide glow bands, balloons and party poppers to help the evening go with a bang!
- ★ A top rated DJ and light show will be provided with a terrific playlist of just about anything you can think of.
- ★ We provide pizza and sodas to boost the calories you shed with the dancing.
- ★ All parties are secure, free of alcohol, and exclusive to LICF performers.





UNIQUE SERVICE

We have been doing this a long time and have developed what we consider to be the very best team of professionals to ensure that your programme in the UK, to take part in LICF, is as wonderful as it can possibly be.

A little earlier we looked at the great DEL team who organise LICF and your London hospitality arrangements. If you want to refresh your memory just click here.

Likewise you are in really good hands with the Youth Music/Performance Travel teams in the USA and UK. Again, if you want a reminder of who they all are just click here.

So you have great people taking care of you but what else makes our service so special?

- Our Group Organiser's Guide. An absolutely invaluable manual detailing out every step of the way how we need you to prepare for your groups participation in LICF. This guide is delivered to you electronically in the early part of the year that you travel. Regular updates are sent as modifications and improvements are made.
- **Site inspection**. It is imperative that every group is represented by its leader/s on a site inspection programme in London. On this site inspection there are a series of seminars, meetings, venue tours and hotel tours that prepare you for leading your group at the end of the year.
- ★ Virtual site inspection. After site inspection we provide you with a copy of a digital presentation covering everything that has been discussed and shown to you in London, but in a way that can be presented to your group.





★ The ace up our sleeve is our team of Tour Assistants. Each group will be allocated one. Your tour assistant will have been carefully trained and will be an ever present resource of organisation, information and friendship whilst you are in London - '24/7', from the moment you arrive until the time you leave. Our tour assistants are terrific people, all with a deep knowledge and passion for London and LICF.









IMPORTANT EXTRAS

For performers:

- ★ All performers in LICF are presented with a specially struck medal to acknowledge their contribution to the greatest event in the greatest city in the world. You can only receive a medal if you take part – they are highly sought after.
- ★ Every performer will receive a digital version of the group photo taken at a gala concert.

For non performers:

LICF truly welcomes family members, friends, alumni and supporters of all performing groups and offers them the same arrangements as for performers. So we are delighted to offer the following to all categories of non-performer in every group as a little extra.

★ A complimentary concert ticket to each and every concert that their group performs in, including the gala.





SECURITY & PEACE OF MIND

A comprehensive travel insurance policy is included for everyone on the performance tour programme to LICF.

Coverage includes:

- * cancellation
- ★ medical and emergency expenses
- ★ personal accident
- ★ baggage
- ★ delayed baggage

This protects the vast majority of the performance tour cost, should you be forced to cancel for a significant number of reasons.







WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

Youth Music's (YM) Directors of International Participation, along with their consultants, are constantly scouring the Americas for groups we would like to invite to take part in LICF.

If you are contacted by a member of the YM team and are interested in going a step further, then Youth Music will ask LICF to put your name before the steering committee for approval. If you secure this approval, LICF will write to tell you that you have been accepted for invitation.

You will then enter into negotiations with YM who will produce for you a document entitled 'Offer of Performance Tour'. This encapsulates your discussion with YM, listing out the dates that you would travel and the gateway you would travel from, the number of places we can offer you, an exact listing of performance, hospitality and educational touring features, a price and a payment schedule. The final page of this document requests that you secure signatures from all relevant parties that you may accept the offer.

Once accepted, the Offer Document is returned to Youth Music/Performance Travel, who then create a contract based on the contents of the Offer. Once you have signed and returned the contract, you will then be contacted by LICF to set up a date for the presentation of the official invitation. This will be undertaken during a visit to your group in the USA by one of the senior or principal patrons of LICF. You are not deemed invited and the contract is invalidated, if you do not receive the official invitational visit.





