



The
Queen's
BIRTHDAY PARTY

In celebration of
Her Majesty The Queen's
92nd birthday

21st April 2018
Royal Albert Hall



Her Majesty The Queen arrives at Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Service, 12th March 2018

© Picture Partnership



FOREWORD

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Royal Albert Hall this evening to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday. While all birthdays are special, this year, The Queen's birthday falls at the end of the week-long Commonwealth Summit in London, which has brought together fifty-three countries.

Tonight we reflect on the pledge made by The Queen on her 21st birthday in 1947 in South Africa, to serve the Commonwealth for her whole life. With my father, The Duke of Edinburgh, at her side, The Queen has dedicated herself, throughout her reign, to serving the United Kingdom and the other countries of the Commonwealth. Tonight we pay tribute to her devotion to duty, her steadfastness in times of uncertainty, and her vital role in uniting people from all walks of life through her enduring strength and humanity.

With my family, I join you in wishing my mother, The Queen, a very happy birthday."

HRH The Prince of Wales

THE ORGANISERS

"Through the creative genius of artists - whether they be writers, actors, filmmakers, dancers or musicians - we can see both the range of our cultures and the elements of our shared humanity."

From Her Majesty's Commonwealth Day Message, 2012

The Queen's Birthday Party brings together performers from the world of contemporary music in celebration of HM The Queen's 92nd birthday.

This special concert, brought to you by a collaboration of the BBC and The Royal Commonwealth Society, is held at the end of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. It showcases the depth of artistic talent found across the Commonwealth of Nations and highlights the significant cultural contribution that the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion citizens make to the world of entertainment.

Aired live on BBC One and BBC Radio Two, highlights of the concert will also be broadcast on BBC World Service English, giving listeners around the world the chance to hear the celebrations.



"In this our 150th year, The Royal Commonwealth Society is proud to honour Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, Her service as Head of the Commonwealth and Her unfailing support as our Patron. Happy Birthday and long may She reign."

Michael Lake CBE



"BBC Studios are honoured to be producing The Queen's Birthday Concert. The BBC has enjoyed a long and important relationship with the Royal Household and it is with great pleasure that we are able to bring you this special evening to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday at the end of the Commonwealth Summit."

Tony Hall, The Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE



© Paul Sanders

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

The Royal Albert Hall is the world's most famous stage. Over the past 147 years, it has hosted everyone from Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein and Edward Elgar to The Beatles, Ella Fitzgerald and Adele. Last year, its breathtaking auditorium presented 386 events by the world's greatest performers – taking in rock, pop and classical music, dance, films, Cirque du Soleil, and events of national importance such as the RBL Festival of Remembrance – with the magical setting and inspired artists creating amazing memories for audiences.

Opened in 1871 to fulfil Prince Albert's vision of a central hall to promote the arts and sciences, the Hall is a registered charity that remains true to his founding ambitions within a modern context. It hosts more than 1,000 events a year in its secondary space, the Elgar Room, and beyond, broadening the Hall's appeal to incorporate younger and more diverse audiences.

Its Education & Outreach programme reaches more than 185,000 participants each year, working with schools, young people and the community, as well as other charities such as Music for Youth, as part of its extensive public benefit remit. It creates memories, changes lives and provides inspiration through music for all, regardless of age or background.

In 2013, Her Majesty The Queen, the Royal Albert Hall's Patron, attended the official naming of the Hall's Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Steps. The steps as they are seen today were formed during redevelopment work that was completed in 2004, which saw the original stone and balustrade entirely removed to allow for excavation to accommodate plant rooms, dressing rooms, an underground loading bay and other services for the venue. A stone plaque to mark the occasion was placed towards the bottom of the steps.

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© Getty Images

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Royal Collection, Reserve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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Royal Collection, Trust Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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© Rex Features

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1 HM The Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh arrive in the Mall, London, for The Patron's Lunch to celebrate her 90th birthday, 12th June 2016.

2 Princess Elizabeth delivering her memorable 21st birthday radio broadcast in Cape Town, South Africa.

6



3 HM The Queen with Ashanti tribesmen in Ghana, 22nd November 1961.

4 HM The Queen and Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, driving through London in a carriage on 9th July 1996.

5 HM The Queen with Sir David Attenborough at The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) reception held at Buckingham Palace, November 2016.

7



6 HM The Queen with her Prime Ministers at the 1953 Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

7 Official Royal Ceremony for the Dedication of The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee steps, at the Royal Albert Hall, 9th November 2013.

PERFORMERS

In alphabetical order.

Alfie Boe



As a young boy, Lancashire-born Alfie Boe dreamed of a career as a singer. Having originally started his professional life as a mechanic, he soon went on to conquer the world's most prestigious opera stages, led the cast of 'Les Miserables' for nearly a year, and stole the show at concerts for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and The Queen's 90th Birthday in 2016. Always striving to bring good music to different audiences, after three sold-out UK Tours (including the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall), Boe has had four top ten albums and sold over one million records in the UK.

Anne-Marie



British singer-songwriter Anne-Marie started singing professionally in the West End at the age of six before cutting her teeth as a vocalist with UK Drum & Bass group, Rudimental. She rose to fame as a solo artist in 2016 with her songs 'Alarm' and 'Ciao Adios' and had her biggest hit to date with the Clean Bandit chart smash, 'Rockabye', which, at forty-one weeks, became the longest-running UK No.1 in twenty-two years. Having just released a new collaboration called 'Friends' with American producer, Marshmello, Anne-Marie is set to release her debut solo album this Spring.

Craig David



British R&B star, Craig David, rose to fame at the start of the millennium with his chart-topping debut, 'Born To Do It'. He went on to have huge success with hits like, 'Fill Me In', '7 Days' and 'Walking Away'. In 2015, after a hiatus, Craig made his triumphant return to the charts at a time when Garage and R&B was taking over once more and this year released his seventh studio album 'The Time Is Now'. Throughout his career he has had twenty UK Top 40 singles, seven UK Top 40 albums and has sold over fifteen million records worldwide.

PERFORMERS

Donel Mangena



Sixteen-year-old singer from Southampton Donel Mangena was a contestant on The Voice UK when, in the early rounds, he was spotted by Prince Harry, who invited Donel to perform at tonight's concert. He went on to be the runner up in this year's competition with his slick dance moves and his Zimbabwean heritage inspiring his afrobeat sounds in each performance.

Helen George



Helen George is an English actress primarily known for her role as 1950s midwife, Trixie Franklin, in the BBC Drama series 'Call the Midwife'; she also took part in the thirteenth series of BBC One's 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Training in Musical Theatre at the Royal Academy of Music, she went on to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and Wembley Arena, and sang backing vocals on tour with Sir Elton John. Helen has since accumulated an impressive accolade of acting credits including 'Hotel Babylon', 'The Three Musketeers', and 'Hollyoaks', and theatre credits which include Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'The Woman in White', 'Into The Woods', and 'High School Musical'.

Jamie Cullum



Jamie Cullum was obsessed with all types of music from an early age: rock, hip-hop, acid jazz and blues. He discovered jazz as a teenager, through artists such as Herbie Hancock and Miles Davis. Jamie's breakout album, 'Twentysomething', rapidly became the fastest selling jazz album in UK history, selling 2.5 million copies. Since then he has released four UK Top 20 albums which feature his trademark mix of jazz standards with original compositions and piano-led versions of contemporary rock and pop songs. Currently working on his eighth studio album, Jamie continues to travel the world playing everywhere from prestigious jazz venues such as Ronnie Scott's to the Glastonbury Festival.

PERFORMERS

Kylie



Australian singer, songwriter and actress Kylie Minogue has been making hit records since 1987. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Kylie's very first UK number one hit, 'I Should Be So Lucky' since which the Princess of Pop has had seven UK chart-toppers, sold more than eighty million records worldwide and this year released her 14th studio album, 'Golden'. Kylie, who in 2008 was awarded an OBE by The Prince of Wales for services to music, has performed at multiple events for the Royal Family and also sang at Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday celebration in 2016.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo



Assembled in the early 1960s, over the past six decades Ladysmith Black Mambazo has become one of South Africa's most prolific recording artists. The multi-Grammy award winning choral group first came to worldwide prominence as a result of singing with Paul Simon on his 1986 seminal album 'Graceland'. Since then, their vocal styles of isicathamiya and mbube, the traditional music of the Zulu people, have won hearts all over the world. A radio broadcast in 1970 opened the door to their first recording contract and was the beginning of an ambitious discography that currently includes more than sixty albums.

Laura Mvula



British singer-songwriter and composer Laura Mvula rose to fame in 2012 with her hugely successful Top 10 debut album 'Sing To The Moon' and standout single 'Green Garden'. She returned in 2016 with her Mercury Prize nominated follow-up album 'The Dreaming Room', with lead single 'Overcome' featuring the guitar work of the legendary Nile Rodgers. She moved into the world of theatre in 2017 when she composed the music for the 2017 Royal Shakespeare Company production of 'Antony and Cleopatra'. No stranger to the Royal Albert Hall stage, Laura performed with the Metropole Orkest as part of the 2014 BBC Proms Season.

PERFORMERS

Luke Evans



Welsh actor and one of Hollywood's leading men, Luke Evans began his career on the stage, performing in many of London's West End productions such as 'Rent' and 'Miss Saigon' before getting his Hollywood breakthrough role starring in the 'Clash of the Titans' 2010 remake. Since then, he has appeared in films such as 'Fast & Furious 6', 'The Hobbit' and 'Dracula Untold'. In 2017, Luke starred as Gaston, in Disney's live action adaptation of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Luke is currently starring in 'The Alienist' as newspaper illustrator, John Moore.

Shaggy



Orville Richard Burrell, aka Shaggy, or even 'Mr Boombastic', secured a record deal after moving from Jamaica to New York at the age of eighteen. His 1993 single 'Oh Carolina' was a dancehall-pop crossover hit and was followed by 1995's chart-topper 'Boombastic'. In 2001 his number one album, 'Hot Shot', became one of the best-selling reggae albums ever, propelled by the number one singles 'It Wasn't Me' and 'Angel'. Shaggy has continued to release records and perform all around the world and this year he has collaborated with legendary singer-songwriter, Sting, on a new album, weaving together the Caribbean sounds and reggae rhythms that have influenced them both.

Shawn Mendes



Canadian singer-songwriter, Shawn Mendes, rose to fame in 2013 after he learnt to play the guitar in less than a year and posted six second-cover versions of his favourite songs on the video app, Vine. The following year he secured a record deal, since which he has had two Platinum albums, released hit singles, 'Stitches' and 'There's Nothing Holding Me Back' and headlined three world tours. This year, Shawn has already released two new singles and has hinted that a new album is on the horizon.

PERFORMERS

Sir Tom Jones



With a career spanning six decades, 'King of the Valleys', Sir Tom Jones, has sold over 100 million records worldwide and has scored twenty Top 10 hits in the UK, including songs such as 'Delilah', 'It's Not Unusual' and 'Sex Bomb'. Most recently, Sir Tom has turned his hand to coaching new young talent on the television show, 'The Voice UK', mentoring this year's winner Ruti Olajugbagbe; next month, he will get back on the road with a North American tour. Having first met Her Majesty The Queen at a Royal Charity Performance in 1966, Sir Tom was awarded an OBE in 1999 and in 2006 he received a knighthood for his services to music.

Sting



Gordon Sumner aka Sting started out playing bass with local outfits in his hometown in the north-east of England, before his life changed as the principal songwriter, frontman and bass player for the legendary rock band The Police from 1977 to 1986. Since then, Sting has gone on to enjoy huge success in his solo career and in 2003 he was awarded a CBE for his services to music. Known for teaming up with other artists, this year he has collaborated with Jamaican reggae and dancehall icon, Shaggy, on a new album, weaving together the Caribbean sounds and reggae rhythms that have influenced them both.

Tom Chambers



British actor Tom Chambers won the sixth series of 'Strictly Come Dancing' in 2008 and is primarily known for his acting roles in BBC dramas 'Holby City', 'Casualty' and 'Waterloo Road'. During his time on 'Strictly Come Dancing', Chambers was compared to his hero Fred Astaire, who was renowned for his lead role in the 1935 film 'Top Hat'. After his 'Strictly' win, Tom went on to play the lead role of Jerry Travers himself, from 2011-2013, for which he was nominated for an Olivier award. Tom is currently performing in the lead role of Bobby Child in the UK tour of the musical 'Crazy For You'.

PERFORMERS

BBC Concert Orchestra

Many of our guests will be accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Musical Director, Steve Sidwell. The mission of the BBC Concert Orchestra is to bring inspiring musical experiences to everyone, everywhere, with the ensemble's great versatility as the key. The orchestra can be heard regularly on BBC Radio 2's 'Friday Night Is Music Night' and for BBC Radio 3 it searches out the unusual and quirky, profiling classical masterpieces in an entertaining way. For TV, the orchestra has performed on the soundtracks of 'The Hunt', 'The Paradise' and 'Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell', among others, and on the big screen it can be heard in the film 'The Lady in the Van'. Along with its regular engagements throughout the UK, the BBC Concert Orchestra has toured internationally to China, Japan, Sweden, Abu Dhabi and coast to coast in the USA.

The Dhol Foundation

Founded by front-man Johnny Kalsi in 1990, The Dhol Foundation began as a weekly workshop, teaching the art of playing the North Indian Dhol Drum to students in the UK, subsequently opening classes worldwide. Along their career, they have produced for many Bhangra artists and have appeared at major festivals and on movie soundtracks. The Dhol Foundation are no strangers to a Royal celebration having performed at The Royal Variety Show in 2011 and at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations at Leicester Cathedral. In 2013 they performed at The Coronation Festival Gala, in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation.

The George Formby Society

The George Formby Society was created after the death of George Formby OBE, a well-known entertainer in vaudeville and movies in the 1930s and 40s, whose songs were loved by the Royal Family and Her Majesty The Queen. When Formby died in 1961, a small group of fans, brought together by an advertisement placed in the 'The Stage' publication, met together in the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool to form the George Formby Society. The first meeting drew a lot of attention and conventions continue to be held in Blackpool four times a year. Today, the Society has more than 1,200 members worldwide.

All information correct at the time of going to press.



"We sometimes think the world's problems are so big that we can do little to help. On our own, we cannot end wars or wipe out injustice, but the cumulative impact of thousands of small acts of goodness can be bigger than we imagine."

Her Majesty The Queen

The Queen's Commonwealth Trust (QCT) has been established in recognition of Her Majesty's lifetime of service to the Commonwealth and her unwavering belief in young people and their power to make positive change.

Too often, young people running small charities and projects are overlooked for funding and struggle to find endorsement for their work or the advice and practical resources they need to do more. With Prince Harry as President, this is the gap The Queen's Commonwealth Trust will fill.

Working across the themes of health, education, sport and the environment, the QCT will work in collaboration with leading youth charities in order to deliver a grant-making programme to young people who have founded their own charitable ventures or who are leading practical projects that help others.

It will provide a platform to promote the work of the young people, so their voices can be heard and their ideas taken seriously. It will raise their profile as leaders, share their know-how and expertise to enable others to get started. It will provide links to resources that have inspired other young people as well as, in time, mentoring and access to wider networks. It will be the place where the work of young people, from all backgrounds and all countries of the Commonwealth, can be recognised for the meaningful difference it makes.

The Queen's Commonwealth Trust aims to help many thousands of young people to help others, and to inspire millions to take action.

www.queenscommonwealthtrust.org



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) promotes the values that define the Commonwealth through education, youth empowerment and advocacy. We champion human rights, democracy and sustainable development throughout our international network of individuals and organisations across and beyond the 53 Commonwealth member states.

Founded in 1868, the RCS has long employed dialogue as a means to challenge pressing Commonwealth issues and has been at the forefront of debate on gender discrimination. As far back as 1894, the RCS was promoting gender equality; our more recent efforts have enabled a youth voice to address the Commonwealth and the UN on gender issues.

With a reputation as a trusted convenor, the RCS provides a Commonwealth platform for statesmen and young voices alike. Leaders of newly independent countries have sought the platform of the RCS to share their visions for the future and Nelson Mandela gave his first UK press conference from the RCS in 1990.

Youth participation is integral across RCS programmes which serve to engender confidence and encourage leadership skills in young citizens. The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition raises early awareness of the Commonwealth while developing the literacy and critical thinking skills of thousands of pupils. By engaging with youth and enabling its empowerment the Society helps to invigorate and bring relevance to the modern Commonwealth.

In this our 150th year, we invite you to become a 150 Fellow of the RCS and help us to continue our work of improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens around the world.

www.thercs.org



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www.henleymediagroup.com

