

Vocalise! concert - June 2019

Our outreach concert this year was a huge success – it took place on 14 June 2019 at Cadogan Hall in Sloane Square, London and was based on the theme ‘Sounds of Music’.



300 children from ten primary schools in the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster and Tower Hamlets took part, performing music which they had learned in workshops with The Bach Choir over the school year. The children opened the concert with a fantastic rendition of *Food Glorious Food* from the musical *Oliver!* based on Charles Dickens’ novel *Oliver Twist*.

Three schools (Holy Cross, St John’s Walham Green and ARK Brunel) each came forward to brilliantly perform a song on their own, conducted by their school teachers. The songs were *Doll on a Music Box / Truly Scrumptious*, *Love Shine a Light* and *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* respectively.

The Bach Choir sang *To Be Sung of a Summer Night on the Water* by English composer Frederick Delius, a piece for a six-part choir of sopranos, altos, two tenor parts, and two bass parts a cappella (without accompaniment).



The band, comprised of Paul Jones on saxophone, Phil Mulford on bass and Jim Fleeman on drumkit, then improvised a groovy instrumental interlude based on a jazz standard.

The last item in the first half was a medley from *The Sound of Music* featuring four songs from the Rodgers and Hammerstein favourite – *The Sound of Music*, *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi* and *Climb Every Mountain*. It was a lot of fun and was performed with big smiles by all ten schools and The Bach Choir together. The children and the Choir were conducted by The Bach Choir's Musical Director, David Hill, and accompanied by Philip Scriven on the piano.



After the interval we were treated to the main piece of the evening – *Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles* by composer Will Todd and poet Michael Rosen, commissioned by The Bach Choir for our outreach programme, and premiered in 2016. We were lucky enough to have Will Todd with us on this occasion to read some of Michael Rosen's poetry in between the eight movements of the song cycle. Nine of the schools sang the Main Youth Choir part whilst the Youth Chamber Choir part was sung by St Stephen's C of E Primary, in harmony with The Bach Choir, the band (joined by percussionist Matt Green), and conductor David Hill. The children performed with great energy and enthusiasm, producing an excellent and confident sound, occasionally accompanied by actions which they had devised to reflect the lyrics.



The schools taking part in the concert in Cadogan Hall were:

ARK Brunel Primary Academy	St Barnabas C of E Primary
Ben Jonson Primary	St John's Walham Green C of E Primary
Gateway Academy	St Joseph's Catholic Primary
Holy Cross Catholic Primary	St Stephen's C of E Primary
Redlands Primary	Wilberforce Primary



The concert was attended by approximately 400 audience members, including parents, family members and teachers of the children, all of whom gave a standing ovation at the end to show how much they enjoyed the performance. The comperes for the evening, introducing the items in the concert, were Nick Cutts, The Bach Choir's General Manager, and Aliss Pollock, Outreach Administrator.

