

Bedford Music Club presents

# BLACK VOICES

A weekend of the best of Black classical,  
jazz and Gospel  
24-26 October 2025



Beatrice Nicholas

# Black Voices programme



## **Friday 24 October 2025**

### **Peace on Earth**

2.00pm concert, Local schools and Vox Urbane

### **Steel Pans**

6.30pm outdoors concert, Bedford Academy Steel Pans Ensemble

### **Classic Women**

7.45pm concert, Beatrice Nicholls jazz trio

## **Saturday 25 April 2025**

### **Hiawatha to Hip Hop** at The Higgins

11.00am, study workshop

### **Reimagined Spirituals**

2.00pm concert, Leon Bosch and Beatrice Nicholas

### **The Story Through Song**

7.30pm concert, London Adventist Chorale conducted by Ken Burton

### **DJ LS**

10.00pm, disco with DJ LS

## **Sunday 26 April 2025**

### **Community Hymn Singing**

3.00pm, congregational singing led by Vox Urbane Next Gen

All events at All Saints Church except Hiawatha to Hip Hop

# **Black Voices** introduction





We live in a challenging world where hate is on the rise and difference, instead of being celebrated, is too often weaponised. Classical music has not been immune to the effects of institutional racism.

Yet the roots of what we call 'classical music' are rich and diverse. The modes, chants, and rhythms that shaped Western music travelled westward from the Far East, through India, Africa, and Spain to the beginnings of what has become the hegemony of so-called 'Western art music'.

For too long, the contributions of Black composers and performers were overlooked. Many classically trained musicians were denied opportunities—Nina Simone, trained at Julliard, famously turned to jazz when classical doors were closed to her. Only in recent decades has the classical canon begun to expand, embracing the extraordinary talent and heritage of Black artists.

Our festival, in a modest way, seeks to celebrate these Black Voices.

There are notable figures who have been leading the way, not least the inspirational Leon Bosch, who will perform his profound arrangements of spirituals for bass and piano with Beatrice Nicholas. Hundreds of primary school children, many of whom have never sung in choirs before, will also share this repertoire along with Master of the King's Music, Errollyn Wallen's, spiritually uplifting

Peace on Earth led by Vox Urbane, a project dedicated to addressing the lack of diversity in choral music. Beatrice also brings an exciting fusion of classical and jazz, while the outstanding London Adventist Chorale offers a glorious programme of choral music.

You can join DJ Lauren to celebrate the close of Black History Month, then find reflection the next day with a community hymn-sing led by Vox Urbane's Next Generation. Our study morning will explore the history and future of Black music, from the worldwide success of Coleridge-Taylor's Hiawatha trilogy to contemporary gospel, hip hop, and the issues and priorities for developing black contemporary voices.

We hope this festival inspires, challenges, and uplifts you. We are grateful to all the artists, partners, and supporters who made it possible.

One sky. One world. One people.

**Duncan Fraser**

Curator, Black Voices

# Black Voices events





# Peace on Earth



**Friday 24 October 2025, 2.00pm**

All Saints Church

**Local primary schools and Vox Urbane**



**Programme**

<b>We Must Find a Way</b> by Dan Ludford Thomas	All schools
<b>Roll Jordan Roll</b>	Livingstone
<b>Deep River</b>	Priory
<b>Wade in the Water</b>	Biddenham
<b>Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen</b>	Edith Cavell
<b>Swing Low, Sweet Chariot</b>	Westfield
<b>Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho</b>	Scott
<b>Peace on Earth</b> by Errollyn Wallen	All schools

**Artists**

- Dan Ludford Thomas** Vox Urbane / conductor
- Albie Soriano** choral workshop leader / conductor
- Philip Mitchell** piano



## Peace on Earth

*And snow falls down on me.*

*Peace on earth.*

*The night is dark and soft.*

*Peace on earth.*

*The lights that sparkle in the square,*

*The smoke the lingers in the air.*

*Peace on earth.*

*And grace falls down on me.*

*Peace on earth.*

*The dark will turn aside.*

*Peace on earth.*

*The fires that burn in ev'ry hearth*

*Do sing out praise of Christmas past.*

*Peace on earth.*

*Hear them singing.*

*Peace on earth.*

Errollyn Wallen sets her own text evoking winter, turning to light and warmth at Christmas, hoping for Peace on Earth.

Peace on Earth is a partnership project between Bedford Music Club, six local schools and Vox Urbane, a professional vocal ensemble with diversity at its heart. This exciting project is funded by the Borough's Education Improvement Strategic Group (EISG).

The co-founders: Dan Ludford-Thomas and Helen Meyerhoff, have worked professionally in classical music collectively for more than fifty years. They have a vision in which all aspiring and gifted musicians, regardless of background, can see a tangible and exciting future for themselves as performers, conductors and composers.

The project began with a teachers' workshop, rehearsals by school music staff and was led by the Vox Urbane team. It takes as its starting point the Master of the King's Music, Errollyn Wallen's, beautiful and atmospheric Peace on Earth.

*Please note that for reasons of Child Protection, no photography or videoing is allowed during the performance, so please put your phones away and on silent for the duration of the concert.*

*At the end of the concert, you are welcome to take pictures of your own child, but please make sure this does not include other children, and as always, you are advised not to share photos of your child in recognisable school uniform on social media.*

**Errollyn Wallen** CBE is a multi award-winning Belize-born British composer named as one of the world's top twenty most performed living classical composers.

Her prolific output includes over twenty operas and a large catalogue of orchestral, chamber and vocal works, which are performed and broadcast throughout the world. She has composed for the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games 2012, for the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees, a specially commissioned song for COP 26, and a re-imagining of Jerusalem for the Last Night of the Proms 2020. BBC Radio 3 has featured her as Composer of the Week, and she has made several radio documentaries.

Errollyn's book, *Becoming a Composer*, was published in 2023. Her recordings have travelled 7.84 million kilometers in space, completing 186 orbits around the Earth on NASA's STS-115 mission!

**Dan Ludford-Thomas** is Musical Director of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain and Principal Conductor of Vox Urbane. Based in London he is a conductor, chorus master and singing teacher. He directs a wide variety of choirs from professional ensembles, church choirs, chamber choirs, and large symphonic choruses. He performs regularly in major concert venues across the country. He has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and has been involved in many Proms performances. In 2012

Dan worked as choirmaster on BBC2's The Choir: Sing While You Work. Dan is in demand as a singing teacher: at Dulwich College, Rodolfus Foundation Choral Courses. As well as being Musical Director of Lewisham Choral Society and Hackney Singers.

**Albie Soriano** choir leader is a freelance tenor based in London. He is a member of the world-renowned professional choir at Westminster Cathedral and sings in many choirs: St Martin-in-the-Fields, Vox Next Gen, Genesis Sixteen and the Constellation Choir. Albie read Sociology at the LSE.

**Philip Mitchell** is a pianist and music director. He has worked with a very wide range of artists including: Invictus Choir (Gareth Malone), National Children's Choir of Great Britain, Vox Urbane, Citibank Choir, Diversity, Hackney Singers, Lewisham Choral Society, Croydon Voices, Elbow, Squeeze, Justin Bieber, McFly, James Blunt and Travis. He is also a Music Director for many theatre shows including: Strictly Ballroom, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Legally Blonde, In The Heights, Les Miserables, Hairspray, Little Shop Of Horrors, and Grease.



# Steel pans



**Friday 24 October 2025, from 6.30pm**

All Saints Church

**Bedford Academy Steel Pans Ensemble**



# Classic Women



**Friday 24 October 2025, 7.45pm**

All Saints Church

**Beatrice Nicolas, Matt Home  
and Matayas Honecker**

## Programme

### Hazel's Boogie Woogie

Hazel Scott, arr.  
Beatrice Nicholas

### Moonlight Sonata first movement

Ludwig van  
Beethoven

### Moonglow

Art Tatum, arr. Jed  
Distler

### Waltz in c sharp minor The Fingerbreaker

Frédéric Chopin  
Jelly Roll Morton  
Lil Hardin

### East Town Boogie

Armstrong, arr.  
Beatrice Nicholas

interval

### From **The Spiritual Suite** - Valley of Bones

Margaret Bonds

### - Troubled Water

### Improvisations on Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

Franz Liszt, arr.  
Beatrice Nicholas

### Improvisation

Nina Simone, arr.  
Beatrice Nicholas

## Artists

**Beatrice Nicholas** piano

**Matt Home** drums

**Matayas Hofecker** bass

A concert inspired by female jazz legends Hazel Scott, Lil Hardin Armstrong, Dorothy Donegan, and Nina Simone. These African American women were jazz stars who trained first as classical pianists. Lil Hardin Armstrong, Hazel Scott and Nina Simone in particular had aspired to be concert pianists but were denied access to the classical music industry on account of their colour.

Hazel Scott later became famous for giving popular classical music a jazz spin with her style becoming known as 'classical swing'.

Nina Simone's favorite composer was Bach—and Dorothy Donegan said that if she could, she would give jazz up in order to pursue classical music.

Lil Hardin Armstrong (Louis Armstrong's second wife) is not only responsible for branding Louis Armstrong as a world class trumpet player but also taught him about classical music.

Although these women were primarily known for their jazz, Classical Swing brings together both the jazz and the classical music that they played. Classical Swing also includes 1930s African American composer Margaret Bonds, who in contrast enjoyed a career as a concert pianist and fused her classical compositions with Boogie Woogie and negro spirituals.

Beatrice will also perform an improvisation by Art Tatum, who was Hazel Scott's mentor, and music by Jelly Roll Morton who was perhaps Lil Hardin's greatest influence. Beatrice will get

your feet tapping as she engages you with stories about these jazz legends and their world.

**Beatrice Nicholas** is a British concert pianist performing solo and chamber music internationally. She has performed at the major classical music venues, including the Wigmore Hall, Southbank Centre, King's Place, Snape Maltings and Edinburgh's Queen's Hall. Her latest release, *Black and Classical*, throws a spotlight on classical music by black women and has been described as a 'stunning record' by Bandcamp. She has enjoyed collaborations with oboist Nicholas Daniel, composers Lola Perrin and Matthias Sparlingher and has appeared in the Hollywood movie *The Beekeeper*, playing music by Frédéric Chopin. Beatrice is also a member of the Chineke! Chamber Ensemble—an ensemble of principals from the Chineke! Orchestra, Europe's first professional orchestra of majority Black & ethnically diverse musicians.

As well as a concert pianist, Beatrice is a composer who has received commissions from Nottingham Chamber Music Festival, Dark Design Graphics Company and she was featured composer for Black History Month 2021 at the British Classical Foundation where she premiered *Flight* for solo piano. Her 2021 release *Psalmus*, which was featured on BBC Radio 3, transforms a twelfth-century plainchant into a modern cinematic sound for cello and harp. Her 2023 album release



Arrangements for Cello and Piano transforms traditional piano music by Schubert and Brahms into new chamber music works for cello and piano.

**Matyas Hofecker** is recognised as one of the leading musicians among the younger generation of jazz bassists in Europe. He has toured with Harold Mabern Trio, recorded an album with Sheila Jordan, and continuously shares the stage with great musicians like Joe Farnsworth, Jesse Davis, Pete Van Nostrand or Jim Rotondi and he performs regularly around Europe. He studied music at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and in 2012, he won a scholarship at University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz.

**Matt Home** was born in Huddersfield and switched from the trumpet to drums at the age of eight. He studied jazz and popular music at City London Centre of Music.

He has played with many leading musicians including Alan Barnes, Claire Martin, Stacey Kent, Atila, Brandon Allen, Allison Neale, Jim Mullen, Dave Cliff, Steve Fishwick, Matt Wates and Nat Steele among others. He has also played in clubs, theatres and jazz festivals throughout Europe, Asia and South America. He has recorded with Stacey Kent, Ray Gelato, Karen Sharp, Matt Wates, Alex Garnett, Steve Fishwick, Nigel Price Organ Trio, Gareth Lockrane and Allison Neale.



Matt has also made regular appearances on TV including Paul O'Grady's show with Cleo Laine and The Alan Titchmarsh Show with Curtis Stigers and Mitch Winehouse. He has also appeared in several movies including King Of Thieves, starring Micheal Caine; Legend, starring Tom Hardy and the re-make of the film Gambit, alongside Cameron Diaz, Alan Rickman and Colin Firth.

# Hiawatha to Hip Hop



**Saturday 25 October 2025, 11.00am**

The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum

**Robert Beckford** University of Winchester

**Adrian Bradbury** Museum of Musical History

**David Bryan** Arts Council England

**Robert Beckford** is a scholar-activist researching the intersections of faith and racial justice in and through diverse media texts. He has written a dozen books which triangulate the fields of theology, cultural studies, and politics. He is a BAFTA award-winning documentary filmmaker and has written and presented over twenty films for the BBC, Channel 4, and Discovery USA. His films explore a range of themes including political critiques of the British Empire, biblical history, and popular culture.

Robert's creative reach extends into drama and black British urban music production. In 2017, his debut radio drama was broadcast on the BBC Regions. 'Jesus Piece' is a fictional account of a reformed gang member turned Pentecostal preacher-detective. His current research is a practical theo-musicological project 'The Jamaican Bible Remix Project'. Taking the form of a studio album, the project inscribes black liberation theology in urban music (grime, drum and bass, and UK Soul).

**Adrian Bradbury** a 'cellist, was a scholar of Churchill College, Cambridge (Veterinary Science and Music) and then the Royal Academy of Music.

After studying in Berlin he developed an international career in chamber music, winning a Royal Philharmonic Society Chamber Award in 2002. A regular guest principal player with the major British orchestras, he is also Cello

Tutor to the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

His research into ensemble synchronisation with Professor Alan Wing is published by the Royal Society, and with the late Oliver Davies he recorded the complete operatic fantasies of 19th-century 'cello virtuoso, Alfredo Piatti, for Meridian Records. He became a Trustee of the Museum of Music History in late 2022.

**David Bryan** was awarded a CBE for his services to the Arts. He is the Chair of Brixton House, Creative Lives (UK), and Chair of the Arts and Creative Economy Advisory Group for the British Council. He is a member of the Mayor's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm.

David is Founder/Director of Xtend (UK) Ltd, an organisation development consultancy working across the public sector for over 30 years. He was a director of a community enterprise (bookshop) in the 1970s and the CEO for an arts enterprise, Brixton Village in the 1980s—both pioneering ventures.

He has a long history of work on organisational change, leadership development and diversity in the public, voluntary and arts sector as well as working with international organisations.

He has been a visiting lecturer and course organiser in academia with King's College London, Southbank University, Goldsmiths, and City Lit delivering leadership programmes, management courses, social studies practice,



and literature. He has an MBA from Southbank University.

His early years were spent working with community organisations building capacity. This work led him to be co-opted onto the board of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Throughout his engagement in community development, he has been a staunch advocate for independent voices, inclusion, social enterprise and civic responsibility.

He was appointed to the National Council under the leadership of Sir Peter Bazalgette and returned after a couple of years as the Chair for the London Area Council, sponsored by the Mayor of London's Office.



# Reimagined Spirituals



**Saturday 25 October 2025, 2.00pm**

All Saints Church

**Leon Bosch and Beatrice Nicholas**

## Programme

Nobody knows de trouble I've seen  
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child  
I know da Lord's laid his hands on me  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Every time I feel de spirit  
By an' by  
Deep river  
I got a robe  
I want to be ready  
Death's gwineter lay his icy cold hand on me  
Go down, Moses  
My little sou's goin' to shine  
I am bound for the Kingdom  
I'm workin' on my buildin'  
Roll Jordan roll  
I'm goin' to lay down my heavy load  
My soul's been anchored in de Lord  
Were you there?

## Artists

**Leon Bosch** bass

**Beatrice Nicholas** piano

The forcible enslavement of people taken from West Africa to the Territories and States of the American South reached its zenith in the second half of the 18th-century. As the States grew in number and cohesion, the practice led to the Civil War between the northern-based Unionists and the Confederacy of the southern States before being abolished in the 1860s.

Traces of this deep stain on American history have taken longer to eradicate, but the abiding musical legacy of African-American religious folksong—often referred to as Negro Spirituals—is now recognised as the most significant and lasting of all the influential strains within indigenous American music.

The Spirituals' melodic lines and harmonies were often derived from age-old folk roots. Many were composed, complementing those as transplanted folk music, with melodic lines often cast from pentatonic scales, and almost always danced. The earliest examples were performed in what evolved as being a 'ring shout'—a shuffling-style circular dance, propelled with group chanting and handclapping.

The texts of almost all Negro Spirituals derive from Biblical sources. The term itself is clearly inspired by St Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians - 'Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.'



It is a fabulously rich musical heritage, and its influence is found even today. Several so-called Freedom Songs, such as Bob Marley's Redemption Song, share their musical roots with those of the great spirituals, and several songs by the great John Holt can also be traced to this tradition. The deep, wide-ranging male Negro voice, refined through a dignity of natural musical expression, produces a profound depth of utterance—finely reflected in the range and concert arrangements of Leon Bosch.

In these arrangements it is the powerful melodies and simple but telling harmonies that produce deep emotional impact, a remarkably original and memorable series of haunting musical expressions that, at the distance of several centuries, speak to all with a directness of utterance that remains immortal. Such significant, concert spiritual arrangements assert an unstated sense of genuine racial pride—understood and shared by all sympathetic listeners.

Examples of sorrow songs within this collection include: Nobody knows de trouble I've seen; Go down Moses; and Were you there. Additionally, jubilee songs include Ev'ry time I feel the spirit and I'm goin' to lay down my heavy load.

The most significant original composer of Spirituals was Henry Thacker (H.T.) Burleigh (1866-1949) who learned many original Spirituals from his grandfather, a former slave. It was Burleigh who introduced Dvořák to the

genre when the great composer was director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York City. Burleigh, who also possessed a fine singing voice, played the double bass and timpani in the National Conservatory Orchestra, making Leon Bosch's arrangements doubly authentic. Burleigh also travelled with Samuel Coleridge-Taylor during the Englishman's American visits, introducing the Englishman to many Spirituals, which caused Coleridge-Taylor to claim that Burleigh was 'the greatest singer of my songs.' Visiting England, Burleigh performed a selection of his original songs and arrangements of plantation and minstrel songs for King Edward VII; he also sang at the Temple Emanu-El in New York City.

It is impossible to over-emphasise Burleigh's significance in the history of Spirituals—as an early 'ethno-musicologist' (before the term was invented), a proselytiser of the genre, a performer of such music as singer and double-bass player, teacher of both the great black concert singers Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson, and as a composer of immortal melodies in various Spiritual styles. Burleigh was, without question, both the keeper and sword-bearer of the great Negro Spiritual tradition. There can be little doubt that, had Burleigh not existed, the great lineage of Negro Spirituals would have withered on the vine of history.

It is thanks to Burleigh that, for example, we can hear several of his arrangements of such

immortal melodies, including By an' by; Deep river; I got a robe; and I want to be ready, and jubilee (sometimes referred to as 'shout') songs, together with spiritual settings by the exceptional black female composer Florence Price (1887-1953), whose concert and chamber music has recently become the subject of re-evaluation. Several of her concert and chamber-music compositions used sorrow spirituals themes in their construction, and amongst several examples of sorrow spirituals in this programme are Nobody knows de trouble I've seen; Go down Moses; and Were you there. Additionally, and in contrast, Leon Bosch's jubilee songs selections include Ev'ry time I feel the spirit; I got a robe; and I'm goin' to lay down my heavy load.

Spirituals often feature microtonally-flatted notes, syncopation and counter-rhythms, suggestive of handclapping, so naturally expressive when instrumentally recreated as here on the double-bass.

© Robert Matthew-Walker 2024



**Leon Bosch** conducts chamber and symphonic ensembles around the world and is one of the few double bass players to direct concertos from the instrument.

Having worked with the finest conductors for 30 years as a member of groups such as the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Philharmonia and Hallé, he learnt the repertoire and conductor's craft from inside the orchestra, and finally made the transition to the podium in 2015, when he left the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and went to study in St Petersburg with Alexander Polishchuk. Since then he has conducted orchestras across the UK, Europe, India, South Africa and Mozambique.

During his playing career, he has performed concertos around the world and served as a guest with ensembles such as the Lindsays, Brodsky Quartet and Zukerman Chamber Players.

Leon is committed to rediscovering neglected music, as well as expanding and diversifying the double bass repertoire, and has recorded 16 CDs of wide-ranging programmes, with more in planning.

Throughout his career he has worked with leading composers and also commissions chamber arrangements of well-known symphonic classics for his ensemble, I Musicanti, and set up I Musicanti Publishing in order to distribute these works.

He is professor of double bass at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London and gives masterclasses in the US, Europe, South Africa and the Far East. He has also served as double bass coach for youth orchestras including the I, Culture Orchestra, National Youth String Orchestra, Miagi Orchestra and Buskaid. He has contributed to programmes on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and written for The Strad and Classical Music magazines.

Leon grew up in South Africa, the son of the political activist Jonas Fred Bosch, and spent time in a police cell for organising protests while at school. He left the apartheid regime behind to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

He became a British citizen in 2000. In recent years he has returned to his roots, musically, forming the Ubuntu Ensemble with other UK-based South African musicians, and commissioning music for the South African Double Bass project, the first CD of which was released in 2020. He also acts as a mentor for South African musicians worldwide.

Away from music, he runs marathons and ultra-marathons and holds a Master's degree in Intelligence and International Relations from Salford University.

**Beatrice Nicholas** is a British concert pianist performing solo and chamber music internationally. She has performed at the major classical music venues, including the Wigmore

Hall, Southbank Centre, King's Place, Snape Maltings and Edinburgh's Queen's Hall. Her latest release, *Black and Classical*, throws a spotlight on classical music by black women and has been described as a 'stunning record' by Bandcamp. She has enjoyed collaborations with oboist Nicholas Daniel, composers Lola Perrin and Matthias Sparlingher and has appeared in the Hollywood movie *The Beekeeper*, playing music by Frédéric Chopin. Beatrice is also a member of the Chineke! Chamber Ensemble—an ensemble of principals from the Chineke! Orchestra, Europe's first professional orchestra of majority Black & ethnically diverse musicians.

As well as a concert pianist, Beatrice is a composer who has received commissions from Nottingham Chamber Music Festival, Dark Design Graphics Company and she was featured composer for Black History Month 2021 at the British Classical Foundation where she premiered *Flight* for solo piano. Her 2021 release *Psalmus*, which was featured on BBC Radio 3, transforms a twelfth-century plainchant into a modern cinematic sound for cello and harp. Her 2023 album release *Arrangements for Cello and Piano* transforms traditional piano music by Schubert and Brahms into new chamber music works for cello and piano.



# The Story Through Song



**Saturday 25 October 2025, 7.30pm**

All Saints Church

**London Adventist Chorale  
and Ken Burton**

Programme

True Religion arr. Eugene Simpson  
New song premiere

THE SONG OF PAIN

Steal Away arr. Diedre Robinson  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot arr. Ken Burton  
Deep River arr. Norman Luboff  
Yea, Though I Walk Ken Burton  
A Prayer Ken Burton

THE SONG OF PERSEVERANCE

True Religion arr. Eugene Simpson  
My Life is in Your Hands Kirk Franklin  
In the Lord arr. Moses Hogan

interval

THE SONG OF HOPE

Let Freedom Ring Ken Burton  
Rest Ken Burton

THE SONGS OF JOY

Praise the Lord Florence Price  
O Praise Ye the Lord Noel Dexter  
Total Praise Richard Smallwood  
Bless the Lord Ken Burton  
Going Home Dvořák, arr. Ken Burton  
Jesus is a Rock Glen Burleigh

Artists

London Adventist Chorale  
Ken Burton conductor



Much Black history over the past century and a half has been told through song which has captured the sound of the age.

The journey of Black sacred song in the Americas reveals a sound of perseverance in pain, and hope through hurt. Much of it is community singing, and the programme the choir will present will focus on the idea of our shared experiences as human beings—all of our stories—and the power of sharing that through the sound of song.

The songs will not just be presented, but will provide a couple of opportunities for the audience to be part of a large choir!

**Ken Burton** is a British conductor, composer, and arranger whose work spans classical, gospel, jazz, and film music. A familiar face on BBC One's Songs of Praise, he is celebrated for his dynamic musicianship and for bringing together diverse musical traditions with creativity and authenticity.

Born in London to parents from the West Indies, Burton's musical roots were nurtured in the harmonies of church and family gatherings. He began leading choirs at a young age, developing a passion for gospel and choral music that would shape his life's work. A graduate of Goldsmiths, University of London, he has become one of the UK's most respected choral leaders.

Burton's ensembles — including the London Adventist Chorale, Adventist Vocal Ensemble,



and Tessera — have performed on major stages worldwide, from the Royal Albert Hall and Sydney Opera House to Buckingham Palace. Under his direction, the London Adventist Chorale won Sainsbury's Choir of the Year and remains a beacon of gospel choral excellence. His versatility extends to the screen: Burton has conducted and directed choirs for films such as *Black Panther*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, *Jingle Jangle*, and *Candy Cane Lane*. His collaborations span artists from Beyoncé and Robbie Williams to Bryn Terfel and Lesley Garrett, reflecting his ability to blend genres with grace and innovation.

As a composer and arranger, Burton's music is published by Oxford University Press and Faber Music, and his works are performed internationally. A passionate advocate for the heritage of Black music, he continues to inspire audiences and performers alike with his artistry, spirituality, and vision for music that transcends boundaries.

**London Adventist Chorale** was founded in 1981 by John Anthony and has become one of Britain's most celebrated vocal ensembles, renowned for its rich blend of classical technique, gospel spirit, and spiritual depth. The Chorale was originally formed to bring together talented singers from various Seventh-day Adventist churches across London, uniting them through a shared passion for excellence in sacred music.

Their repertoire spans centuries and styles—from Renaissance motets and traditional African songs to contemporary gospel and Negro spirituals—each performance infused with authenticity, emotional power, and impeccable musicianship. Under the long-time direction of Ken Burton the Chorale has achieved international acclaim for its artistry and versatility.

The ensemble's distinctive sound has graced stages across Europe, North America, Africa, and the Caribbean. Highlights include performances at the Royal Albert Hall, Buckingham Palace, and St Paul's Cathedral, as well as collaborations with major orchestras and appearances on BBC television and radio.

The London Adventist Chorale has received numerous accolades, including the title of BBC Choir of the Year, and continues to be recognised as a leading ambassador of choral music that bridges cultures and faiths.

At its heart, the Chorale's mission remains to uplift, inspire, and connect audiences through music that speaks to the soul—celebrating the beauty, resilience, and hope at the core of the Black choral tradition.



# DJ LS



**Saturday 25 October 2025, 10.00pm**

All Saints Church

**DJ LS**



## DJ LS

Get ready for the unstoppable energy of DJ LS. Known for her seamless blends of R&B, hip hop, soca and soulful house, LS creates sets that feel like both a party and a journey through Black sound.

Born and raised in Luton, DJ LS grew up listening to a diverse range of music—from reggae and soul to R&B, hip hop and house. That mix of influences shows up in her signature style. Her sets don't just make you dance—they tell stories of identity, culture, and joy.

Since stepping behind the decks, LS has played at various UK venues and festivals including the Notting Hill Carnival, supported rising artists in the Black British music scene, and built a loyal following for her genre-fluid live sets.

At Black Voices Festival, DJ LS brings pure vibe and connection—a celebration of rhythm, roots, and resistance through sound. Expect high energy, deep grooves, and a dance floor that feels like home.



# Community Hymn Singing



**Sunday 26 October 2025, 3.00pm**

All Saints Church

**Vox Urbane Next Generation  
and local churches**



**Programme** to include

<b>Malizwe</b>	trad. South African
<b>The Battle of Jericho</b>	Moses Hogan
<b>Any How</b>	Moses Hogan
<b>Total Praise</b>	Frédéric Chopin
<b>Deep in the Night</b>	Jussi Chydenius
<b>How Can I Keep from</b>	trad. arr. Dan Ludford-

**Artists**

**Vox Urbane Next Generation** and **local churches**



**Dan Ludford-Thomas** is Musical Director of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain and Principal Conductor of Vox Urbane. Based in London he is a conductor, chorus master and singing teacher. He directs a wide variety of choirs from professional ensembles, church choirs, chamber choirs, and large symphonic choruses. He performs regularly in major concert venues across the country. He has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and has been involved in many Proms performances. In 2012 Dan worked as choirmaster on BBC2's The Choir: Sing While You Work. Dan is in demand as a singing teacher: at Dulwich College, Rodolfus Foundation Choral Courses. As well as being Musical Director of Lewisham Choral Society and Hackney Singers.

**Vox Next Gen** is the young artist training and mentoring initiative from Vox Urbane.

Each year 8-12 singers aged 21-24 from diverse backgrounds aged are auditioned to take part in this programme. They work alongside Vox Urbane's professional singers, taking part both in a range of concerts with Vox Urbane and as a stand-alone ensemble before finally embarking on a week-long immersive study course and a tour in the South of France.

Vox Next Gen young artists learn invaluable skills and gain the experience and a network which is essential for moving forward on their path toward becoming professional singers.



A photograph of two individuals standing side-by-side with their arms crossed. The person on the left is wearing a green V-neck sweater over a pink collared shirt and an orange tie, paired with blue trousers. The person on the right is wearing a yellow V-neck cardigan over a green top, paired with a pink skirt. The background is a solid light blue.

# THANK YOU

to all our artists, volunteers,  
caterers and audiences!



Aadhav (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Aaryan (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Abdul Williams (Bedford Academy)  
Abdurrahman (Livingstone pupil)  
Ada, G (Scott pupil)  
Adelina (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Agyeiwah Yeboah (Volunteer Steward)  
Aiden (Livingstone pupil)  
Aladia (Livingstone pupil)  
Alara (Biddenham pupil)  
Albie Soriano (Choral workshop leader)  
Aleena (Biddenham pupil)  
Alex (Priory pupil)  
Amelia (Westfield pupil)  
Amelia, A (Scott pupil)  
Amen (Livingstone pupil)  
Amir (Westfield pupil)  
Amirah (Priory pupil)  
Amyah (Livingstone pupil)  
Anaya (Westfield pupil)  
Anayah (Westfield pupil)  
Anca Mititelu (Volunteer Steward)  
Andrei (Westfield pupil)  
Anita Barker (Scott staff)  
Anji (Priory pupil)  
Ann Davies (BMC Manager)  
Anthea Davis Barclay  
Antonio (Priory pupil)  
Aqsa (Westfield pupil)  
Archie, S (Scott pupil)  
Ariana (Westfield pupil)  
Armaan (Priory pupil)  
Arshdeep (Edith Cavell pupil)



Aryan (Priory pupil)  
Asiya (Priory pupil)  
Avisha (Biddenham pupil)  
Ayla (Westfield pupil)  
Bashir, Musa (Westfield pupil)  
Beatrice Nicholas (Black Voices Artist)  
Bethany (Biddenham pupil)  
Blessing (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Brian Garner (Rotary Club)  
Camron Maphosa (Volunteer Steward)  
Carissa (Biddenham pupil)  
Carson, N (Scott pupil)  
Charlene Francis (Biddenham staff)  
Christian (Livingstone pupil)  
Clay (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Cleon (Livingstone pupil)  
Dalton (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Daniel, J (Scott pupil)  
Daria (Priory pupil)  
David Bailey (Biddenham staff)  
David Bryan (Black Voices Artist)  
Deivid V (Livingstone pupil)  
Dillan, W (Scott pupil)  
Duncan Fraser (BMC Curator)  
Ebrahim (Westfield pupil)  
Eesa (Westfield pupil)  
Eleanor Grylls (Biddenham staff)  
Elizabeth (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Ella-Louise Cowley (Volunteer Steward)  
Eloise, L (Scott pupil)  
Elspeth (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Emma (Livingstone pupil)  
Eshaal (Westfield pupil)

Esmae, H (Scott pupil)  
Esme, B (Scott pupil)  
Evelyn, H (Scott pupil)  
Faith (Priory pupil)  
Faizan (Westfield pupil)  
Farida Nelson (Bedford Academy)  
Faris (Westfield pupil)  
Felix (Priory pupil)  
Filip (Priory pupil)  
Finnley, M (Scott pupil)  
Flora (Biddenham pupil)  
Flourish (Priory pupil)  
Franklina (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Freddie (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Georgia (Biddenham pupil)  
Georgie (Biddenham pupil)  
Ginny Williams (Biddenham staff)  
Hafsa (Westfield pupil)  
Hammad (Westfield pupil)  
Harriet (Biddenham pupil)  
Harry Lj, LJ (Scott pupil)  
Hasibullah (Westfield pupil)  
Heather Cooke (Edith Cavell staff)  
Helen Meyerhoff (Vox Urbane)  
Helena (Biddenham pupil)  
Holly (Biddenham pupil)  
Huzaifa (Livingstone pupil)  
Ian Rowlands (BMC Chair)  
Illiya (Priory pupil)  
Imari Campbell-Joseph (Volunteer Steward)  
Inayah (Priory pupil)  
Isabelle, S (Scott pupil)  
Isla, G (Scott pupil)

Ismail (Westfield pupil)  
Ivy, K (Scott pupil)  
Iyana (Livingstone pupil)  
Jamila (Livingstone pupil)  
Jaxon, C (Scott pupil)  
Jerome (Livingstone pupil)  
Jessica (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Jo Hudson-Lett (Fusion/Philharmonia)  
Joel (Livingstone pupil)  
Julia Curry (BMC Social Media Manager)  
Julian (Priory pupil)  
Juliet Fraser (Priory)  
Kai, M (Scott pupil)  
Karen Mason (BMC Ambassador)  
Karen Watts (Westfield staff)  
Kate Kennedy (Museum of Music History)  
Kavi (Priory pupil)  
Ken Burton (Black Voices Artist)  
Kyra (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Lawrence Darka (Volunteer Steward)  
Layla (Priory pupil)  
Leilani (Biddenham pupil)  
Leo, N (Scott pupil)  
Leon Bosch (Black Voices Artist)  
Logan (Livingstone pupil)  
Lola (Biddenham pupil)  
Luke (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Mabel (Livingstone pupil)  
Maddy (Biddenham pupil)  
Maina (Livingstone pupil)  
Maira (Westfield pupil)  
Makai (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Margo (Edith Cavell pupil)



Marie Asantewaa (Volunteer Steward)  
Mark Delisser (Choral workshop leader)  
Maryam (Priory pupil)  
Mateusz (Livingstone pupil)  
Meggie (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Mehnaz (Priory pupil)  
Meredith, E (Scott pupil)  
Mia (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Michael Maloney (Piano Adviser)  
Michelle (Priory pupil)  
Mila, S (Scott pupil)  
Miller (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Mkpouto (Priory pupil)  
Mustafa (Livingstone pupil)  
Nabila (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Nashrah (Priory pupil)  
Nawara (Westfield pupil)  
Nella (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Nikodem Chyb (Volunteer Steward)  
Nimrat (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Noah (Biddenham pupil)  
Noorulain (Westfield pupil)  
Nusayba (Livingstone pupil)  
Oba (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Olive Nelson (All Saints Church)  
Olivia Brown (Stay Tuned Music)  
Paige (Biddenham pupil)  
Paul (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Peter Thornes (Livingstone staff)  
Rafe (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Raluca (Priory pupil)  
Ranjit, D (Scott pupil)  
Rayyan (Westfield pupil)

Rex (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Robert Beckford (Black Voices Artist)  
Roman (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Roy Lambert (All Saints Church)  
Saffiyah, R (Scott pupil)  
Sama (Westfield pupil)  
Saoirse (Biddenham pupil)  
Sara (Priory pupil)  
Sean (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Sebastien (Livingstone pupil)  
Shamsuddin (Westfield pupil)  
Sharon De Leonardis (Sharon De Leonardis)  
Siena, G (Scott pupil)  
Simon Tibbs (All Saints Church)  
Sophia, L (Scott pupil)  
Sophie Taylor-Denton (Choral workshop leader)  
Stefania (Westfield pupil)  
Tadi (Priory pupil)  
Tahiba (Priory pupil)  
Tamsin Lodder (Bedford Music Service)  
Terry (All Saints Church)  
Thali Lotus (Come As You Are )  
Theo, DO (Scott pupil)  
Tinotenda, H (Scott pupil)  
Tola (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Troy (Westfield pupil)  
Tsveti (Priory pupil)  
Umu Massaquoi (Volunteer Steward)  
Varvara (Livingstone pupil)  
Washe, M (Scott pupil)  
Wilbur (Biddenham pupil)  
Will White (BMC Manager)  
Woody, W (Scott pupil)

Yunus (Westfield pupil)  
Yusuf (Westfield pupil)  
Zain (Livingstone pupil)  
Zainab (Westfield pupil)  
Zayaan (Livingstone pupil)  
Zephy (Edith Cavell pupil)  
Zhenya (Priory pupil)  
Zuzanna (Livingstone pupil)



Save the date

Bedford Music Club presents

# A Christmas Carol

tunes, carols and readings for the festive season  
with the historic brass of

*Queen Victoria's Consort*

**Friday 19 December 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Bunyan Meeting**

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# BEDFORD MUSIC CLUB

We are delighted to have received support from the **Frank Branston Charitable Trust** managed by the **Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation** (BLCF). We also thank **The Wixamtree Trust**, the Borough's **Educational Improvement Strategic Group** and the **Gale Family Charity Trust**.

Thanks to these grants we are now able to continue our work bringing cultural festival experiences to Bedford.

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