

PRESS RELEASE: 10 March 2015

The National Youth Choir and The Real Group celebrate *a cappella* with the world premiere of Anders Edenroth's *Water*

By Special Arrangement

Sunday 12 April 2015, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London



Programme

Ravel *Bolero* arr. Bullard

Mahler *Die zwei blauen Augen* arr. Gottwald

Chopin *How shall I love thee?/Étude in E major* - arr. Hussain

Schubert *Erkönig* - arr. Williams

Litanei - arr. Allwood/Recknell

Bach *Requiem/Air in D* - arr. Rathbone

Mozart *Take it from Figure O* - arr. Parry

Country Dances (The Swingle Singers)

Anders Edenroth *Water* (world premiere)

National Youth Choir

The Real Group

Ben Parry Conductor

Tom Bullard Assistant Conductor

On **Sunday 12 April 2015** the **National Youth Choir**, the flagship ensemble of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and world-renowned Swedish vocal ensemble **The Real Group** unite at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall for a virtuoso programme of *a cappella* music: *By Special Arrangement*. The programme and collaboration are the brainchild of NYCGB Director and former Swingle Singer **Ben Parry**, who conducts the concert together with another former Swingle, **Tom Bullard**.

The programme celebrates the rich and diverse repertoire of the burgeoning *a cappella* movement and includes the world premiere of *Water*, a new commission written specially for the National Youth Choir by Anders Edenroth, The Real Group's co-founder. The event also unites the National Youth Choir and The Real Group for the first time following their work together on the National Youth Choir's spring residential course.

By Special Arrangement is also the closing event of two Southbank Centre festivals: *Chorus* (30 March–12 April), the arts centre's annual festival celebrating the power of singing together bringing together over 100 choirs and thousands of singers to perform, share, learn and experiment; and a brand new *Strive* festival (10–12 April) a celebration of youth, programmed by and for young people.

In the first half of the programme the National Youth Choir performs *a cappella* arrangements of famous classical works including contributions from Bullard (Ravel *Boléro*) and Parry (a playful homage to Mozart entitled *Take it from Figure O*). In the second half, the National Youth Choir pays tribute to leading *a cappella* groups including The King's Singers, American vocal ensemble Take 6 and Finnish group Rajaton, before The Real Group take to the stage for a trademark multi-genre solo set. The concert closes with four collaborations between the National Youth Choir and The Real Group, including the premiere of *Water*.

A ground-breaking vocal group based in Sweden, **The Real Group** use voice as their sole instrument to create a unique musical expression in the fields between jazz, pop and Nordic European choral music. Founded at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm in the 1980s, the group has toured internationally with a wide repertoire that has enabled collaborations with symphony orchestras, jazz groups, pop bands and artists such as Barbara Hendricks, Toots Thielemans and Sir George Martin. In 2008 The Real Group initiated and hosted *The Real A Cappella Festival* and in 2012 *The Real Group Festival* which welcomed visitors from more than 20 countries. More recently the group toured as ambassadors for the charity programme *Star For Life* in Sweden and South Africa.

Anders Edenroth's composition *Water* has been generously funded by the Idlewild Trust.

Booking Information:

Tickets: £15 - £20 (plus £1.75 booking fee)

Book at: www.southbankcentre.co.uk or 020 7960 4200

Notes to Editors:

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain is a registered charity and exists to discover and foster exceptional musical talent, to provide inspirational teaching and guidance, to extend musical opportunities to young people from all communities and backgrounds and to thrill audiences with passionate and innovative music-making. The organisation comprises eight choirs with a total of approximately 800 singers: Junior Boys (9-15), Cambiata Voices (Boys ages 9-15), Junior Girls (10-13), Senior Girls (13-15), Training Choir North, Training Choir South (13-18) the National Youth Choir (16-24) and the National Youth Chamber Choir (18-25). Entry to all eight ensembles is determined by annual open and internal auditions, while members of the National Youth Choir are subject to annual re-auditions. In 2014, NYCGB performed concerts in Birmingham Town Hall, Coventry Cathedral, Leeds Town Hall (broadcast on BBC Radio 3), Sage Gateshead and Royal Festival Hall including collaborations with Shlomo, Southbank Sinfonia, the Crioich Quartet and the Royal Academy of Music. 2015 brings concerts in Queen Elizabeth Hall, Truro Cathedral, Lincoln Cathedral and the Sheldonian Theatre and an exciting new collaboration with The Real Group. The NYCGB's widening regional engagement programme has led to successful new recruitment and workshop initiatives in Cornwall and West Cumbria, with new partnerships in Suffolk, Manchester, Leeds, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire envisaged for 2015.

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