

Presented by **Together Productions** and supported by  
the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

# SINGING OUR LIVES

## UNDER THE SAME SUN

Refugee Week 2022 Finale Performance  
Union Chapel, Islington, 6pm Sunday 26 June





**Tauhid Pasha**  
Head of Office,  
International  
Organization for  
Migration (IOM)  
in the UK

IOM is honoured to be a partner of Together Productions and the *Singing Our Lives* project, which promotes integration, mutual understanding and inclusion by bringing together migrants, refugees and local communities. Music and arts break down barriers and are catalysts for positive change; after two years of social distancing, it is an amazing opportunity to be able to come together again at this event and celebrate the resilience, creativity and bravery of refugees and migrants, in the UK and elsewhere.

Healing by  
Nima Javan

[Meet the people behind \*Singing Our Lives\*](#)





**Holly Jones**  
*Creative Producer*

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to *Singing Our Lives 2022*, the 6th year of this remarkable project, which brings people together across difference to form bonds of friendship, community and support – and to make amazing new music together.

Despite the challenges of lockdown the project has gone from strength to strength, uniting people not only across London and the South East but around the globe. The song you will hear premiered for tonight's finale – **Under The Same Sun** – was written by a company of singers and musicians in the UK in collaboration with artists from India, South Africa and the US. The next stage will be the internationally co-produced *Singing Our Lives: The People's Opera* – watch this space!

The world is facing seemingly ever more turbulent times – the pandemic had a devastating impact and in its wake it continues to be extremely challenging to rebuild the arts. With the current UK Government implementing ever more cruel and inhumane policies towards refugees, we are determined to show solidarity with displaced people everywhere, and thanks to the support of hundreds of singers, instrumentalists, arts and business organisations, individual donors and audiences, we have been able to continue our work to change hearts and minds through music and the arts. A huge thank you to all of you who are supporting us on this journey.



**Jeremy Haneman**  
*Musical Director*

The *Singing Our Lives* company would like to dedicate tonight's concert, the finale to Refugee Week 2022, to the people of Ukraine and to displaced sanctuary seekers around the world.

We express our special gratitude to Arts Council England and IOM who have supported *Singing Our Lives* since its inception.

Enjoy the show!

**Holly Jones** and **Jeremy Haneman**,  
Co-Directors of Together Productions



Launched in 2016, *Singing Our Lives* is a ground-breaking creative project bringing displaced people and local communities together with professional musicians and theatre directors to compose and perform new music together. To date seven new compositions have been produced and the latest song, **Under the Same Sun**, will be premiered this evening.

Conceived and developed by Together Productions, the project has attracted partners including the International Organization for Migration, the Royal Opera House, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Improbable, Freedom From Torture and Kinetika. The project celebrates diversity and solidarity through choral music and the arts, and has pioneered a unique collaborative dialogue and composition process that results in powerful new works reflecting the culture and experiences of hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds across the UK and the world.

In 2020 we partnered with Kinetika who collaborated with the SOL participants to create the beautiful Mandala you see displayed above the stage.

During the pandemic we were delighted to welcome international partners into the *Singing Our Lives* company. We held an online residency for artists and participants from across the UK and around the globe, and spent time dreaming together about the next phase of the project – *Singing Our Lives: The People's Opera* – an international co-production, created collaboratively by global arts organisations and communities, exploring our shared histories, the ties that bind us as well as the distance between us.

This evening we showcase the first step into the exciting terrain of international collaboration. The song that we will premiere – **Under the Same Sun** – was created by the *Singing Our Lives* company of amateur and professional instrumentalists and singers based in the UK in digital collaboration with artists in India, the US and South Africa. It was an incredibly exciting process that saw the lines between amateurs and professionals blurred and resulted in a truly co-composed piece.

If you'd like to find out more about *Singing Our Lives* visit **[www.singingourlives.co.uk](http://www.singingourlives.co.uk)**

And please do get in touch if you'd like to be part of the next stage of the journey – either by collaborating or supporting us: **[hello@togetherproductions.co.uk](mailto:hello@togetherproductions.co.uk)**

**“From my point of view, it’s not just been the singing, it’s the meeting people as well and sharing experiences”**

Sheila

**“It was mind-blowing. Really amazing. Starting from nothing we came together and by the end of the day we had created a song!”**

*Singing Our Lives*  
composition  
workshop participant

## HOSTED BY JUMOKÉ FASHOLA

### SING FOR FREEDOM CHOIR

Musical Director: Gemma Storr  
Accompanist: Martha Littlehales

Sing for Freedom present an uplifting programme of togetherness and resilience. *'World on our Shoulders'*, a rousing #Resolution2020 eco-anthem, is followed by a bespoke setting of the yearning Arabic – English poem *'Our Hearts Desire'* written by choir member EE, then choir favourite, *'Peace is Flowing'*.

#### World on our Shoulders

Composer: John Farnbury #Resolution2020  
Arranger: Dave Camlin 2021 / Gemma Storr 2022  
Bass: Gemma Storr  
Trumpet: Jack Jones  
Percussion: Yannis Madu

#### Our Hearts Desire

Composer: E.E  
Arranger: Gemma Storr 2022  
Oud: Basel Saleh

#### Peace is Flowing Like a River

Composer: Carey Landry  
Arranger: Gemma Storr 2022

## WELCOME

Enver Solomon  
*Chief Executive Officer, Refugee Council*

## KATERYNA BOLKUNEVYCH

Accompanist: Ashley Beauchamp

Kateryna will be performing *'The Stranger'*. The lyrics were written in response to the war that began in Eastern Ukraine in 2014, and music composed especially for Kateryna by Olena Lys in 2017.

#### The Stranger

Composer: Olena Lys  
Lyrics: Iryna Ivanchenko

## THE MIXED UP CHORUS

Musical Director: Jeremy Haneman  
Accompanist: Ashley Beauchamp

The Mixed Up Chorus will be singing *Shule Aroon* – a traditional Irish melody arranged by Ruth Elaine Shram and featuring Julian Azkoul on violin. Sung in Gaelic and English, the song shows the resilience of a woman lamenting the loss of her lover who has gone to war. This is followed by *No-one is Alone*, by Sondheim from *Into the Woods*, a ballad of reassurance to people everywhere that someone is always there for you. We finish with *Nowruz*, a song composed and completed in lockdown by the *Singing Our Lives* Company. Sung in Farsi and English, the piece celebrates the Persian New Year Festival of *Nowruz* and invites us all to let go of the past and welcome in the new. Featuring Yannis Madu on djembe.

#### Shule Aroon

Composer: Traditional Irish  
Arranger: Ruth Elaine Shram  
Violin: Julian Azkoul

#### No-one is Alone

Composer: Stephen Sondheim  
Arranger: Mark Brymer

#### Nowruz

Composer: Tess Berry Hart, lyrics. Mike Roberts, music, working with participants of *Singing Our Lives 2019/20*  
Percussion: Yannis Madu

## UNITED STRINGS OF EUROPE

Musical Director: Julian Azkoul

United Strings of Europe will perform Caroline Shaw's 'Entr'acte'; a beautiful piece that blends classical refinement with dizzying dissonance to create an unsettling atmosphere.

### **Entr'acte**

Composer: Caroline Shaw

Soloists: Julian Azkoul, Raphael Lang, Michelle Bruil

## WRITE TO LIFE

Two members of Write to Life, Freedom from Torture's creative writing group for survivors of torture, will perform poems written in response to theme's raised by 'Under the Same Sun' and Refugee Week's theme of 'Healing'.

### **My Colourful Utopia**

Writer & Performer: Jade Amoli-Jackson

## MIND AND SOUL COMMUNITY CHOIR

Musical Director: Nicola Wydenbach

Accompanist: Ashley Beauchamp

The Mind and Soul Choir's logo is multicoloured so we have chosen songs inspired by our favourite colours that reaffirm the choir's message to bringing wellbeing through singing.

### **True Colours**

Composer: Kelly and Steinberg

### **Yellow**

Composer: Berryman, Buckland, Champion and Martin

Soloists: Members of the Mind and Soul Community Choir

### **As**

Composer: Stevie Wonder

## INTERVAL

There will be one interval of 30 minutes. Drinks are available during the interval and after the performance in the Union Chapel bar on the first floor. Please return to your seats punctually for the second half.



## MUSIC CONNECTS

Music Connects brings together young people raised in Surrey with young people who have been displaced and have recently arrived. Tonight's performance captures how Music Connects uses music to explore all the things that make us unique alongside celebrating all that we have in common.

### **I Will Find My Way**

Composer & Arranger: Music Connects

## WRITE TO LIFE

### **Under the Same Sun**

Writer & Performer: Tanya

## ORCHESTRA OF SYRIAN MUSICIANS

Musical Director: Basel Saleh

The *Orchestra of Syrian Musicians* performs a set in the style of a classic Arab band. Their aim is to share Syrian culture with the world and sing traditional folk songs in new ways.

### **Subhan Man Sawar**

Composer: Traditional

Soloist: Hamsa Mounif and Basel Saleh

### **Ghaneily Shwaiy Shwaiy**

Composer: Sakarya Ahmad

Arranger: Bayram Al Tounusi

Soloist: Hamsa Mounif and Basel Saleh

## THAMES OPERA COMPANY

Musical Director: Jeremy Haneman

Accompanist: Ashley Beauchamp

Thames Opera Company opens with a Sondheim double bill – the opening demonic chorus from *Sweeney Todd* and then the finale to act one of *Sunday* from *Sunday in the Park with George*, a passionate homage to the healing pastoral beauty that inspired Seurat's impressionist painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. We then conclude with the very emotional *A Ukrainian Prayer* by John Rutter, a brand new piece that the composer wrote in support of the plight of the Ukrainian people. Sung in Ukrainian and featuring Ukrainian soloist Kateryna Bolkuneych, the piece is a hymn for peace.

### **The Ballad of Sweeney Todd**

Composer: Stephen Sondheim

Arranger: Andy Beck

### **Sunday**

Composer: Stephen Sondheim

Arranger: Mac Huff

### **Ukrainian Prayer**

Composer: John Rutter

Soloist: Kateryna Bolkuneych

**“It is interesting and revealing to hear people’s stories. Of course, I can’t say that I know what it is like being a refugee, but I now have a better understanding of this issue; we can’t just label refugees as if they were an alien group of people... they are just like you and I, and it made me think that given certain circumstance it could be any one of us...”**

*Irene*

## FULL SINGING OUR LIVES COMPANY

Musical Director: Jeremy Haneman

Djembe: Yannis Madu

Accompanist: Piano: Ashley Beauchamp,

Bass: Gemma Storr

*Under the Same Sun* is the eighth song written as part of the *Singing Our Lives* project. *Singing Our Lives* is a ground-breaking project bringing displaced people, those seeking sanctuary, people with mental health challenges and local communities together with professional musicians to compose new music and perform together.

This year we are starting on our next phase to develop a *Singing Our Lives: The People's Opera* – the song you are hearing tonight is a chorus from an (as yet unwritten!) opera – the material for the song was developed with the *Singing Our Lives* company in a one day workshop in

April 2022 with the composers and lyricist as well as Director David Stevenson and movement coach Pagan Dorgan, and we were delighted to welcome international guests on video/zoom to help us write the song too – Mandisi Dyantys from the Isango Ensemble in Cape Town, South Africa, Dr Phil Woodmore from Theatre of War in the USA, and Tanmay Dhanania from Tin Can Theatre in Calcutta, India. The song speaks of a journey from isolation and fragility into the power of a community coming together, breathing together and singing together.

### Under the Same Sun

Composer: Music and Lyrics co-written by the *Singing Our Lives* Company in collaboration with Gemma Storr and Saied Silbak (Music), and Zoe Lauren Palmer (lyrics), April 2022.

Soloists: Kateryna Bolkunevych and Basel Saleh





## MIND AND SOUL CHOIR

We transform lives through singing together. We are a choir that promotes wellbeing through singing and reduces the stigma associated with mental health issues. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 6pm at the Canteen at Maudsley Hospital in Denmark Hill SE5 8AZ. No auditions, no need to read music, just come to sing for fun.

[www.mindandsoulchoir.org](http://www.mindandsoulchoir.org)



## THE MIXED UP CHORUS

Founded in 2014, the Mixed Up Chorus is a non-auditioned community choir run by Together Productions. The choir unites audiences and singers through a love of music. The Mixed Up Chorus sings to bring together people of different beliefs, faiths, cultures and life experiences to promote understanding and empathy. It has performed at the Southbank, at Milton Court in the Barbican, the BBC, Admiralty House, the Scoop and Union Chapel amongst many other venues.

[www.mixedupchorus.co.uk](http://www.mixedupchorus.co.uk)

**“It really is a lovely hot pot... a mixture of different people, cultures, backgrounds, and ages. It’s a creative, slightly chaotic, mix that really involves so many different people from all walks of life with different personalities that I just find so enriching. It really brings a lot of joy to be part of it! Particularly working with some of our refugee singers – we are all more or less the same, all with similar needs...”**

*Benedikt*



## MUSIC CONNECTS

For displaced young people beginning new lives in the UK, one of the many challenges is how to build positive connections within their new community. Many young people growing up locally have no idea how many of their peers are restarting new lives in the same area and we wanted to change that. Music Connects provides inclusive, equitable and creative opportunities for these two groups to build friendships, share experiences and to make new music.

## THE ORCHESTRA OF SYRIAN MUSICIANS



## ORCHESTRA OF SYRIAN MUSICIANS

The Orchestra of Syrian Musicians works to regularly unite displaced Syrian orchestra members and keep the beauty of Syrian culture alive within their new communities. Since their critically acclaimed UK and EU tour in 2016, they have performed at the Cambridge Folk Festival, WOMAD Festival, Bozar, Trafalgar Square with the Mayor of London, and a collaboration with the Liverpool Philharmonic that gave us an alternative take on the origins of St Georges Day.

**“When you are tortured in your own country it is not good at all... When I arrived in the UK, I could not even talk to anybody; when I tried to get out of my flat, if I saw somebody walking in the street, I used to run back inside. Now I feel free, walking everywhere and singing, because everybody is the same and we are free! I really enjoy this group because everybody feels so safe here, as if we are friends and family, and whether you sing well or not, they will accept you and you learn... it is very good!”**

*Jade*



## SING FOR FREEDOM CHOIR

The Sing for Freedom Choir is a community of torture survivors and friends who sing together in a spirit of joy and hope, in solidarity with all those who are oppressed. The choir sings for freedom and to give back a voice to those who have been silenced.

[www.singforfreedom.co.uk](http://www.singforfreedom.co.uk)

## Thames Opera Company



## THAMES OPERA COMPANY

An independent charitable chorus with a focus on opera. Formed by members of the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus following its dissolution during lockdown. We are completely non-auditioned, and continue to build on over a decade of work. We provide a friendly and supportive community for our members to sing and perform a diverse repertoire in the original language.

We believe that opera and the arts should be accessible to all, no matter their background or previous experience.

[www.thamesopera.org.uk/](http://www.thamesopera.org.uk/)

**“What I really enjoyed was collaborating with the other choirs. Meeting others. I left still with my head buzzing with music”**

*Singing Our Lives composition workshop participant*

## UNITED STRINGS OF EUROPE



### UNITED STRINGS OF EUROPE

The United Strings of Europe creates profound musical experiences that celebrate diversity and bridge cultural divides. Praised for its original programming and *'virtuosically expressive'* playing (The Times), the London-based ensemble commissions and arranges music from a variety of cultural backgrounds, and performs regularly in Europe and the Middle East. USE's recordings for BIS Records have been characterised as 'supremely executed' (★★★★½ Stereophile Magazine) and celebrated for their 'compelling programmes' (BBC Music Magazine)

[www.unitedstringseurope.com](http://www.unitedstringseurope.com)

## FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS. REBUILDING LIVES.



### WRITE TO LIFE

Write to Life has been working with survivors of torture from around the world for more than 20 years. We welcome writers at all levels of experience. Our members meet each week to explore stories and ideas. Write to Life helps people process their experiences and express their emotions in a safe space.

**“It was great to work with Phil (Woodmore) and Mandisi (Dyantyis) and to be part of their development of the original songs. Very interesting to see how their input changed and I would say, augmented the first draft!”**

*Singing Our Lives composition workshop participant*



**DAVID STEVENSON**  
*Stage & Workshop Director*

Formerly Head of Drama at the National School of the Arts in South Africa, David then ran Creative Voices for the Royal Opera House. He continued to work extensively for the ROH on moving to the UK, including serving as Artistic Director of their Youth Opera Company.



**GEMMA STORR**  
*Co-Composer,  
Under the Same Sun;  
Musical Director,  
Sing for Freedom Choir*

Gemma Storr is a multi-instrumentalist performer and composer, specialising in devised cross-platform works for theatre and commercial music, ensemble composition and community music. Her pieces examine and re-invent existing musical hierarchies for a digital, feminist and anti-racist society, promoting equity and self-expression through the subversion of traditional Audience-Performer-Creator dynamics.



**SAIED SILBAK**  
*Co-Composer  
Under the Same Sun*

Saied Silbak is a Palestinian composer and oud player born in Shafaa' mr, a city located in the lower Galilee of occupied Palestine. He has a unique understanding of different types of music, from Arabic, Turkish and Indian to classical western styles. Silbak's signature sound, created through his artful ability to fuse these styles together, has seen him perform around the world at festivals and concert series in the UK, Belgium, France, Palestine, Morocco, Argentina and beyond.



**ZOE LAUREN PALMER**  
*Lyricist,  
Under the Same Sun*

Zoe is a writer whose operatic work has been performed across the UK and internationally. She's a founder member of Woven Gold choir, an associate with Tonic Theatre Company and a visiting professor of creative writing at The GSMD.



**PAGAN DORGAN**  
*Movement Director,  
Under the Same Sun*

An award-winning dance practitioner with over 25 years of experience in the industry. Pagan believes that a positive dance experience can make a difference to people's lives and is committed to sharing dance with as many people as possible.



**MANDISI DYSANTIS**  
*Collaborator,  
Under the Same Sun*

Mandisi is Associate Director and co-Music Director of Isango Ensemble and has been with the company since 2006. He has been co-Music Director and arranger / composer for all Isango Ensemble productions since 2006.

## BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED



### TANMAY DHANANIA

*Collaborator,  
Under the Same Sun*

Tanmay Dhanania trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Screen credits include: *New Tricks* (BBC), *Indian Summers* (Channel 4), *The Durrells* (itv), *Brahman Naman* (Netflix), *Garbage* (Netflix) and *Cat Sticks* (MUBI). Recent theatre includes *A Manual of Fantastical Zoology* (HOMEcr and RADA).



### DR PHIL WOODMORE

*Collaborator,  
Under the Same Sun*

Dr. Philip A. Woodmore, internationally recognized composer, music educator, vocal coach and author. Phil is the composer of the Off-Broadway production *Antigone in Ferguson* along with a few other musical productions and choral pieces. [www.philipawoodmore.com](http://www.philipawoodmore.com)



### ASHLEY BEAUCHAMP

*Accompanist*

Ashley Beauchamp is a London-based répétiteur, conductor and coach. Alongside his work with leading opera companies throughout the UK, he is also a passionate advocate of music participation. He is Musical Director of Thames Opera Company, and regular collaborator with the education departments of the Royal Opera House and Glyndebourne.



### LUKE SPEIRS

*Stage Manager*

When acting as a Stage Manager, Luke thoroughly enjoys working alongside talented artists and creative members of the community. He also directs community choirs and recently finished employment at the Royal Opera House where he worked as Assistant Chorus Manager.





**JUMOKÉ  
FASHOLA**  
*Compère*

Jumoké is an award-winning radio and television broadcaster, jazz singer and actress. She currently presents J to Z on BBC Radio 3 and *Sunday Breakfast – 'Inspirit'* for BBC Radio London. She has many theatre and television credits to her name, and as a vocalist has performed at Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall.



**ENVER  
SOLOMON**  
*Chief Executive,  
Refugee Council*

Enver joined the Refugee Council as Chief Executive in December 2020. He holds a wealth of experience in the charitable sector, including senior roles at the National Children's Bureau, The Children's Society, Barnardo's, the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and the Prison Reform Trust. Prior to working in the voluntary sector he was a BBC journalist for ten years.



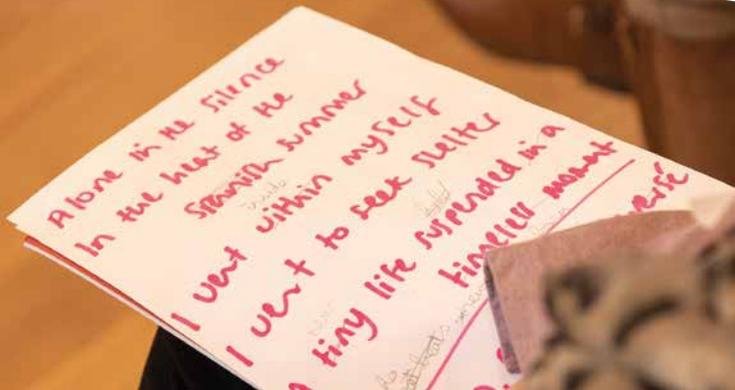
**BASEL  
SALEH**  
*Conductor,  
Orchestra of  
Syrian Musicians*

Musician, composer, conductor and singer, he graduated from the High Institute of Music in Damascus. He holds a masters majoring in music education from the University of Damascus. He is the conductor of the Orchestra of Syrian Musicians and the choir at Academy of Art and The Arabic Heritage in London. He is a member of The IVORS Academy of Music Creators.



**HAMSA  
MOUNIF**  
*Singer,  
Orchestra of  
Syrian Musicians*

Hamsa Mounif is an accomplished singer and has been a musician and workshop leader with Singing Our Lives since 2019. Hamsa graduated from the conservatory in Damascus, Syria. Some career highlights include performing at Victoria and Albert Museum, WOMAD, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Cambridge Folk Festival, Kings Place, Royal Festival Hall and Glastonbury.





## **TAIM SALEH**

*Vocals & Qanun,  
Orchestra of  
Syrian Musicians*

Taim is a singer, composer, song writer and qanun player. He obtained a Bachelors degree from the Faculty of Music in Syria. His musical works seek to diversify oriental music by mixing different traditions and styles to create a new contemporary style.



## **JULIAN AZKOUL**

*Artistic Director,  
United Strings of Europe*

Violinist and director Julian Azkoul is in demand as an ensemble leader and soloist. As artistic director of the United Strings of Europe, he directs the group from the violin, curates programmes and projects, and arranges music for the ensemble.



## **WALID ZAIDO**

*Percussionist,  
Orchestra of  
Syrian Musicians*

Walid Zaido is a percussionist, educated and trained at the higher institute of music in Damascus, specialising in classical and oriental music. He was a member of the Syria National Orchestra, the Syrian National Orchestra for Arabic Music, the Arab Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of Syrian Musicians and many others. Walid has performed in many opera houses in many countries, including the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Algeria, Morocco and Lebanon.



## **KATERYNA BOLKUNEVYCH**

*Soprano, Author  
and Soloist*

Kateryna Bolkunevych was born in Ukraine (Cherkassy region) where she first discovered her love of music. She plays the bandura (Ukrainian national instrument), piano as well as singing. Kateryna graduated from the Cherkassy musical college, the National Music Academy named after P.I. Tchaikovsky (teacher: Evdokiya Kolesnyk) and she did post-graduate study at the NMAU. Her repertoire includes opera arias, duets, song cycles, romances and folk songs. Her favourite composer is Verdi. For the last ten years she has been the founder and director of the professional musical project 'Inspiration Classic' in Kyiv, Ukraine.





## MUSIC CONNECTS CREATIVE TEAM

A diverse team of professional musicians from Surrey Arts supported Music Connects participants to create the song for tonight's performance. The song called *I Will Find My Way* captures a shared sense of journey, hope and perseverance experienced by amazing young people who have had very different life journeys.



## TANYA *Poet & Performer, Write to Life*

Tanya was born in Zimbabwe, where she was a primary school teacher for fifteen years. Tanya and her family started speaking out against the regime in 1999, when it was becoming more and more oppressive and violent. Some of her family were killed and maimed as a result of their protests and Tanya was forced to flee. She arrived in the UK in 2013 and was referred to Freedom from Torture in 2017. Tanya loves nature, gardening and writing.



## NICOLA WYDENBACH *Musical Director, Mind and Soul Choir*

Nicola Wydenbach is a graduate of the RCM. She has sung for English National Opera, Scottish Opera, the Monteverdi Choir, Philharmonia Voices and London Voices. She is a highly experienced vocal coach having worked for ROH, ENO, the BBC, Surrey Arts, Sing Up, Snape Maltings, Streetwise Opera and Garsington. She has been Musical Director for Snappy Operas, Mahogany Opera in Tower Hamlets, Cumbria and Lewes. She is Director of Training for Sing to Beat Parkinsons, a session leader on ENO Breathe's pioneering long Covid response as well as being Musical Director of the Mind and Soul Community Choir.



## JADE AMOLI-JACKSON *Poet & Performer, Write to Life*

Jade was born in East Africa, studied journalism and worked as a sports reporter. After members of her family were killed and her own life was threatened, Jade was forced to flee and arrived in the UK in 2001. She was referred to Freedom from Torture and joined Write to Life fourteen years ago. Jade works as a volunteer at the Refugee Council, published her first collection of poetry, *Moving A Country*, in 2013, and regularly recites her work in the UK.





## HOLLY JONES

*Creative Producer,  
Singing Our Lives  
Co-Director,  
Together Productions*

Holly is a Creative Producer specialising in participant-led productions, collaboration and inclusive artistic practice and models. Her career in theatre, visual arts, music and film has included Director of Education & Community at the National Youth Theatre, where she founded ground-breaking social inclusion programme *Playing Up*, and led the Arts and Culture programme at interfaith charity 3FF (now the Faith & Belief Forum). Previously she worked as a producer and director in broadcast TV for 8 years. With Jeremy Haneman she co-founded the *Mixed Up Chorus* in 2013 and *Together Productions* in 2017.



## JEREMY HANEMAN

*Artistic Director,  
Thames Opera Company  
Music Director,  
Mixed Up Chorus  
Co-Director,  
Together Productions*

Jeremy Haneman is the Co-Director of *Together Productions*, Artistic Director of *Thames Opera Company* and Music Director of the *Mixed Up Chorus* and *Singing Our Lives*. Jeremy was the Community Chorus Director for the *Royal Opera House Covent Garden* 2011–2020. As well as musical director for the prize-winning *Taylor Wessing* and *Linklaters* choirs, he has led many other choirs including the *National Symphony Chorus of Ireland*, *Morley College Choir* and *The London Gay Men's Chorus*.





**ALEXANDRA  
GODFREE**

*Head of Programmes,  
Together Productions*

Alexandra was delighted to join the Together Productions team two years ago, sharing their belief in the power of the arts to connect us and facilitate positive social change. Previously she managed the Royal Opera House's Community Engagement Programme in Thurrock, and is Creative Director of the Voice Festival UK.



**KUSHINGA  
HARE**

*Engagement & Pathways  
Coordinator,  
Together Productions*

Kushinga works as Engagement and Pathways Coordinator for the Sing for Freedom Choir and also for the Reading Refugee Support Group. She is an ambassador for Refugee Week and City of Sanctuary UK. She came to the UK as an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe 23 years ago.



**JULIA  
VALENTINI**

*Producer,  
Singing Our Lives*

Julia Valentini is a strategic creative producer whose work spans theatre, contemporary dance, participatory performance, music and film. She has held lead producing roles with some of the world's principal arts organisations including Rambert, Melbourne Festival and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company.



**JACK  
JONES**

*Intern,  
Together Productions*

Jack is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Having picked up the trumpet at the age of 8, his passion for music was evident from an early age. Whilst trumpet was his primary focus, Jack also took lessons in piano, drum kit and singing. One of his best musical memories is singing choral evensong at Salisbury Cathedral and singing *Dvorak's Mass in D* at Guildford Cathedral.



**MARTHA  
LITTLEHAILES**

*Intern,  
Together Productions*

Martha is a keen singer, pianist and choral conductor. She sings with the CBSO Chorus and is a Musical Director within prison choir charity Beating Time. She accompanies or conducts various Midlands choirs, motivated by her passion for musical accessibility.



**RAPHAELA  
PAPADAKIS**

*Intern,  
Together Productions*

London-born soprano and educator Raphaela Papadakis studied at the Guildhall, where she won multiple awards including 1st prize at the National Mozart Competition. A professional opera-singer, singing teacher and choir leader, Raphaela is passionate about music education and community music-making. [www.raphaelapapadakis.com](http://www.raphaelapapadakis.com) @raphaelasings



**KOLBASSIA  
HAOUSSOU**  
*Singing Our Lives Film*

Kolbassia Haoussou fled to the UK from Central Africa, to escape torture and persecution in 2005. He co-founded *Survivors Speak Out*, a torture survivors and former Freedom from Torture clients' network. He was awarded an MBE in 2019 for his work with survivors and campaigning on behalf of asylum seekers.



**DELUXE  
MWENGULA**  
*Singing Our Lives Film*

My name is Deluxe Mwendula, I began my professional journey in 2018 and have since worked on a number of solo and collaborative film projects. I take pride in all that I do and in the long-term relationships I've fostered in the process. I firmly believe that hard work eventually pays off, and I know that each day brings me closer to achieving my goals.



**ALEX  
MULUGETA**  
*Singing Our Lives Film*

Alex has been part of the *Singing Our Lives* project since 2018.



**TAUHID  
PASHA**  
*UK Chief,  
IOM*

Tauhid Pasha is the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the UK Head of Office, and he has worked for IOM since 2007 – in Afghanistan, Egypt and Jordan. Before joining IOM, he headed the immigration team of a large legal aid law firm and worked as Legal Director for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI).



**ABIR  
SOLEIMAN**  
*Communications Officer,  
IOM*

Abir Soleiman is the Communication Officer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the United Kingdom. Abir has worked for many years in the humanitarian and development sector and she is a passionate advocate for migrant rights.



**BINDU  
ISSAC**  
*Project Coordinator,  
Refugee Resettlement  
and Integration,  
IOM*

Bindu Issac is responsible for Refugee Resettlement, Complementary Pathways, and Integration programmes at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the United Kingdom, with a particular focus on policy and programme design for refugee resettlement from, Syria, Afghanistan, and more recently Ukraine. Bindu is a passionate advocate for promoting social inclusion through the Arts.

# PERFORMERS

**Tonight's *Singing Our Lives* concert is performed by the following musicians and singers:**

## MIND & SOUL

Members of the Mind & Soul Choir

## MIXED UP CHORUS

Eileen Bernard  
Simone Bloom  
Joan Bruggen  
Mary Ellen Cairns  
Mandy Carr  
Florence Chambers  
Caroline Chan  
Mei-Lynn Choo  
Guy Comely  
Judith Cook  
Marie Joelle Deschamps  
Pagan Dorgan  
Cavell Douglas  
Francis Fitzsimons  
Frances Forsyth  
Sally Hawkins  
Christine Hochleitner  
Benedikt Humm  
Dawn  
EE

Gill Jacobs  
Maggie Jennings  
Holly Jones  
Janet Jones  
Maria Leece  
Alison Little  
Eva Lloyd  
Noreen McKeever  
Yonas Mebrate  
Paul Murphy  
Çağrı Oral  
Jacki Reason  
Liz Reiner  
Eve Rogans  
Louise Rogers  
Haydeh S. Ravesh  
Mike Solly  
Peter Treganna  
Lindsay Watts  
Natalie Wojcikiewicz

## MUSIC CONNECTS

Lucian  
Heather  
James  
Jaego  
Heather  
Benedetta  
Maya  
Sarah  
Clara  
Rokan  
Orli  
Henry  
Catherine  
Sara  
Assad  
Svetlana  
Daro  
Nick  
Haben  
Semhal  
Pawlos  
Daro  
Adam  
Zanyar  
Adi  
Nastasia  
Jim

## SING FOR FREEDOM

Aimerance  
Angela  
Betty  
Bibiche  
Carine  
Ciniaga  
EE  
Eileen  
Elisabeth  
Flavia  
Gabriel  
Isabel  
Jade  
Jonathan  
Josee  
Joseph  
Joy  
Kate  
Katoyi-Lily  
Leonora  
Loretta  
Marthe  
Muna  
Nanou  
Noreen  
Pat  
Patricia  
Scilla  
Siska  
Viviana  
Walker  
Yinzi  
Yonas

**ORCHESTRA  
OF SYRIAN  
MUSICIANS**

Basel Saleh  
Hamsa Mounif  
Taim Saleh  
Walid Zaido

**THAMES OPERA  
COMPANY**

Beryl Blackmore.  
Sylvia Outram  
Deborah Brophy  
Carole Wilson  
Jen Wilson  
Maggie Wright  
Josephine McNamara  
Margaret Bjorsvik  
Natalie Nagle  
Helen Martin  
Carol-Anne  
O'Callaghan  
Malgosia Skinsley  
Irene Hamilton  
Christine Marshall  
Pat Gunn  
Susan Adams-Cundick  
Takako Sato  
Kay Collins  
Allen Jones  
Lorna Jones

Susan Holmes  
Angela Saville  
Cathie Chappell  
Melanie Wong  
Yvonne Still  
John Copeland  
April Smith  
Paul Burge  
Margaret Hall  
Catherine Hamilton  
Daniela McDonach  
Matt Smith  
Eddy Archer  
June Bull  
Roger Going  
Tony Skinsley  
Brendan O'Callaghan  
Roy Cartledge  
Jeff Prescott  
Gary Houghton  
Mike Ostler

**UNITED STRINGS  
OF EUROPE**

Julian Azkoul  
Aliayta Foon-Dancoes  
Michelle Bruil  
Raphael Lang

**WRITE TO LIFE**

Jade Amoli-Jackson  
Tanya

## TOGETHER PRODUCTIONS

Together Productions is five years old this year! Founded in 2017, TP is a non-profit community interest company which produces collaborative creative projects with social impact. We believe that the arts can make a difference, bridging social divides, building community, expanding horizons and opening up new perspectives and relationships. *Singing Our Lives*, our flagship project, brings displaced people and those seeking sanctuary, people facing mental health challenges and local communities together with professional musicians to compose and perform together.

TP produces two choirs, the Mixed Up Chorus and the Sing for Freedom Choir, both of which unite diverse groups through the power of song. In 2021/2 we have launched two new programmes: *Singing For Our Minds* (exploring the relationship between leadership, diversity and mental health), and *Sharing Our Lives* (collecting heritage stories of migration across generations in Thurrock and transforming them into music, film and visual arts.)

*Singing Our Lives: The People's Opera* is the next phase for us, and we are delighted that we have been joined this year by international partners in South Africa, India and the USA who will be journeying with us into the exciting future.

TP is reliant on fundraising, grants and donations to keep going. Please support us if you can:

[www.togetherproductions.co.uk/donate](http://www.togetherproductions.co.uk/donate)



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports migrants across the world, developing effective responses to the shifting dynamics of migration and, as such, is a key source of advice on migration policy and practice. The organization works in emergency situations, developing the resilience of all people on the move, and particularly those in situations of vulnerability, as well as building capacity within governments to manage all forms and impacts of mobility. The organization is guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including upholding human rights for all.

[www.unitedkingdom.iom.int](http://www.unitedkingdom.iom.int)



**“An amazing and enriching experience. A beautiful day with a community of like-minded people. What I really enjoyed was starting from an idea and creating a unique song”**

*Singing Our Lives composition  
workshop participant*

## REFUGEE WEEK

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival, celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Through arts, culture, sports and educational events, it enables people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels, as well as encouraging understanding of why people are displaced, and the challenges they face when seeking safety. Refugee Week is a platform for people who have sought safety in the UK to share their experiences, perspectives and creative work on their own terms.

[www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)



## UNION CHAPEL

Union Chapel is a church with a deep commitment to social, economic, racial and climate justice. Services are held each Sunday at 11.00am with an excellent and eclectic programme of music, inspiring reflections, and prayer. We organise awareness raising events and webinars and Bible Studies. The Margins Project provides advice, food, and support to people who are experiencing homelessness and social isolation. Union Chapel is also known as a venue for music and arts.

[www.unionchapel.org.uk](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk)



***Singing Our Lives 2022*** would not have been possible without the energy, commitment, skills and amazing goodwill of many people. A special thank you to:

**Rev Vaughan Jones, Brett Pracownik, Katharine Crew, Gheneva-Mae Wilson-Powell, Kiria Ceinwen and the whole team at Union Chapel**

**Janine Thomas and colleagues**  
Red Cross Tilbury

**Christine Bisatt**  
Arts Council England

**Section reps and committees from all the choirs**

**Will Gardner**  
Musician and recording engineer

**Bindu Issac and Abir Soleiman**  
International Organization for Migration

**Phelan Barker**  
Branding and programme design

**Jez Ward**  
Photography

**Rachel Cherry**  
Photography

**Brie Gobel and Nick Eagleton**  
All at Saboteur Studio

**Our special supporters:**

Peter Baldwin  
Lee Bennett  
Roberta Cutolo  
Elizabeth Fowler  
Cressida Granger  
Joe Hansen  
Jane Hanson  
Sarah Hebborn  
Kate Hodgkin  
Elizabeth Israeli  
Justin Missingham  
Henrietta Morrison  
Vera Okojie  
Sian Williams

**“Within music we become one people.  
It breaks down differences, cultural  
barriers... it is so important”**

*Tim*

[www.singingourlives.co.uk](http://www.singingourlives.co.uk)  
[www.togetherproductions.co.uk](http://www.togetherproductions.co.uk)

If you have been inspired by this evening's programme do stay in touch! Please follow us on social media, spread the word about our work, sign up to the mailing list and let us know if you'd like to volunteer, collaborate or support us in the future.

### Mailing List

[hello@togetherproductions.co.uk](mailto:hello@togetherproductions.co.uk)

### Social Media



Twitter: @Together\_create

Instagram: together\_productions\_create

Together Productions is a not for profit Community Interest Company. Our work is funded by grants, subscriptions and donations and we rely on the generous support of individuals to continue to produce new work and collaborate with inspiring artists and communities.

Inclusion is at the heart of our work and we are dependent on fundraised income to support the many free or subsidised places we offer. If you would like to support our work further please donate through our website:

[www.togetherproductions.co.uk/donate](http://www.togetherproductions.co.uk/donate)

Funds raised are crucial to support and develop our ongoing programmes including the Sing For Freedom Choir, the Mixed Up Chorus, and *Singing Our Lives*, as well as our new programme Sharing our Lives which explores the history of migration through the arts, and Singing for Our Minds – a leadership programme exploring the links between leadership, diversity and mental health.





# CONTRIBUTORS

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**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



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