

Friday Afternoons



PRESS RELEASE
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New music from Friday Afternoons by Errollyn Wallen available in April

***MAP: Songs For Children Everywhere* World Premiere on 11 May in Hull**

From April, UK-wide and international singing initiative **Friday Afternoons** launches 12 new songs for young people around the world to sing by **Errollyn Wallen**.

Errollyn Wallen is an internationally acclaimed composer and singer-songwriter and the new songs take inspiration from the composer's travels over the past year. Every song in *MAP: Songs for Children Everywhere* includes a note about where it was written —including outer space, Belize, Crete, Israel and Palestine, and to the British Isles, especially featuring Scotland, London and Suffolk.

MAP: Songs for children everywhere receives its world premiere at the Albermarle Centre in Hull on **11 May 2018**. Accompanied by Wallen herself, the pieces are to be performed by a massed choir in partnership with Hull Music Hub, comprising children from Kelvin Hall Secondary School, the Wold Primary Academy, City of Hull Junior Choir and the Hull Choral Union Junior Choir, conducted by Charles MacDougall.

Speaking about the compositions, Errollyn Wallen said: "The collection reflects the experiences that I had when I was travelling around the world last year, but I also imagined children from different cultures and how the songs would appeal to them. I especially asked to record my own piano parts. I think its maybe because I write a lot of songs for myself to sing and play and I wanted to keep that connection – I felt it was really important for these songs."

Premiering the songs in Hull continues the legacy of the Singing City initiative, that was part of the City of Culture 2017. Errollyn Wallen was also composer in residence there last year for City of Culture/PRSF's New Music Biennial, working with primary schoolchildren and refugees. Singing City aims to encourage more people in Hull to sing; assist and promote opportunity for new audiences to hear high quality choral music in a range of styles; and to support singing groups. One year on, the celebration of culture has not stopped and now Friday Afternoons is bringing the songs to the 'Singing City'.

Friday Afternoons is a UK-wide and international commissioning project, generating free online high-quality resources led by the Suffolk-based arts organisation Snape Maltings. It was originally conceived as the culmination of the worldwide 2013 Britten centenary celebrations, taking its name from the set of simple songs the composer wrote for his brother's school to sing every Friday. Since then a new collection of songs and additional resources has been made available annually, with Friday Afternoons projects being run in schools all around the UK and across the world.

Past composers have included Luke Styles, Jonathan Dove, Nico Muhly, Gwyneth Herbert, Jason Yarde, Elliott Kendall, John Woolrich, Jon Boden, Rachel Portman, Sally Beamish, Talvin Singh, The Unthanks, Zoe Dixon and Benjamin Britten's original songs for Friday Afternoons.

To find out more about the project and download the new songs visit:
www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

Errollyn Wallen was born in Belize and moved to England when she was two years old. She read Music at Goldsmiths', King's College, London and King's College, Cambridge. After university she performed as a keyboard player with numerous bands, on the comedy circuit, then ran a commercial recording studio and wrote the music and performed live as a tap-dancing hostess on a 21-episode national television game show. On becoming a full-time composer, she formed her own group Ensemble X whose motto is "*we don't break down barriers in music...we don't see any.*"

Errollyn Wallen's music (which has been played in outer space on NASA's STS-115 mission) includes works for orchestra, ballets, fifteen operas, chamber music, films and albums as singer/pianist (*Errollyn and Meet Me at Harold Moores*), an internationally acclaimed composer portrait CD, *The Girl in My Alphabet* and *The Errollyn Wallen Songbook* published by Peters Edition. Her work has been performed throughout the world and recorded on many compilations including her song *Daedalus* on the Brodsky Quartet's album *Moodswings* which also features performances by Sting, Björk and Elvis Costello.

The recent orchestral album, PHOTOGRAPHY, on the NMC label, which went into the top 20 of the UK Classical Charts was voted Top Ten Classical Albums of 2016 by USA's National Public Radio.

Errollyn Wallen was awarded an MBE for her services to music in the Queen's birthday honours list in June 2007.

www.errollynwallen.com

Snape Maltings is a place of energy and inspiration and one of the world's leading centres of music, hosting outstanding concerts and festivals throughout the year, from the flagship Aldeburgh Festival – one of Europe's top classical events – to the folk, world music and jazz of the Snape Proms. Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Suffolk coast, it is the realisation of Suffolk-born composer Benjamin Britten's vision of a creative campus where musicians of all ages, backgrounds and career stages are given the time, space and support to develop and create new work surrounded by the natural environment. Visit this remarkable collection of redeveloped Victorian industrial buildings for world-class concerts and events, distinctive independent shops, cafes, galleries, walks and abundant wildlife, all set against a breathtaking expanse of reeds, water and sky. The proposed site developments will expand this vision by providing more accommodation and additional music studios to allow for three times more residencies than at present as well as significant advancement of Snape Maltings as a central hub for the UK's work in music, health and wellbeing. www.snapemaltings.co.uk