

The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain launches its first disc featuring all eight of its choral ensembles

- National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (NYCGB) launch a double disc of choral music by Benjamin Britten in his centenary year on Delphian with a concert by the NYCGB Chamber Choir
- The launch concert takes place at 8pm on Monday 11 November at the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room. The Chamber Choir will sing Britten, MacMillan, Walton and Tippett
- This is the first time that all of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain's eight choral ensembles will be featured on disc

Launch concert at the Royal Albert Hall

NYCGB's double disc 'A Festival of Britten' will be launched at a concert at 8pm on Monday 11 November at the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room. The concert will feature Britten's *Deus in adjutorium meum*, *Carry her over the water*, *Choral Dances* from *Gloriana*, *Hymn to the Virgin* and *Hymn to St Cecilia*, and MacMillan's *O radiant Dawn*, Walton's *Drop, drop, slow tears*, and Tippett's *Five Spirituals* from *A Child of our Time*, sung by the NYCGB Chamber Choir and conducted by Ben Parry.

Tickets are £13.24 (this price includes a transaction fee of 2% of the total booking and £1 per ticket fee when booked over the phone or online), available from the Royal Albert Hall box office: www.royalalberthall.com or 020 7589 8212 (9am to 9pm); or £12 for in person bookings.

Double disc 'A Festival of Britten'

The eight choirs of NYCGB all recorded different works for this special release on Delphian during residential courses in 2013. The disc includes favourites as well as less well-known pieces and some of Britten's most challenging repertoire.

The CD was produced by Delphian and will be available from November 2013.

The double CD contains the following works: Rejoice in the Lamb, Hymn to St Cecilia, *Deus in adjutorium meum*, Festival Te Deum, Jubilate Deo in C, Hymn to St Columba, Hymn to St Peter, Antiphon, Te Deum in C, Hymn to the Virgin, Jubilate Deo in E flat, the Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard, Three two-part songs, Fancie, and A Ceremony of Carols.

Ben Parry, NYCGB, said: "We are delighted to launch this new recording with the Delphian label at the Royal Albert Hall, with whom we have established an exciting five-year partnership. This is the first time all the NYCGB choirs have come together to record for disc, and the range of repertoire and ages is quite staggering. This CD is a fitting contribution to a great year of celebration for one of the 20th century's most famous British composers, who made it his life's work to create music for young people."

Chris Cotton, Chief Executive at the Royal Albert Hall, said "The Royal Albert Hall is pleased to welcome the NYCGB Chamber Choir to our Elgar Room for the launch of their

CD and what promises to be an enjoyable and inspiring concert. We are proud to be sponsoring the country's leading organisation for Youth Choral work as an important part of our outreach programme, which encourages participation and appreciation of choral and instrumental music, and dance. This concert and CD highlight the exceptional work the NYCGB does, alongside the Royal Albert Hall, to recognise potential and nurture future talent."

Paul Baxter, Delphian, said "The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain - without a doubt the jewel in this nation's musical crown. It's been a fantastic privilege to be involved in their 30th birthday celebrations. This hugely ambitious project has been a wonder from the outset. The standard of singing is impressive throughout all the choirs in the organisation, and working with them and their directors is a sheer pleasure for us."

Notes for editors

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

- The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, set up in 1983 as a single choir of 100 of the best young singers in the nation, now provides the widest of musical experiences for over 750 young people aged 9-24
- We are a youth organisation where outreach, education and excellence are placed at the centre of our creative focus
- We aim to develop performance skills at the highest level, challenging young singers to embrace a vast repertoire and to develop a flexible and creative approach to musical performance
- No member is excluded from the choirs for financial reasons. A generous bursary scheme is open to all members via application to help with any level of financial support for fees and travel costs. Information about the scheme is clearly detailed on our application forms and website.
- We nurture talented young people by providing a progressive structure for musical and vocal development: the Girls' Choirs, Boys' Choir and Cambiata Voices, for ages 9-14; Training Choirs North and South for ages 13-18; the National Youth Choir for ages 16-22, and our Chamber Choir for singers aged 22-24 aiming to develop a professional singing career
- On our residential courses, our young singers take part in intensive rehearsals covering music from the earliest classical eras to contemporary music in a range of genres, supported by individual voice coaching, alexander technique and lessons in musicianship
- Our commitment to new music through commissions and collaborative partnerships enable us to explore more diverse areas of musical activity. In recent years, we have performed new music by Mark Simpson and Steve Goss and collaborated with the National Youth Jazz Collective, SAMYO, Living Rhythms, and folk musicians Will Lang and Niopha Keegan
- Our creative partnerships aim to encourage singers at all levels reach their potential. NYCGB is currently working with Cornwall Music Education Hub; London Youth Choir; the Royal Albert Hall, Sage Gateshead and West Cumbria with Rosehill Theatre. More information can be found at: <http://www.nycgb.net/about-nycgb/partnerships>
- Our artistic team: Ben Parry - Director; Greg Beardsell – Deputy Artistic Director; Esther Jones - Deputy Music Director; Niall Crowley, Greg Hallam, Robert Isaacs, Dominic Peckham and Rachel Staunton - Assistant Music Directors

Members of the choirs and the artistic team are available for further interview or feature about their involvement in the disc and the concert performance.

Partnership between the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and the Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall's new partnership with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, an organisation whose values of education and outreach are closely aligned with the venue, will see the Hall sponsor their entire audition process throughout the UK. This includes some of their auditions taking place at the iconic venue to support their annual concert on the main stage. The partnership offers young singers and musicians a once-in-a-life time opportunity to perform at the iconic venue and hopes to inspire a new generation of musical talent.

The Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is the world's most famous stage. Its breathtaking auditorium hosts over 370 shows a year by the world's greatest artists. The magical atmosphere combined with inspired artists creates legendary events.

Opened in 1871 as part of Prince Albert's vision for a centre for the Arts and Sciences, the Hall is a registered charity which operates without public funding, remaining true to his founding ambitions within a modern context. Extending the brand with 200 events outside the auditorium, the Hall has broadened its appeal to younger, diverse audiences whilst still engaging its existing customers.

The Hall also offers the Elgar Room, a state-of-the-art small-scale performance space which hosts performances of classical music, jazz and world music, comedy, dance and hush, a series of gigs for just signed bands throughout the year. It also works extensively with schools, young people, disadvantaged groups and partners such as Music For Youth through its Education programme, reaching over 100,000 participants each year as part of its extensive public benefit remit. It has also been appointed by the Arts Council as one of the country's regional music education hubs.

For more information, please visit www.royalalberthall.com
Registered charity number: 254543

Delphian

Delphian is a British independent classical record label with a special interest in choral music. It issues between 16 and 20 records a year, and its productions are widely lauded both in the specialist and mainstream media.

www.delphianrecords.co.uk/

For more information, please contact Katy Rodda, Communications Manager:
katy.rodga@nycgb.net or 07789 992910, or visit our website: www.nycgb.net

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS t 0191 383 7355
www.nycgb.net
@nycgb