



# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY





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## WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

### Credits

Artistic Director: Graham Hubbard  
Assistant to the Artistic Director: Rebecca Stafford

### Readers

Rosemary Conley  
Joanna Adeyinka-Burford  
Siân Phillips

### Performers

International Staff Band: Bandmaster Dr Stephen Cobb  
International Staff Songsters: Leader Dorothy Nancekievill  
The IDolls: Portia Emare, Emma Lindars, Charlotte Riby  
Caitlin Kisumba with Andrew, Sarah and Eryna Kisumba  
Salvation Army Big Band  
Testimony: Billy Harrington-Roberts  
Organist: Ghislaine Reece-Trapp

Executive Producers: Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant / Colonel Paul Main  
Event Manager: Lisa Little  
Territorial Events Unit: Matthew Simmons, Bianca Pierre

Lighting and Technical Design: Richard G. Jones  
Live Visuals: SFL  
Crew Catering: Baxter Storey  
Graphic Design: Mel Gillman, Let's Imagine  
Casting Director: Rebecca Stafford  
Box Office: Royal Albert Hall  
Event Manager for the Royal Albert Hall: Tash McKeown

### Thanks to

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Watch our Royal Albert Hall concert online at: [youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo](https://youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo)  
from Sunday 10th December.





December 2023

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Celebrating Christmas with The Salvation Army, here once again at the Royal Albert Hall.

I am so pleased that you have chosen to be present for this wonderful evening in this world famous venue, because you are in for a joyful treat as we sing together carols in praise of the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. In addition to our own singing, we have tonight world-class singers and musicians who will not only entertain us but also bless us by their performances.

So please sit back, say 'hello' to the people sitting near you and prepare to enjoy this evening of music, which, together with the spoken word, will retell the most amazing account of events that happened 2,000 years ago. 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come!'

The arrival of Jesus and his presence in the world today continue to move and motivate us to attempt great things for this deeply troubled planet and the individuals in it. This evening you will hear and see glimpses of this remarkable, continuing story through The Salvation Army.

On your behalf, I would like to express some words of gratitude to all our special guests and musicians, as well as to the technical staff and various teams who have been carefully planning this event over many months. Immense gratitude is expressed for our artistic director, Graham Hubbard, who once again has skilfully crafted our evening together. Finally special and sincere thanks are deeply expressed to our wonderful sponsors, whose generous spirits have made this event possible.

Thank *you* again for celebrating with us. Enjoy and be blessed this evening – and may you and yours have a very joyful and peaceful Christmas!

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Cotterill  
Commissioner  
Territorial Commander  
Leader of The Salvation Army  
in the UK and Ireland



# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

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International Staff Band	A Christmas Overture
International Staff Songsters and International Staff Band	Sussex Carol
Welcome	Colonel Paul Main
<b>Carol</b>	<b>O Come All Ye Faithful</b>
<i>(Words will appear on the screen and are also available in the middle of your concert programme)</i>	
Salvation Army Big Band	The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year
International Staff Songsters	A Cradle Carol
Reading	Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Carol</b>	<b>Hark The Glad Sound</b>
Reading	Luke 1: 39-56
International Staff Songsters	Gloria
Reading	Luke 2: 1-20
<b>Carol</b>	<b>Once In Royal David's City</b>
International Staff Band	Yule Dance
Family Tracing	
The IDolls	Oh Bless The Lord My Soul
Message	Commissioner Anthony Cotterill
<b>Carol</b>	<b>Joy To The World</b>
International Staff Band	Christmas Calypso
International Staff Songsters	The Holly and The Ivy
The IDolls and Salvation Army Big Band	Jingle Bells
<b>Carol</b>	<b>As With Gladness Men Of Old</b>
Finale	
The Kisumba family and Salvation Army Big Band	Your Love Lifts Me Up
<b>Carol</b>	<b>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</b>





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## ROSEMARY CONLEY CBE

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**With a career in health and fitness spanning over 50 years, it was Rosemary's world-wide bestseller *Hip and Thigh Diet* in 1988 that shot her into the limelight.**

She then became best known for her multi-million selling diet books and fitness DVDs, and as a TV health and fitness presenter.

Rosemary now concentrates on helping the over 50s live longer, healthier and happier lives by presenting a free video-based website [www.rosemaryconley.com](http://www.rosemaryconley.com).

Rosemary was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire in 1999 and in 2001 was the first woman to be given the Freedom of the City of Leicester. In 2004 she was awarded a CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours for 'services to the fitness and dieting industries'. Rosemary is also President of Young Enterprise in Leicestershire and an active Patron of the East Midlands-based charity *Steps Conductive Education Centre* who help to transform the lives of special little children who are living with cerebral palsy and other motor disorders.

A committed Christian, Rosemary is married to Mike and has a daughter, Dawn.





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## JOANNA ADEYINKA-BURFORD

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**Joanna is best known as bubbly children's TV presenter for the BBC's popular children's channel, CBEEBIES.**

Joanna trained as an actress and dancer at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts and spent a number of years acting and teaching dance before finding her feet as a TV presenter and voice over artist.

Her credits include; BBC's *Doctors*, *Holby City*, *Little Britain* and 'As You Like it' at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

As a presenter, she has worked across a number of productions; from various shows on the Cbeebies channel (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Dick Whittington*, *Robin Hood*, *The Let's Go Club*, *Jojo and GranGran* and *BBC live lessons*) to hosting a worldwide video production for the *Watoto* children's choir; *HSBC*, *Citibank*, *The NHS*, *The Sheffield Children's Book Awards* and was delighted to present the *RAISE* training programme for the Salvation Army's Youth ministry.

Joanna is a natural born encourager and has recently written a children's devotional entitled 'What's Up', which will be released in February 2024.





## DAME SIÂN PHILLIPS DBE CBE

**Hon DLitt University of Wales and an Hon Fellow of three colleges. Siân was born in Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Wales. She graduated from the University of Wales in English and Philosophy. She won a scholarship to RADA and went on to win the Bancroft Gold Medal.**

Siân has appeared at the National Theatre, The RSC, and for the Nat Theatre of Wales and Frantic Assembly. Awards and nominations include BAFTA, Olivier, National Television Award, TONY and Drama Desk Awards, Lifetime Achievement award for Radio Drama.

She has most recently been seen in the Theatre Royal Windsor's production of *The Chalk Garden* with Edward Fox, Jermyn Street

Theatre's production of *Beckett's Rockabye And Footfalls* with Charlotte Emmerson and the Royal National Theatre's production of *Under Milk Wood* with Michael Sheen. She is currently touring *It's All Greek* with Alex Jennings.

Siân is currently being filmed for a documentary in celebration of her 90th year and appears "*In Conversation*" with Richard Digby-Day.

Her acclaimed autobiographies were reissued in one volume in 2022. She is a patron of RAFT, Ambassador of Hospice UK, Vice-president of London Welsh Centre and a Member of the Gorsedd of Bards, she has been made a Freeman of the City of London and is a trustee of The Shaw Society.





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## O Come, All Ye Faithful,

Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels:

*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

*Tune: Adeste Fideles. Attr. John Francis Wade*



## Hark The Glad Sound!

The Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long;  
Let every heart prepare a throne,  
And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
In Satan's bondage held;  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
The wounded soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And Heaven's eternal arches ring  
With thy beloved name.

*Tune: Nativity (Thomas Jarman) Attr. Philip Doddridge*



## Once In Royal David's City

Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from Heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly mother  
In whose gentle arms he lay.  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in Heaven above.  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

*Tune: Henry John Gauntlett Attr. Cecil Frances Alexander*







### Joy To The World! The Lord Is Come;

Let earth receive her King,  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And Heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love.

*Tune: George Frederick Handel Isaac Watts*



### As With Gladness Men Of Old

Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom Heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

*Tune: Conrad Kocher Attr. William Chatterton Dix*



### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing:

Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing:  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest Heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Tune: Felix Mendelssohn Charles Wesley*



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Simply hover your phone over the QR code and give your support to someone this Christmas, thank you!





## CAITLIN KISUMBA & FAMILY

### **Andrew, Sarah, Eryna and Caitlin Kisumba are a musical family from the West Midlands.**

Sarah studied music at university and teaches piano and violin at all ABRSM grade levels. Having graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with First Class Honours, Eryna, a cellist, is currently enrolled on an Orchestral Artistry Masters at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Caitlin achieved her ABRSM Diploma for Violin Performance with Distinction aged 17 and is currently a music scholar and law student in Nottingham. Andrew, previously a qualified architect (RIBA), works full time as Pastor of Cedar Church, Birmingham alongside his wife, Sarah. As part of this calling and responsibility, he leads worship with his family and enjoys writing songs such as tonight's finale '*Your Love Lifts Me Up*'.

As individuals and as a family, they have ministered and performed in many different live, recording and broadcast settings, and have travelled to a number of different countries including

Czech Republic, England, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands, Uganda, Ukraine and the United States of America.

With a global spotlight on Birmingham in 2022, there was the opportunity to showcase the region's creativity - and Festival 2022 went all out to deliver.

This version of '*Your Love Lifts Me Up*' saw Friends Of Cedar Church, including all four members of family Kisumba, work with Longwill School For Deaf Children to ambitiously orchestrate and provide an uplifting community song to celebrate British Sign Language (BSL). It empowered deaf children as it was performed across communities and we hope the legacy continues throughout this festive season and beyond.

For more details, please visit [www.yourloveliftsmeup.com](http://www.yourloveliftsmeup.com)





*Please join us again!*

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TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER  
2024



Royal Albert Hall



[salvationarmy.org.uk](http://salvationarmy.org.uk)

**The sight and sound of a big band may not be anything new to most people, but did you know that until around the 1920s saxophones were not an uncommon sight in Salvation Army Bands.**

The Salvation Army has had various connections to the world of big band music.

In 1932 Henry Hall was the leader of the BBC Dance Orchestra but before taking on this role, his first job after leaving Trinity College of Music was in the Music Editorial Department at the Salvation Army's Territorial Headquarters. Possibly the most recognisable big band leader with Salvation Army connections was Don Lusher.

He was brought up at the corps in Peterborough where he learned to play the trombone. He was probably best known as the lead trombonist in the Ted Heath Orchestra, but also worked with Jack Parnell and the Squadron Aires, to name a couple.

The Salvation Army Big Band you will hear tonight was first formed in November 2017 and its members are taken from Salvation Army centres up and down the United Kingdom. We hope that you will sit back and enjoy our contribution to this year's carol service here at the Royal Albert Hall.

**Charlotte, Emma and Portia's paths first crossed in 2010 when they were cast as the three divas in one of the West End's finest, award winning, hit musicals, *Priscilla Queen Of The Desert*.**

During their time on *Priscilla*, the girls performed live on *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*, *This Morning*, *The Olivier Awards*, *West End Live*, *Gay Pride* in Trafalgar Square, and at *Comic Relief* to name but a few.

The three soon discovered a mutual love of soul music and throughout their year together at the Palace Theatre, their vocal chemistry and friendship grew creating the soulful slick harmonies and sounds of *The IDolls*. The ladies between them have performed all over the world in high demand at corporate and private events, high-end parties and some of this country's biggest and most prestigious theatres, clubs and cabaret venues such as Live at the Apollo Victoria 80th Birthday Celebrations, Wiltons Music Hall, Ronnie Scott's, The Dress Circle Benefit at Her Majesty's Theatre Haymarket. The Ice Ball for Denise Welch of Loose Women, Cafe De Paris, Soho House, The Box, Annabels, the list goes on...

Musical theatre credits between the girls include *Mamma Mia* (World Tour), *Lion King*, *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Sound of Music*, *Hairspray*, *Shrek*, *Billy Elliot*, *Made In Dagenham*, *Waitress*, *Groundhog Day* (London's West End). These three electrifying vocalists are renowned for creating bespoke experiences and fabulous moments with a sound that never fails to impress.

## SALVATION ARMY BIG BAND | THE IDOLLS





## INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS | INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND

### **The International Staff Songsters has a special ministry.**

Since their founding in 1980, the Songsters have used music and singing to share the love of God far and wide. From a cathedral to a community hall, concert venues to schools and prison chapels, the group are blessed to reach thousands of people.

Their repertoire incorporates a wide range of choral styles and includes music by composers from The Salvation Army and artists such as Bob Chilcott, Mark Hayes, John Rutter, and Eric Whitacre. Each member volunteers their time and travels from around England and Wales for weekly rehearsal in central London. Profits from recordings (sold via [www.sps-shop.com](http://www.sps-shop.com)) and performances support the work of The Salvation Army.

The International Staff Songsters are conducted by Dorothy Nancekievill who is a Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Dorothy is a former Head of Farringtons School in Kent and former Director of Music at Wells Cathedral School.

For more information visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/iss](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/iss)

### **The International Staff Band is pleased to support the carol concert here at the famous Royal Albert Hall, a venue where the band has made many performances over many years.**

The band, conducted by Dr Stephen Cobb, continues to maintain its place at the forefront of Salvation Army music-making.

Officially formed in 1891, the ISB still aims to achieve the very highest standards in communicating the Christian message through its music. The band rehearses each week at our Territorial Headquarters in London, and members of the band travel from around the UK to be part of it. The band travels extensively in the UK presenting concerts and leading worship at many of our Salvation Army centres. Frequent overseas visits have been undertaken by the band. In addition, the band makes regular recordings spreading its music around the world.

A significant number of the band's players are employed by The Salvation Army, others working in a wide range of professions. All members however, are also active members of their local Salvation Army, many holding leadership positions. The band's purpose is the same as all Salvation Army groups – to bring honour and glory to God.





## GRAHAM HUBBARD

### Graham is an Olivier Award nominated theatre adaptor/director (2022)

He trained at LAMDA (Evelyn Laye Award) and was an actor for fourteen years working extensively in regional/West End theatre, television and film with directors such as Kenneth Branagh, Matthew Warchus, Gregory Doran, John Caird and John Doyle. He then moved into directing and writing.

In the West End Graham was associate director on *Sweeney Todd* (New Ambassadors also at the Eugene O'Neil on Broadway), *Mack and Mabel* (Criterion), *The Sound of Music* (Palladium), *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* (Palace).

Graham's productions range from Shakespeare, through Coward and Brecht to musical theatre. As artistic director for New Rep Theatre, he was nominated for the Peter Brook Award (2012) for his actor/musician production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. He supports and develops new writing and was nominated for Best Director (Broadway World 2013) for his work on the world premiere of *The Spring Tide*. Graham regularly directs at many of the top drama schools in the UK (LAMDA, CSSD, Arts Ed, LIPA, BSA, LSMT, Guildford Conservatoire.)

For over a decade Graham has enjoyed being artistic director for the Salvation Army's annual charity carol concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

His stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson's children's book *What The Ladybird Heard*, which he also directed, has had two successful West End seasons (Palace and Lyric theatres) and several international tours.

He wrote the book/lyrics for a musical adaptation of *The Colonel's Lady* (based on a short story by Somerset Maugham) and has adapted the South African novel, *Buckingham Palace, District Six* for the stage. He is also co-creating a new children's book *Purple Pastures*.

He has recently finished directing/devising *Common Ground*, a new piece of musical theatre reflecting on the shared human condition for the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and is looking forward to directing Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* in 2024.



[www.grahamhubbard.co.uk](http://www.grahamhubbard.co.uk)  
Instagram: [hubbardgraham](https://www.instagram.com/hubbardgraham)



Love God  
Love Others

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk)

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