



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY



Royal Albert Hall

PRODUCED BY GRAHAM HUBBARD
WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2025

Supported by
Signal
A Broadridge Company



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

Credits

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

Readers

Owen Teale
Sylvestra Le Touzel

Performers

International Staff Band: Bandmaster Dr Stephen Cobb
International Staff Songsters: Leader Dorothy Nancekievill
Salvation Army Big Band: Conductor Nik King
Kirsty King
Rob Houchen
Woman Angel & Tom Jesty
Clapton Dance Group: Amariah Oke, Anaiah Oke, Azriela Oke, Jasmine Mensah, Chiamaka Mbama Njoku, Ifeoma Mbama Njoku, Christina Odoi
Nativity Cast: *Mary*: Maria Muhammed; *Elisabeth*: Mauri Davenport; *Joseph*: Brendan McMillen;
3 Kings: Israel Oyedapo, Zach Dulin, Nischay Singh; *Herod*: Ewan Garnier; *Gabriel*: Sol Olberman
Seasons of Love: Sam Bishton, Mia Hammond, Mia Laird, Erin Moir, Grace Moir, Jasmin Nacekivell-Smith
Annabelle Selby, Anna Sharman, Thomas Slader, Alfie Smith, Harriet Stewart, Esther Thompson
Organist: Paul Leddington-Wright
Violinist: John Hooper
Harpist: Alison Blackhall

Executive Producer: Lieut-Colonel Nick Coke
Event Manager: Lisa Little
Territorial Events Unit: Bianca Pierre

Lighting and Technical Design: Richard G. Jones
Live Audio and Visuals: D&B Solutions
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: Kenisha Fuller

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Watch our Royal Albert Hall concert online at:
[youtube.com/salvationarmyviedo](https://www.youtube.com/salvationarmyviedo) from 7pm, Wednesday 10th December



Royal Albert Hall

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December 2025

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Royal Albert Hall for this year's Salvation Army carol service. It is a true joy to gather with you in this iconic venue as we celebrate the Advent season and reflect on the beautiful theme *Love Came Down*.

At the heart of Christmas lies a profound truth - God's love came down to Earth in the person of Jesus Christ. Not with fanfare or grandeur, but in the quiet humility of a manger. In that moment, Heaven touched Earth, and divine love became flesh to dwell among us.

This love is not distant or reserved for the few. It is a love that reaches into every heart, every home and every circumstance. It is a love that heals, restores and redeems. When love came down, it brought light into our darkness, hope into our despair, and peace into our chaos.

Tonight, as we sing carols and lift our voices, may we be reminded that the story of Christmas is not just history - it is a living invitation. An invitation to receive the love that came down, to be transformed by it, and to share it with a world in need.

Thank you for joining us for this special evening. May the love of Christ fill your heart with joy and may his presence be your comfort and strength this Christmas season and always.

With every blessing,

Jenine and Paul Main
Commissioners
Territorial Leaders
Leaders of The Salvation Army
in the UK and Ireland



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

International Staff Songsters

International Staff Band

Welcome

Carol

Salvation Army Big Band

Reading

Carol

Reading

Kirsty King

Reading

Carol

International Staff Band

Clapton Dance Group &
Salvation Army Big Band

Youth Outreach

Musical Theatre Group

Message

Woman Angel and Tom Jesty

Carol

Rob Houchen &
Salvation Army Big Band

Nativity

International Staff Songsters

Carol

Love Came Down At Christmas

Winter's Snow

Commissioner Jenine Main

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

Luke 1:26-38 / Matthew 1:18-25

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-15

Mary Did You Know

Matthew 2:1-10

Away In A Manger

Carol Of The Bells

Troika

Seasons Of Love

Commissioner Paul Main

Everlasting Love

Joy To The World

O Holy Night

Let The World Sing Gloria

O Come All Ye Faithful





OWEN TEALE

Owen is a BAFTA-winning Welsh actor whose career spans award-winning work on stage and screen.

He won a BAFTA Cymru Award for his performance in *Dream Horse* (2020) and a Tony Award for his acclaimed turn as Torvald in the Broadway revival of *A Doll's House* (1997). As Ser Alliser Thorne in HBO's *Game of Thrones*, he received a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination in 2016.

Teale first rose to prominence in the beloved BAFTA-winning drama *Ballykissangel* and has since built a diverse body of work, including *Line of Duty*, *A Discovery of Witches*, *Stella*, and stage productions with the RSC and National Theatre.

He is recognized as one of Wales's most accomplished and versatile performers.





CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY



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.



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with thee there.



O little town of Bethlehem,

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.



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:

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God,
Begotten, not created:



Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

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

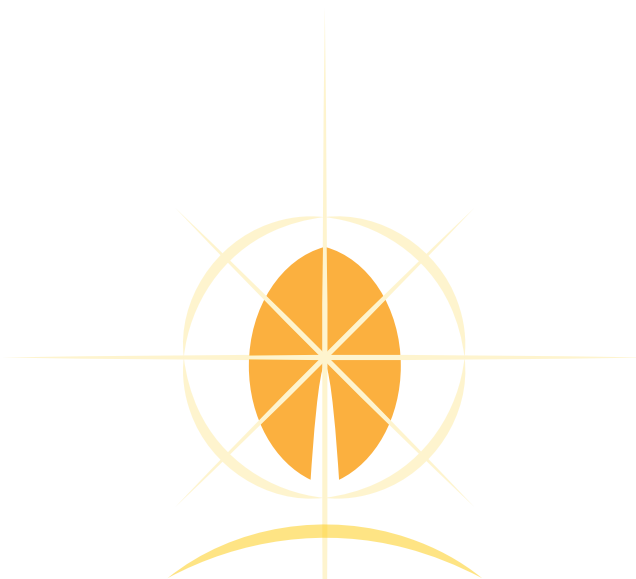
Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Simply hover your phone over the QR code
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this Christmas, thank you!



Join us again in
**CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS**

Wednesday 2nd December 2026



ROB HOUCHEN

Rob is a celebrated British stage performer known for his dynamic vocal talent and versatility across musical theatre. His impressive theatre career spans major West End productions, international tours, and concert performances.

Most recently, Rob starred in the Olivier Award winning parody musical *Titanique* at the Criterion Theatre and appeared alongside Alfie Boe in *Alfie Boe & Friends* at Tokyo Theatre Orb. He also featured in *Sondheim's Old Friends* at the Sondheim Theatre, a project that aligned with Rob's long-standing admiration for Stephen Sondheim's work.

His extensive credits include a starring role in *South Pacific*, which toured from Chichester Festival Theatre to Sadler's Wells and across the UK, as well as the two-hander *Marry Me A Little* at The Barn Theatre. He delivered a standout turn in *The Light* in the Piazza, performing at the Royal Festival Hall, Los Angeles' Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and Chicago's Lyric Opera.

Rob has been closely associated with *Les Misérables*, appearing in the iconic role of Marius in the *Les Misérables All Star Concert* at the Gielgud Theatre, the show's 30th Anniversary in Japan, and in the original production at the Queen's Theatre. His other notable credits include roles in *Eugenius!* (The Other Palace), *Broken Wings* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Titanic* (Charing Cross Theatre), and international touring work with *The 12 Tenors*. Concert performances include *Godspell in Concert* (Lyric Theatre) and *Candide in Concert* (Cadogan Hall).

On screen, Rob portrayed Tony in the BBC's *West Side Stories: The Making of a Classic* and appeared in the filmed version of *Les Misérables The All Star Concert*. And recently appeared as Lord Arthur Clinton in Netflix's *House of Guinness*.

His music is available to listen to across all major music platforms.





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 is 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) and performances support the work of The Salvation Army.

The International Staff Songsters are conducted by Dorothy Nancekivell 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

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.





WOMAN ANGEL | TOM JESTY

Classically trained under the late opera singer Norman Lilly, Susan is a distinctive and emerging voice in the Christian music scene, celebrated for her heartfelt songwriting and luminous vocals.

A multiple winner in county singing competitions, Susan regularly performs her own material under her stage name Woman Angel.

Before establishing herself as a singer-songwriter, Susan trained at the Guildford School of Acting and went on to perform extensively in theatre, television and film. Her creative journey later expanded into education and direction, serving for many years as Head of Drama at the London School of Musical Theatre. She holds a Master's degree in Shakespeare and Contemporary Performance from Birkbeck, University of London.

As a songwriter, Susan has written and performed an impressive collection of original works, both secular and sacred, blending elements of contemporary folk with faith-inspired storytelling.

Her recent composition, *Everlasting Love*, takes its inspiration from Jeremiah 31:3, a verse brought to life through the teaching of her Pastor at her church in Islington, where she was confirmed in 2023. The song's message of divine love and enduring faith resonates deeply with listeners, capturing the heart of the Christmas season.

Instagram: @woman_angel_music

Tom began his musical education by singing as a Quirister in the Winchester College Chapel Choir from the age of 8.

In 2004, Tom won the BBC Radio 2 Chorister of the Year competition, which led to opportunities to appear on Radio 3 and Songs of Praise, as well as on the soundtrack to Christopher Nolan's film, *Batman Begins*.

Tom went on to take up a music scholarship at Winchester College, where he discovered a love of piano. After studying music at St Peter's College Oxford, Tom embarked on a career as a piano teacher and accompanist.

He recently completed a masters course in piano accompaniment at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied with Pamela Lidiard and Iain Burnside.

Tom accompanies for the City Chamber Choir, directed by Stephen Jones. He also works as music director of St Mary's church in Islington, and last year he served as Graduate Fellow in Collaborative Piano at Royal Holloway University.





SALVATION ARMY BIG BAND

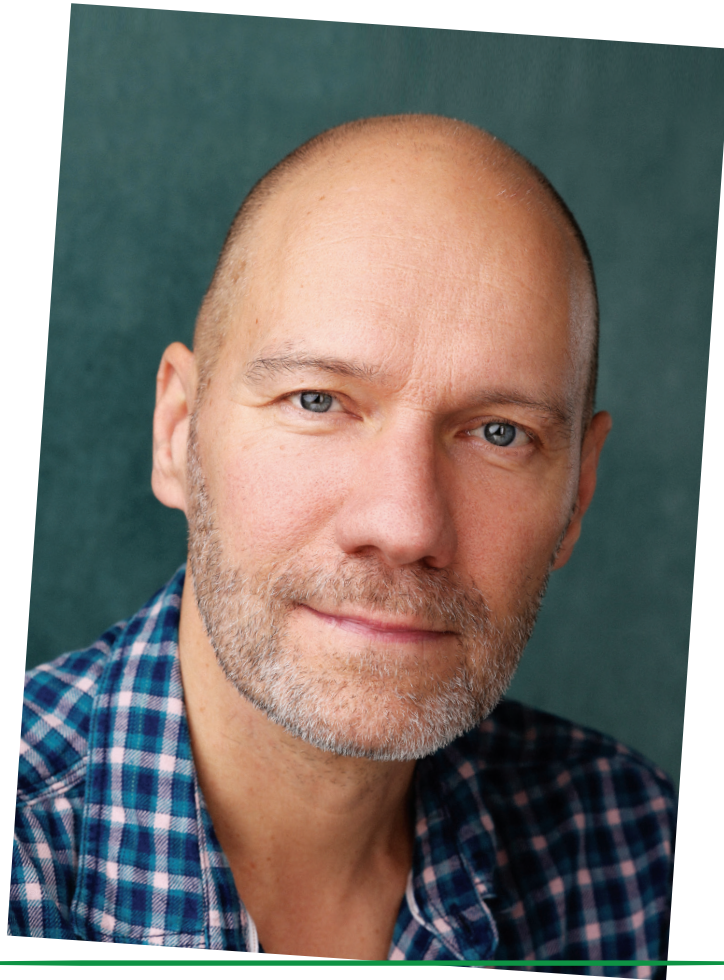
The sight and sound of a big band may not be anything new to most people, but did you know that until around the 1920's saxophones were not an uncommon sight in Salvation Army Bands.

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.





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.

His musical adaptation of *The Colonel's Lady* (based on a short story by Somerset Maugham) is currently being workshopped by the London School of Musical Theatre. He is also co-creating a new children's book *Purple Pastures*.

Graham has spent the last year directing at LAMDA, where his productions included The 25th Annual Puttnam County Spelling Bee for Edinburgh Festival this summer.

www.grahamhubbard.co.uk
Instagram: grayhub999





Love God
Love Others

www.salvationarmy.org.uk

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