

Hertfordshire Schools'
Gala 2025
Sunday 23 March, 7.45pm

The **30**th Anniversary
Celebration

A celebration of music across the generations,
featuring music making from Hertfordshire
Music Service and Hertfordshire schools.



 **Royal Albert Hall**

#HertsSchoolsGala

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMSGala



**Hertfordshire
Music Service**



Royal Albert Hall

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Hertfordshire

Welcome



I am delighted to welcome you to the Royal Albert Hall for the 30th Anniversary Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2025.

Hertfordshire County Council continues to proudly endorse Hertfordshire Music Service and the comprehensive range of music tuition, events and activities that it provides in schools, music centres, and other settings, across Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire Music Service is celebrated nationwide for its leadership of inclusive music education. Their work benefits thousands of children and young people every day. I am thrilled that their initiatives continue to thrive in our schools and communities, offering a wealth of musical opportunities through effective partnerships.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to today's event and to our brilliant performers.

It is wonderful to see all the young people from so many schools here today. Please join me in enjoying the performances from our dedicated musicians and singers.



Terry Douris
Hertfordshire County Council

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome everyone to the 30th Anniversary of the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala. Being the Chairman of the Hertfordshire Music Hub, I am privileged to be involved in such a wonderful display of musical performances that represent the extraordinary skill and assortment of music making that continues to thrive across Hertfordshire.



Over 2,300 young people are participating in two incredible Gala concerts displaying the comprehensive engagement the Hertfordshire Music Service continues to deliver within our schools and community across the county.

The Gala is the culmination of the hard work and dedication of the teachers and performers over months of rehearsals and practice. It brings together children and young people giving them the opportunity to enjoy, achieve and celebrate through music. My sincere gratitude goes out to everyone involved and to you, the supporters of the young people. Sit back and enjoy.



Richard Jones, Independent Chair
Hertfordshire Music Hub

At Hertfordshire Music Service, we believe that everyone has a musical voice that deserves to be nurtured and this year's Gala performances offer our young musicians and dancers the chance to share their amazing talents once again at the iconic Royal Albert Hall.



Hertfordshire Music Service has created musical learning opportunities of all kinds for decades, and we are always delighted to hear from parents and carers in the audience who took part in the Gala as a child themselves. For some of our performers, this event could be an inspiring springboard to a career in our country's fantastic arts and culture sector – but for many it will become a precious, life enhancing experience that reminds them of the importance of music and dance for years to come.

Our team at the music service has put together another incredible event, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Gala. This year we were also supported by a youth focus group and a range of other creative professionals to ensure that the performers can express themselves authentically 'For the Record' – the song choices, messages and overall theme were all influenced directly by the young people.

At all our big life events, we add music. Celebrations of all kinds work best when there is live music, and if you want music to be a part of your life in any form, we need music education.

We remain fortunate that so many schools and families understand the value of music for its own sake – as part of a broad and balanced learning experience, but also for its benefits to mental health and wellbeing. This shared passion and belief in the value of music drives Hertfordshire Music Service to continuously improve access to music for every child in Hertfordshire, no matter their background or circumstances. Our councillors, executive leaders, and other teams at Hertfordshire County Council also continue to generously support music, making it possible for everyone, including our most vulnerable young people to be included in this amazing event.

I am so proud of all the performers, teachers, and colleagues behind the scenes involved in the 2025 Gala and I eagerly invite you, our audience, to enjoy the show.



Benjamin Stevens, Director of Music
Hertfordshire Music Service



Watch the video introduction
[www.youtu.be/TU65dajMwW0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TU65dajMwW0)

Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2025



For The Record.

Sunday 23 March 2025, 7.45pm
Conductor: Rufus Frowde

Massed Hertfordshire Primary and Secondary School Choirs
Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Hertfordshire County Youth Choir

Also sprach Zarathustra - Sunrise, Op. 30

Richard Strauss
HSSO, dancers

If I Had Words

Camille Saint-Saëns, words by John Hodge,
arr. Daniel Basford
Massed choirs & HSSO

When I Grow Up

from Matilda the Musical by Tim Minchin,
arr. Daniel Basford
Primary massed choir, HSSO & dancers

Caught in the Net

Billie Reason
HSSO

Believer

Imagine Dragons, arr. Thomas Marples
Massed choirs, HSSO, Gala rap competition winner, drummers

Make Your Own Kind of Music

Cass Elliot, arr. James Day
Massed choirs, HSSO & dancers

Burden

Isabelle Marsom
Gala songwriter competition winner

In My House

Emmanuel 'Oba' Synette arr. Lindsay Campbell
HMS Steel Orchestra

Stars

Ēriks Ešenvalds
Secondary massed choir

Control

Zoe Wees, arr. Daniel Basford
Secondary massed choir, HSSO, Gala rap competition winner, dancers

You're the Voice

John Farnham, arr. James Day
Massed choirs, HSSO, drummers, players from
HMS Steel Orchestra & dancers

An introduction to today's programme

As a young pianist, I was entrusted with playing keyboard for the première of Bob Chilcott's 'News from Space' at the 1998 Hertfordshire Schools' Gala at the Royal Albert Hall - my first taste of an extraordinary concert that Hertfordshire Music Service has produced for the last 30 years.

As my involvement with the Galas has developed, I have had countless conversations with friends, neighbours, colleagues and strangers about their memories of a biennial event which has firmly established itself at the core of Hertfordshire's offering to its schools and young people.

In 2014, I became much more closely involved with the artistic programming of the Galas. Since then, without exception, these concerts have showcased new music from the pens of established as well as up-and-coming composers, orchestrators and arrangers. I am delighted that, in 2025, Billie Reason, a former member of North Herts & Stevenage Youth Orchestra and now a student at Guildhall School of Music has embraced this challenge so wholeheartedly.

Once again, I stand this evening in front of thousands of talented young performers, supported by a truly impressive team who tirelessly work, increasingly against the odds, to make this event possible. Our artistically-adventurous and varied programme explores the stories which we tell, and the humanity that we share in music. I am moved to know that, in this role, I have been joined on stage by my own Primary and Secondary Schools, the County Youth Choir of which I used to be a member, the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra which I used to lead, and, truly reflecting the cyclical nature of this event, in 2025 as a parent with my own son in the choir.

It remains my hope that in 30 years time, one of the young performers in front of me might be able to put on record a similar story.

Rufus Frowde
Conductor



Watch the video introduction
www.youtu.be/kfguzHnkAWI



Watch the interview with Rufus
www.youtu.be/Ymrb5_ssCJA

About the music

Also sprach Zarathustra - Sunrise, Op. 30

Richard Strauss

Stanley Kubrick famously used the opening of Strauss's 'Also Sprach Zarathustra' to depict a cosmic sunrise in his 1968 film '2001: A Space Odyssey'. The symphonic poem, however, received its première in 1896.

Although less familiar today, Nietzsche's philosophical 'Thus Spoke Zarathustra' was initially a popular read for young Germans. At a time when traditional European values and norms were being questioned, it explored fin-de-siècle artistic ideals of a free-spirited "super-person" aspiring for more than his world seemed to offer.

Strauss quotes Nietzsche's Preface in the opening of this symphonic tone poem:

"When Zarathustra was 30 years old [...], he took to the mountains. There he enjoyed his loneliness, communing with his soul, and did not tire of this for ten years. But at last a change was wrought in his heart, and one morning he arose with the dawn and turned to the sun..."

If I Had Words

Camille Saint-Saëns, words by John Hodge, arr. Daniel Basford

'If I had Words' is the French composer Saint-Saëns' melody from the Maestoso section of his Symphony No.3 (the 'Organ' Symphony). The instrumental melody was first given words in 1977 with a reggae beat by Scott Fitzgerald and Yvonne Keeley. It was also used as a song in the 1995 film 'Babe'. Our version takes the lyrics and melody back to its orchestral origins in a commissioned arrangement by Hertfordshire Music Service alumnus, Daniel Basford.

When I Grow Up

from Matilda the Musical by Tim Minchin, arr. Daniel Basford

This is a commissioned orchestration of Roger Emerson's arrangement of an iconic song from the opening of the second act of Tim Minchin's 'Matilda', based on Roald Dahl's 1988 novel. It portrays a wonderfully optimistic, naïve and joyous view of Matilda's vision for her future and of the supposedly absolute freedom of adulthood.

Believer

Imagine Dragons, arr. Thomas Marples

This is an orchestral cover of the 2017 song by the American pop rock band Imagine Dragons. Dan Reynolds, one of the songwriters described the intention of the song.

"The meaning of the song is really reflecting on specific things in my life that were painful, whether it was anxiety and dealing with crowds, feeling overwhelmed by that or the success of the band, disease, going through depression—anything that was a source of pain in my life. And just rising above that, finding a place of perspective where I could be appreciative of the pain in my life and make it my greatest strength."

Make Your Own Kind of Music

Cass Elliot, arr. James Day

'Make Your Own Kind of Music' is a song by American singer Cass Elliot, originally released in 1969. Paloma Faith also had a hit with the song in 2018. It went viral in TikTok trends throughout 2023. It is a wonderfully catchy song celebrating free spirit, self expression and independence. "You've gotta sing your own song, even if nobody else sings along".

Stars

Ēriks Ešvalds

A beautifully evocative setting of the words of Sara Teasdale (1884 -1933). The choir is accompanied by clusters of tuned wine glasses and Tibetan singing bowls evoking a wooded hill, stars in a clear sky devoid of light pollution and the appreciation of their eternity.

Control

Zoe Wees, arr. Daniel Basford

'Control' is the debut solo single by German singer, Zoe Wees. This power ballad explores the singer's anxiety and lack of control, in part due to her struggles with epilepsy. She writes:

"The sickness was stronger than me, and left scars that have become part of my life. Accepting them has taken so much time, but they make me what I am today: a fighter."

"Today I see 'Control' as the best way to leave my past behind and writing this song was the best therapy I could have done to deal with this past. The song is dedicated to my school teacher who played an important role in that time, helping me through the most difficult situations of my epilepsy – in the classroom, and in the hospital. I'm so happy that I can tell this story now and try to help other people who are going through tough times, too."

You're the Voice

John Farnham, arr. James Day

'You're the Voice' is a song predominantly known by the 1986 release of the British-born Australian singer, John Farnham. It became a global hit.

Although on the surface it does not seem like a protest song, the song writers' intentions were to create a song that emphasised the importance of invoking personal agency when it comes to effecting political change, prompted particularly by the campaigns for nuclear disarmament of the early 1980s.

More recently, John Farnham, referencing the way in which the song had changed his life and circumstances, gave his permission for the song to be used by the 'Yes' campaign in the recent Australian referendum. He hoped it would play a small part in changing the lives of the country's aboriginal population.

I hope that you will be moved to join us in the singing of the wordless refrain when, as one, we can raise the roof of the Royal Albert Hall and lose ourselves in the energy of youth, the power of music and the joy of shared human endeavour.



Rufus Frowde

Conductor of the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala

A freelance conductor, organist, pianist and composer, Rufus was Organist and Assistant Director at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace from 2003 – 2023 as well as a long-serving Musical Director of Surrey Youth Choir. He became Artistic Director of The English Chamber Choir in 2024. He also holds conducting posts with VIVAMUS Chamber Choir, Dacorum Community Choir (founder) and Hertfordshire Music Service. He is also the Accompanist of Hertfordshire Chorus, one of the UK's finest symphonic choirs.

Rufus is a former pupil of Hemel Hempstead School and studied music as an Organ Scholar at Merton College, Oxford University. He subsequently became Organ Scholar of Worcester Cathedral and undertook prize-winning postgraduate study in Choral Direction and Church Music at the Royal Academy of Music.

Rufus has always maintained a versatile approach to music-making, seeking to ensure that barriers to quality music-making are overcome. As such, alongside his work as a professional musician, he nurtures the music at his local primary school (Samuel Lucas JMI School, Hitchin) as well as working as an amateur for the Chorister Outreach Project at St Albans Cathedral.

Rufus' performances have included numerous UK cathedrals, Westminster Abbey, La Madeleine (Paris), Kaunas Cathedral, St Thomas's Leipzig, St Paul's Basilica (Rome), Cologne Cathedral, Haarlem Cathedral and Longwood Gardens (Pennsylvania). He has worked with musicians and performers including Emma Johnson, Crispian Steele Perkins, Kiri te Kanawa, José Carreras, Ian McMillan and Michael Rosen. He works with numerous orchestras as a guest conductor including The Hanover Band, Brandenburg Sinfonia, Southbank Sinfonia and the Brandenburg Baroque Soloists in collaboration with his choirs.

Rufus appears as a conductor, organist and composer on the Signum Classics, Resonus Classics, Diversions and Divine Art record labels and his work is frequently broadcast on national radio and television. Rufus was awarded Her Majesty's Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Medals as well as a 2023 Coronation Medal.



About the groups and dancers

HMS Steel Orchestra

The Hertfordshire Music Service Steel Orchestra unites pan players aged 8-50 from across the county, celebrating the power of steelpan music to bring people together. Under the direction of Lindsay Campbell, this dynamic ensemble features dedicated pannists from Stevenage and Mid Herts Community Steelbands, St Albans Girls' School, Purwell Primary School and Countess Anne Primary School.

For today's performance at the Royal Albert Hall, the orchestra presents an arrangement of 'In My House' by Emmanuel Oba Synette - a vibrant and uplifting piece that embodies the spirit of the steelpan community. Through this performance, the ensemble celebrates the rich culture, creativity and unity that define the world of pan.

Drummers

Afternoon: Knights Templar Percussion Ensemble

The new Percussion Ensemble at KTS has been running since October 2024 and explores a range of different percussion instruments and techniques. The HMS Gala is their first public performance!

Evening: Samuel Lucas Gala Drummers

The drummers from Samuel Lucas have been brought together specifically for the HMS Gala and have been working on their drumline parts in a special project in the run-up to today's performance.

Afternoon concert

Bushey Meads Dance Group

The dancers from Bushey Meads are ready to deliver two electrifying performances, accompanied by a live orchestra, packed with high-energy choreography and groovy flair that will have the audience dancing along. They are beyond excited to showcase their talent at such a prestigious venue, promising an unforgettable experience for both the performers and the audience.

Tring School Dance Group

Tring School dance group is a hardworking group who get countless opportunities each year including competing at local competitions and festivals. The group is led by two sixth formers who have worked extremely hard alongside the rest of the team to create what you see today. We are so grateful for the opportunities and effort that they all put in and it shows in each and every performance.

The Hemel Hempstead School Funk Band

The Hemel Hempstead School Funk Band has long been the band that many students have sought to be a part of over the years. The band has tackled particularly tricky repertoire over the years, all whilst having fun displaying their musicality with some favourite funk tunes, notably from the 60s and 70s. They are regularly asked to perform in the community and for charity events as well as performing in our annual Christmas and Summer concerts. We also perform internationally every two years on a music tour.

This year's group is a 16-piece band who have been rehearsing diligently to present their version of Tori's Kelly's rendition of 'Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing', by Stevie Wonder. We hope you enjoy the performance!

Evening concert

Astley Cooper Dance Company

The Astley Cooper Dance Company is proud to be performing as part of the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala this evening. This company is made up of our most gifted and talented dancers from across the school, who have successfully auditioned for a place on our team. The ACDC dance company is a tradition at our school and has been running for many years. This is the most prestigious event we have had the honour of performing in to date and we are very excited to be here!

Our first piece, 'Also Sprach Zarathustra', is inspired by the music and is all about the beauty of a sunrise. From the colours to the atmosphere and dawning of a new day, this piece depicts a feeling of grace and calm and aims to set the scene for the rest of the gala, as a sunrise would do at the beginning of a day.

'When I Grow Up' is inspired by the song from Matilda the Musical. We see younger and older versions of Matilda who are aspiring to be grown up and independent. The older Matildas dance with their younger selves, showing the transition through childhood into the adolescent years. Whilst we all grow up, we will always be children at heart.

'Make Your Own Kind of Music' takes on the theme of having your own way of doing things, which inspires others to join you on your journey. Our dancers each have their own movements which are copied and developed by the rest of the ensemble as the song continues, culminating in a celebration of everyone's differences and bringing us together.

We end the gala with a more upbeat piece, 'You're the Voice', which aims to celebrate the performances of the evening and excite and inspire the audience to move in their seats!

Choreography by Hayley-Jane Harley and Hackim Benaziza.

Hitchin Girls' Dance Company

Hitchin Girls' Dance Company comprises 16 students aged 12-18 who love to dance. It has been an absolute pleasure working with these incredibly talented dancers, who have worked with commitment and creativity over the past 6 months. Our contemporary piece explores the themes of control, identity and individuality, and delves into thinking about young people forming their own opinions and styles about music and dance, and how this materialises alongside the views of their parents/carers and loved ones. We hope you enjoy our performance and a massive congratulations to the dancers.

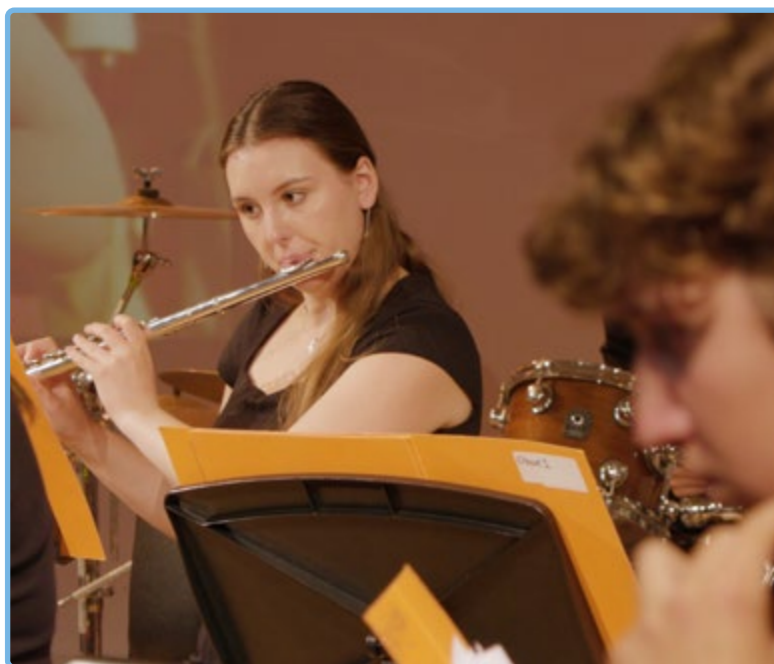
Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra

Principal Conductor: Patrick Bailey

Leader: Ray Chen

The Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra (HSSO) is one of two auditioned county youth orchestras and welcomes instrumentalists from a range of disciplines. Members of the orchestra are confident musicians (typically grade 6 /7+ standard) who will have played in their area youth orchestras or been involved in similar orchestra opportunities.

Performing in HSSO gives the opportunity to develop confidence, and a range of orchestral skills across a varied repertoire whilst working with experienced conductors and sectional tutors.



Hertfordshire County Youth Choir

Conductor: James Slimings

Hertfordshire County Youth Choir (HCYC) welcomes all young vocalists from typically year 9 and above who aspire to engage with high quality and varied choral repertoire alongside other likeminded singers from across Hertfordshire.

HCYC meets for weekly rehearsals and offer inspiring performance opportunities throughout the year. Participating in HCYC supports your abilities as a singer in an ensemble, and provides opportunity for developing your sight reading, aural skills, solo performance, and conducting skills.



Competition winners

Hertfordshire Music Service is thrilled to present the opportunity for our young musicians to celebrate their diverse and incredible musical skills at the iconic Royal Albert Hall.

The 2025 Hertfordshire Schools' Gala will showcase winners of the Gala Rapper and Songwriting competitions. All of the winning performers have received expert guidance from professional musicians and producers, supporting the next stage of their musical development.

Songwriting

The gala songwriting competition offers young people in Hertfordshire an opportunity to perform their own song at the Royal Albert Hall, as part of the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala.

Entrants to the competition were offered an opportunity during February half term to record their song at a recording studio at West Herts College.

The winner of the competition is Isabelle Marsom, with her song 'Burden', who will perform her original song in the evening concert.

Burden

Vocalist and songwriter: Isabelle Marsom

Piano accompanist: Joel Swedensky



This song is deeply personal to me, as it explores family issues and the experience of growing up in a broken home. Writing it was a very natural process – the emotions were so raw and real that the words just flowed. Music has always been an outlet for me, and this song is a reflection of that.

Performing at the Royal Albert Hall is an incredible honour. It's such a historic and prestigious venue, and to have the opportunity to share my music on that stage means the world to me. I'm truly grateful for this moment and for everyone who has supported me along the way.

Isabelle



Rapper

Kid Promise

I'm Kid Promise, a music artist/rapper from Hertfordshire who wants to empower young people through my music for a better future. I started writing lyrics in primary school and then went on to learn how to produce my own music during lockdown in 2020.

My writing process really revolves around the feeling first and what melodies sporadically come from those first drafts of me demoing over a song. From there I try to write the most authentic lyrics I can and then tighten things up towards the end so my lyrics flow as smoothly as possible, which I believe is something really important for a rapper.

I absolutely cannot wait to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and am totally stoked to have won again and to be able to have this amazing opportunity once more!

Commission

Caught in the Net

Billie Reason

What is our relationship with the internet? Are we using it wisely? How can we ensure a safer digital future?

The internet holds massive potential as a tool for humanity, yet its short history has been marked by privacy breaches, cybercrime, and growing concerns about digital well-being. As we become more dependent on it, we must closely examine our relationship with it, and how to navigate its dangers.

Return Fire: Caught in the Net, a 2016 zine exploring the risks of the internet, inspired the message (and title) of this piece. Featuring real news reports and glitch sounds, pre-recorded audio combines with the orchestra, exploring the interaction between human and digital. Tension builds throughout the piece, reflecting the internet's increasingly complicated and chaotic development, until it converges on a single note—symbolizing the 'technological singularity', a hypothetical future point where technological growth becomes uncontrollable and irreversible. Chaotic noise depicts the uncertainty of what could follow.

I had many conversations with AI whilst writing this piece, helping me to plan and compose, and highlighting that the internet can both help and hinder us. A plea written by ChatGPT ends the piece, urging us to create a safer, fairer web for all. The time for us to act is now - what will you do?

About Billie Reason

Over the last five years, I've been very lucky to take part in the many ensembles run by Herts Music Service. This began with cello lessons and took me from the North Herts and Stevenage Youth Orchestra to the countywide Herts Schools' Symphony Orchestra. Two years ago, I had the privilege to perform as part of HSSO at the gala, and now the amazing opportunity to contribute as a composer for the event. I'm very grateful for all the support and opportunities that HMS offers to help music thrive across the county.

Currently, I'm studying composition at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. I love exploring a wide range of musical influences, including electronic music, graphic notation, jazz, and chance-based music. In my spare time I enjoy practicing piano and cello, and jamming with my friends.

Storytellers

Karene Horner Hughes – Director

Karene is the Creative Projects Manager at Trestle Theatre Company and runs Trestle School of Drama. This is her first time supporting the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala, and with her passion for amplifying youth voice she was excited at the opportunity to bring a dramatic element to the Gala through the voices of the young people. Karene is a director and writer, having both written and directed the script, she has an eclectic music taste and is rarely seen without a pair of headphones!

Storytellers

Freddie Kent, Abigail Clarke, Emily Nicolas

Our storytellers Freddie and Abi join us as current and former members of Trestle School of Drama, and Emily is a HMS Gala alumni! The storytellers have supported the development of the script with input from the HMS Youth Focus Group and hope to answer the ultimate question, what makes a great playlist?

Youth Focus Group

A brand-new opportunity for young people aged 15 - 21 to promote student voice and help behind the scenes in planning the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2025, the Gala Youth Focus Group has been essential to the development and planning of the storyline of our 30th anniversary celebration.

Hertfordshire Music Service would like to extend their thanks to all the young people involved who have attended meetings, provided their thoughts, and shaped the story of the 2025 Gala!



Massed choir

The colour allocated below to your child's school will indicate which area they will be seated in the Royal Albert Hall. Please see pages 20-21 to view the massed choir seating plan.

Primary schools

- Almond Hill Junior School
- Brookmans Park School
- Christ Church Chorleywood C of E School
- Countess Anne School
- Field Junior School
- Park Street C of E Primary School and Nursery
- Samuel Lucas JMI School
- Sarratt C of E Primary School
- St Cross Catholic Primary School
- St Nicholas CE VA Primary School
- St Paul's Walden Primary School
- The Grange Academy
- Bromet Primary School
- Colney Heath JMI School
- Divine Saviour Catholic Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- The Wroxham School
- Boxmoor Primary School
- Holy Rood Catholic Primary School
- Little Gaddesden Church of England Primary School
- William Ransom Primary School
- Wymondley JMI School
- Knutsford Primary Academy
- Maple Primary School
- Redbourn Primary School
- Roselands Primary School
- St Mary's (VC) C of E Junior School
- Woolenwick Junior School
- How Wood Primary School and Nursery
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
- St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
- Cherry Tree Primary School
- Chorleywood Primary School
- Codicote C of E Primary School
- Creswick Academy
- Hertford St Andrew C of E Primary School
- Hobletts Manor Junior School
- Morgans Primary School
- St Paul's C of E VA Primary and Nursery School
- The Lea Primary School and Nursery
- Waterside Academy
- Whitehill Junior School

Secondary schools

- Bishop's Stortford High School
- Hertfordshire County Youth Choir
- Laureate Academy, Hemel Hempstead
- Loreto College, St Albans
- Sir John Lawes School, Harpenden
- The Highfield School, Letchworth Garden City
- The Priory School, Hitchin
- The Thomas Alleyne Academy, Stevenage
- Townsend CE VA Secondary, St Albans

Special thank you to Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire Music Service would like to thank Hertfordshire County Council, partner organisations and everyone who supports music making for young people in the county.

This consistent support enables thousands of children and young people to discover their musical voice and express themselves through the language of music.

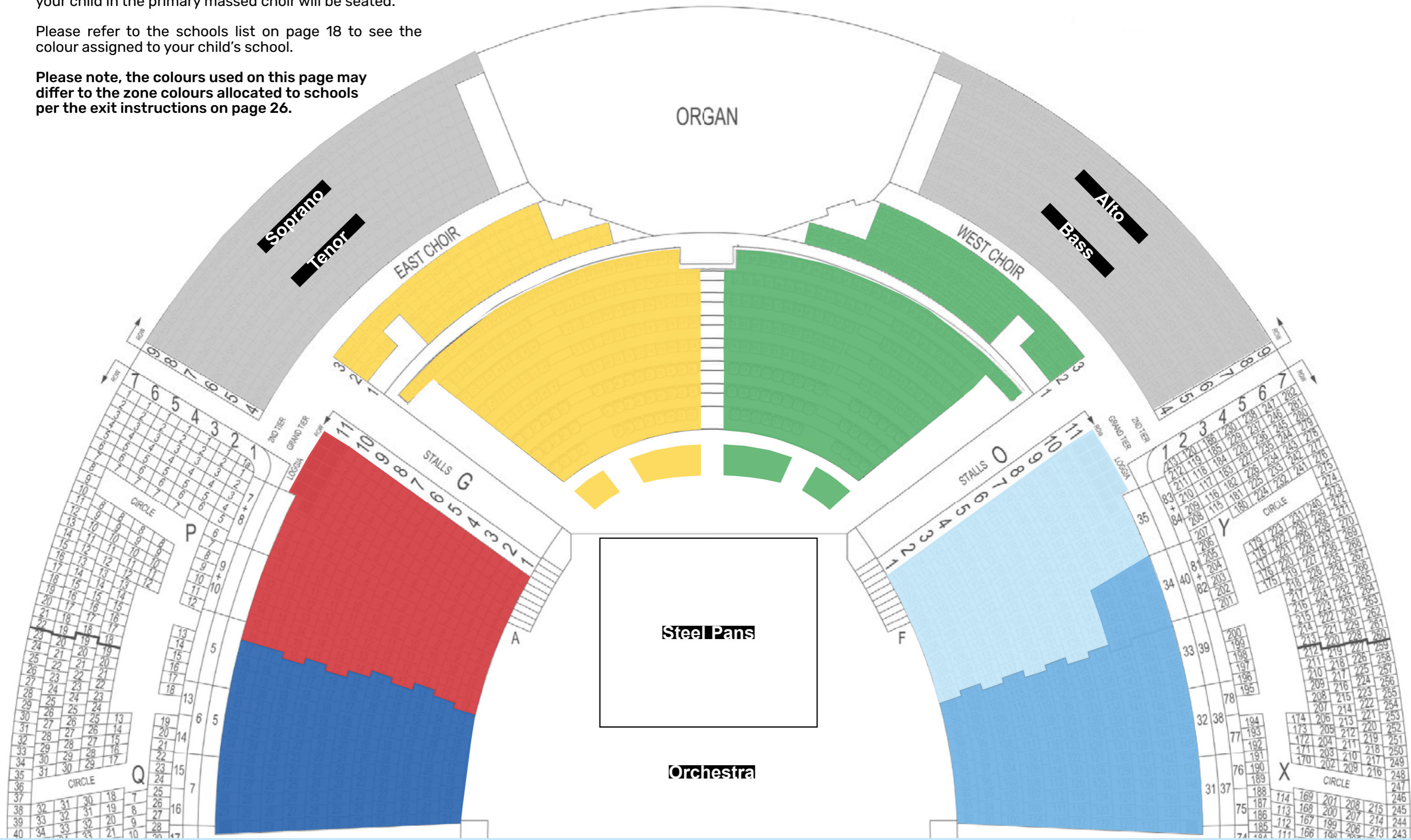


Massed choir seating plan

You may use the below seating plan to help find where your child in the primary massed choir will be seated.

Please refer to the schools list on page 18 to see the colour assigned to your child's school.

Please note, the colours used on this page may differ to the zone colours allocated to schools per the exit instructions on page 26.



Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2025 Production Team

Project Manager

Lucy Buckland

Project Co-ordinator

Daisy Enfield

Technical Manager and Deputy Stage Manager

Rory Davidson

Orchestra and Ensembles Manager

Beth Hopkins

Instrument and Equipment Manager

Archie Vary

Stage Crew

Matt Smith

Director

Karene Horner-Hughes

HMS Competition Mentors

Phil Stanley

Victoria Port

HMS Commission Mentors

Patrick Bailey

Stuart Pringle

Technical Assistants

Dionyves Lake

Fred Mackay

Paul Reynard

Richard Haygreen

Tom Mackay

Gala Support Staff

Adrian Oldland

Alla Alban

Andrea Lee

Anita Forrest

Anna Golebiowski

Carla Chandler

Carys Roberts

Caz Wolfson

Charlie Scott

Charlotte West

Christina Luchies

Claire Humphries

Edgar Twomey

Elizabeth Power

Flora Cox

Gabriel-Cezar Forcos

Georgie Bennet

Haris Khodabux

Hattie Jolly

Hina Zainab

Ian Sanderson

Irina Shivarova

Jenny Lines

Jo-Anna Eccles

Katharine Carter

Kathryn Salter-Kay

Katy Wilmshurst

Kelly Simpson

Kevin Simpson

Lavinia Day

Leigh Miller

Lindsay Campbell

Liz Goscomb

Liz Middleton

Malini Patel

Man Wai Chung

Mark Green

Matthew Dear

Max Gore

Mei Yan Cheng

Monica Mills

Paul White

Peter Foster

Rachael Moorhead

Richard Sissons

Ruth Larbey

Samantha Oliver

Sarah Evans

Sean Law

Shannon St. Luce

Sofia Pan

Sofia Piccoli

Sue Pettitt

Tansy Agnew

Tanyaradzwa Machisa

Tim Emler

Yanessa Welch

Yugeshree Ramsamy

Zuha Arif

BSL Interpreter

Omoyele Davey

MAKATON Interpreter

Nyree O'Brien

Sound & Projection

SFL Group, sflgroup.co.uk

Archie Horrox – FOH Engineer

Matt Wadley – Production

Manager

Katie Lester – Vision Mixer

Photography

Andy Paradise (Paradise

Photo)

Video recording

Black Swan Film & Video

Royal Albert Hall

Thanks to all RAH staff,

contractors, suppliers and

partners for their contribution

to this event.

Registered charity number

254543

www.royalalberthall.com

Grateful acknowledgement is also made to the Members of the Royal Albert Hall who have kindly returned their debenture tickets.

Official photography

Andy Paradise - official photographer

On the morning of Wednesday 26 March you will be able to view and buy photographs taken. There will be a password protected gallery for each performance.

To view the photographs:

- Go to: www.tinyurl.com/r487jmeH
- Select Afternoon or Evening performance.

The password is: **RAH_2025**

Photographs will remain on the website for one year after the performance.

Video recording

Black Swan Film and Video

A professional video recording of this concert is being produced and will be available to watch two – four weeks after the performance date, priced £15.

You can order a DVD and/or digital online stream via bsfv.co.uk/shop



County Youth Music

Music making at county level enables young people to develop confidence in a range of musical skills whilst working in a supportive, yet stimulating environment. The activities, experiences, and coaching on offer are designed to support you in fulfilling your musical potential.

County level music making offers you the opportunity to continue your musical journey from regional and/or school ensembles, and helping to prepare you for future opportunities whether that be:

- Further study
- A life in the music profession
- To keep enjoying music making as a hobby for years to come

The types of experiences, friendships, and memories made through county music making stay with people for a lifetime. If this sounds like something you are interested in, then we would love to hear from you!

For more information, visit hertsmusicservice.org.uk/countyouthmusic



Watch our video about County Youth Music
www.youtube.be/-C-0gSgn5JQ

Join your local music centre



We provide lessons in the afternoon, evening and on the weekends at our 10 music centres across the county.



We offer various lesson types and durations.



As your child progresses on their musical journey, they will be invited to join ensembles performing regularly.

For more information, visit
www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk



Massed choir exit instructions

Schools

At the end of the concert, schools must stay in performance positions until instructed to leave by the announcements from stage.

Teachers / chaperones are responsible for their group when exiting the building, boarding coaches and reuniting with parents. Teachers / chaperones must report any problems (e.g. lost children) to a member of the HMS team (wearing a yellow shirt and an HMS lanyard)

Parents

Before the day of the gala, schools will have informed you of the zone colour and meeting point to reunite with your child once the concert has ended. **Please note, the zone colours may not match the colour shown in the schools seating plan on pages 20-21 of this programme.**

After the concert, we kindly ask that you leave the building as quickly as possible and proceed to the designated meeting point to meet your child. It is important that you do not congregate outside the exit doors as this makes it difficult for others to exit the building.

Zone	Exit Door	Meeting point
Blue	Door 12	South Steps
Yellow	Door 9	North West Quadrant (outside Doors 7-9)
Red	Door 2	South East Quadrant (outside Doors 1-2)
Green	Door 5	North East Quadrant (outside Doors 3-5)



Can you give a child in Hertfordshire a brighter future?

We urgently need foster carers for children of all ages, especially teenagers and sibling groups

Make a difference today.
Call us on **0800 917 0925** or scan the QR code for more info.



FOSTERWITHUS
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fostering



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Improving Lives

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