



A **CONNECTED**
COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth Service
A Celebration of the Commonwealth

Monday 11th March 2019, 3.00 pm



Westminster
Abbey



Photo credit: Rex Features

Commonwealth Day Message 2019

Commonwealth Day has a special significance this year as we mark the 70th anniversary of the London Declaration, when nations of the Commonwealth agreed to move forward together as free and equal members. The vision and sense of connection that inspired the signatories has stood the test of time, and the Commonwealth continues to grow, adapting to address contemporary needs.

Today, many millions of people around the world are drawn together because of the collective values shared by the Commonwealth. In April last year, I welcomed the leaders of our 53 nations to Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and we all witnessed how the Commonwealth vision offers hope, and inspires us to find ways of protecting our planet, and our people.

We are able to look to the future with greater confidence and optimism as a result of the links that we share, and thanks to the networks of cooperation and mutual support to which we contribute, and on which we draw. With enduring commitment through times of great change, successive generations have demonstrated that whilst the goodwill for which the Commonwealth is renowned may be intangible, its impact is very real.

We experience this as people of all backgrounds continue to find new ways of expressing through action the value of belonging in a connected Commonwealth. I hope and trust that many more will commit to doing so this Commonwealth Day.

ELIZABETH R.

Welcome

As we gather once more to celebrate and give thanks for our great Commonwealth network and family, we can marvel at its continued vitality and its capacity to meet the needs, hopes, and anxieties of our time.

While this capacity is founded in our shared history, it is also made possible due to the miracle of modern technology. Today's digital connectivity enables hundreds of millions of Commonwealth citizens across the globe to communicate on a daily basis and exchange their thoughts, experiences, and innovative ideas, contributing to a more fulfilling, healthier, peaceful, and prosperous future for their fellow citizens.

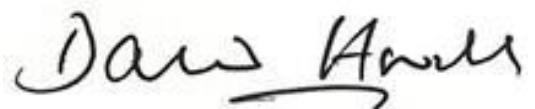
Today, the Commonwealth network has come to play a double role for all its members – a role of receiving and a role of giving.

Every member nation within it, small or large, by belonging to the Commonwealth, receives the same benefits and reassurance of association and shared understanding. This is needed ever more so today, in an age of conflicts, upheavals, environmental threats, and challenges to long-held values and faiths.

But every nation also gains the opportunity, through countless membership connections at all levels, to make its contribution to world betterment, to give to and assist others in accordance with perceived obligations to humanity.

This Commonwealth Service will again be honoured by the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and Members of The Royal Family, whose constant dedication to the welfare of all Commonwealth peoples, young and old, reminds us vividly of what the Commonwealth means, what it offers and how it is of growing relevance in the confused and fast-changing era now upon us.

This is the message that goes out with our prayers from here today and which, we hope, reaches and inspires thousands of communities across the globe to work together in a spirit of good fellowship and common purpose.



The Right Honourable The Lord Howell of Guildford PC
**Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies
and President of The Royal Commonwealth Society**

A Connected Commonwealth

WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of fifty-three independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.4 billion citizens, and includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest, and poorest countries, spanning five regions. Thirty of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH THEME?

Every year, the Commonwealth chooses a theme to provide a focus for its activities. The theme is celebrated throughout the year with special events taking place during Commonwealth Week, including the Commonwealth Service.

WHAT DOES 'A CONNECTED COMMONWEALTH' MEAN?

The Commonwealth offers opportunities for the people, governments, and institutions of this richly diverse worldwide family of nations to connect and cooperate at many levels through far-reaching and deep-rooted networks of friendship and goodwill. The theme encourages collaboration to protect natural resources and the environment – particularly, with the adoption in 2018 of the Commonwealth Blue Charter, of the ocean which connects so many member countries. 2019 also marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth as it is configured today, with old ties and new links enabling cooperation towards social, political, and economic development, which is both inclusive and sustainable.



Before the Service

The Commonwealth Service will be broadcast live on BBC One from 2.15 pm.

The use of private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is sung by the choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, directed by Trumpet Major Matthew Screen, participate with permission of Major General Sir Edward Smyth-Osborne KCVO CBE, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Household Cavalry. Trumpeters of the Band of the Household Cavalry, led by Corporal of Horse Julian Sandford, participate with permission of Major General Benjamin Bathurst CBE, Major General Commanding the Household Division.

Before the service, the Tropical Flowers Séga Dancers perform outside the Great West Door.

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue in C Bww 547

Old Hundredth

from Six Short Preludes on English Hymn Tunes

Allegretto from Five Short Pieces

Romance in B flat

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

John Joubert (1927–2019)

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

William McKie (1901–1984)

Organist of Westminster Abbey 1941–63

The Hertfordshire Commonwealth Choir and The Dionysus Ensemble perform

Intermezzo

from Cavalleria Rusticana

Mascagni

arranged by Philip Theodorou

Tomorrow

Susan Stevens

arranged by Philip Theodorou

Banaha

traditional, Congolese

arranged by Joshua Mock

Fantasy on African Songs

from Folk Fantasia

Traditional

arranged by Léonie Adams, Eliza Marshall,

and Deian Rowalnds

One World

Andy Meyers

arranged by James Sparkes

Before the Service

Allegro
from Flute Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fantasy on Indian Songs
from Folk Fantasia

Traditional
*arranged by Léonie Adams, Eliza Marshall,
and Deian Rowlands*

Amani Utupena Ustawi

Patsy Ford Simms

Fantasy on Celtic Songs
from Folk Fantasia

Traditional
*arranged by Léonie Adams, Eliza Marshall,
and Deian Rowlands*

Wandering Wind

Susan Stevens
arranged by Jasmine Morris

Intermezzo
from Carmen

Georges Bizet
*arranged by Léonie Adams
and Deian Rowlands*

Bella Mamma

traditional, Torres Strait Islands (Australia)

Singing all over the world
from Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

Craig Hawes
arranged by Peadar Hay

Fantasy on African Traditional Music
from Folk Fantasia

Traditional
*arranged by Léonie Adams, Eliza Marshall,
and Deian Rowlands*

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter

Rondo
from Flute Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The Commonwealth Chorale

Graham Dinnage
*words by Vivienne Cox
and young people from the Commonwealth*

Peter Holder, Sub-Organist, plays

Obangiji

Fela Sowande (1905–1987)

The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

An Honorary Steward

•

The Chair of The Royal Commonwealth Society
Dr Linda Yueh

•

The Chairman of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Fellowship
Brigadier Anthony Faith CBE

•

The Chairman of the Royal Over-Seas League
Sir David Brewer KG CMG CVO

•

The Deputy Chairman of the English-Speaking Union
Derek Morgan OBE DL CCMl

•

Athletes from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland process

The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

A Verger

Representing the Buddhist Community
The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala

•
Representing the
Zoroastrian Community
Malcolm M Deboo

•
Representing the
Jewish Reformed Synagogues
Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

•
Representing the Hindu Community
Trupti Patel

•
Representing the Bahá'í Community
Padideh Sabeti

Representing Liberal Judaism
Rabbi Danny Rich

•
Representing the
Sunni Muslim Community
Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra

•
Representing the
Shia Muslim Community
Maulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi

•
Representing Orthodox Judaism
The Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

•
Representing the Jain Community
Dr Natubhai Shah

•
Representing the Sikh Community
The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCHES

A Verger

The Methodist Church
The Reverend Tony Miles

•
The Roman Catholic Church
Father Daniel Humphreys

•
The Greek Orthodox Church
Bishop Athanasios of Tropaeou

•
The Syrian Orthodox Church
His Eminence Archbishop
Athanasios Thoma Dawod

The Church of Scotland
The Reverend Alistair Cumming

•
The Pentecostal Churches
The Reverend Ronald Nathan

•
The Armenian Orthodox Church
His Grace Bishop Hovakim

•
The Coptic Orthodox Church
His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos

The Procession of the Flags

The flags of the member countries are carried in the order determined by the date of membership (when read from right to left)

Canada			United Kingdom
New Zealand			Australia
India			South Africa
Sri Lanka			Pakistan
Malaysia			Ghana
Cyprus			Nigeria
Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Trinidad and Tobago			Jamaica
Kenya			Uganda
Malta			Malawi
The Gambia			Zambia
Guyana			Singapore
Lesotho			Botswana
Mauritius			Barbados
Nauru			Eswatini
Tonga			Samoa
Fiji Islands			Bangladesh
The Bahamas			Grenada
Papua New Guinea			Seychelles
Solomon Islands			Tuvalu
Dominica			Saint Lucia
Kiribati			Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
Vanuatu			Belize
Antigua and Barbuda			Saint Christopher and Nevis
Brunei Darussalam			Namibia
Cameroon			Mozambique
Rwanda			

The Service

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.

A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of York, is received. Presentations are made.

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895 – 1984)

The Service

All sing

THE HYMN



○ WORSHIP the King
all glorious above;
○ gratefully sing
his power and his love:
our Shield and Defender,
the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour,
and girded with praise.

○ tell of his might,
○ sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path
on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power
hath founded of old:
hath stablished it fast
by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care
what tongue can recite?
it breathes in the air,
it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills,
it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils
in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust,
nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender!
How firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend.

○ measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
while angels delight
to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
with true adoration
shall sing to thy praise.

Hanover 433 NEH
William Croft (1678–1727)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1708–27

Robert Grant (1779–1838)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

The Service

THE PROCESSION OF THE QUEEN

The Beadle

.

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

.

The Queen's Almsmen

.

The Cross of Westminster and Lights

.

The Minor Canons

.

The Canons' Verger

.

The Canons of Westminster

.

An Honorary Steward

.

The Commonwealth Flag
(with Brownie and Cubs escort)

.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General

.

The Prime Minister

.

The Chief Honorary Steward

.

The Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies

.

The Dean's Verger

.

The Commonwealth Mace

.

The Dean of Westminster

.

Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cornwall

.

Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cambridge

.

Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Sussex

.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

.

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales

.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of Cambridge

.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of Sussex

The Service

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I welcome you warmly to Westminster Abbey for our annual celebration of the Commonwealth.

This year we think of A Connected Commonwealth, in which our precious environment, given and blessed by almighty God, may be cherished and nurtured.

As we give thanks for our connections across the world, let us pray that we may dwell together in peace, and that our mutual friendship and support may be for us all a source of strength.

First, in the words of Jesus, let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All sit. The Dhol Foundation plays

DRUMMER'S REEL

Clean Bandit sings from the Nave

SYMPHONY

All remain seated for

A REFLECTION

Lewis Pugh OIG
UN Patron of the Oceans

The Service

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

FOR the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

John Rutter (b 1945)

Follitt Pierpoint (1835–1917)

The Service

The Right Honourable Theresa May MP, Prime Minister, reads

THE READING

THE body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12: 14–26

William Barton plays

KALKADUNGU'S JOURNEY

Alfie Boe sings

RUN

The Service

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



DEAR Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Repton 353 NEH
Hubert Parry (1848–1918) from *Judith*

John Whittier (1807–92)

The Service

All sit for

THE PRAYERS

Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, representing Reformed Judaism, says

WE are told in an ancient Jewish story that when God created the first human, God took him and led him round all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Look at My works, how beautiful they are! And all that I have created, it was for you. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world, for there is no one to repair it after you".

Kohelet Rabbah 7:13:1

LET us pray for a renewed commitment to work together, to appreciate our connectedness, and through it to repair the damage we have done; that there may be a future of Shalom, which means wholeness for the planet and for us all.

Maulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi, representing the Shia Muslim Community, says

COMPASSIONATE Lord, we turn to you, beseeching you through your mercy which encompasses all of creation, your light which revives all hearts, and your love which provides hope. Make firm our unity, as we stand together embracing our differences. Amend our shortcomings so that we may be steadfast in what is to come. O Sustainer, we thank you for this beautiful world, for the land and sea, for the gift of its resources; so make us responsible stewards and instruments of healing that we may be examples of your benevolence. Amen.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon, representing the Sikh Community, says

FROM the Lord's play all living creatures came,
And from the Divine Light all creation sprang.
Why then should we divide human creatures
Into the high and the low?

The Lord, the Maker, hath molded one mass of clay
Into vessels of diverse shapes.
Free from taint are all the vessels of clay
Since free from taint is the Divine Potter.

Guru Granth Sahib page 1349

Father Daniel Humphreys, representing the Roman Catholic Church, says

FATHER of all nations, whose authority is gentle and whose mercy is without boundaries, grant us your peace and your wisdom. As members of one body, may we learn from your Son the value of mutual love and respect. May this Commonwealth of nations be united in a spirit of understanding and trust, with a deep awareness of the intrinsic worth of each member in your sight. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Service

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

- ALL ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Heavens, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Waters that be above the Firmament, bless ye the Lord
- all ye Powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Sun, and Moon, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Stars of Heaven, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Showers, and Dew, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Winds of God, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Winter and Summer, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Dews, and Frosts, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Frost and Cold, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Ice and Snow, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Nights, and Days, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Light and Darkness, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Lightnings, and Clouds, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- let the Earth bless the Lord.
- ye Mountains, and Hills, bless ye the Lord.
- all ye Green Things upon the Earth, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- ye Wells, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Seas, and Floods, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Whales, and all that move in the Waters, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- All ye Fowls of the Air, bless ye the Lord.
- all ye Beasts, and Cattle, bless ye the Lord.
- ye Children of Men, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.

The Service

○ let Israel bless the Lord.
○ ye Priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.
○ ye Servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord:
 praise him, and magnify him for ever.
○ ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous, bless ye the Lord.
○ ye holy and humble Men of heart, bless ye the Lord.
○ Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, bless ye the Lord:
 praise him, and magnify him for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
 and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
 world without end. Amen.

George Dyson (1883–1964) in F

Song of the Three 35–66

All stand. The Right Honourable the Baroness Scotland of Asthal OC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, says

THE ACT OF AFFIRMATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH

Let us now stand to pledge ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth.

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole.

We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations.

Joining together in kinship, affinity, diversity, and unity, as members of a worldwide family of nations, we acknowledge our shared inheritances, and celebrate the goodwill and mutual respect which inspire us to work with one another, for the good of all, through the networks and opportunities offered by Commonwealth connection.

All respond

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and for the future.

The Service

All sit. B Positive, featuring Lurine Cato, sings

RISE UP

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



LEAD us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Mannheim 393 NEH
James Edmeston (1791–1867)

from Friedrich Filitz's Choralbuch 1847
arranged by James O'Donnell

The Service

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living grace; to the departed rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us sinners life everlasting: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The clergy and choir, together with Her Majesty The Queen and Members of The Royal Family, move to the west end of the Abbey church.

Music after the service

Jupiter from The Planets

Gustav Holst (1874–1934)
arranged by Robert Quinney (b 1976)

**Members of the congregation are asked to remain
in their places until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards**

The Bells of the Abbey church are rung

THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY

Launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in November 2015, The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) is a unique network of forests and botanical gardens that marks Her Majesty The Queen's service to the Commonwealth and conserves these important natural assets, across the globe, for future generations.

Through their voluntary commitment to this visionary initiative, Commonwealth nations are acting together to address climate change and protect habitats and biodiversity for the future. To date, 43 countries have formally committed to the QCC, dedicating more than 8.4 million hectares of indigenous forests in the process.

The QCC is a partnership between The Royal Commonwealth Society, Cool Earth and the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA). The retiring collection will be received by the CFA on behalf of this partnership and be used exclusively for QCC activities.

Participants



Tropical Flowers Séga Dancers

Tropical Flowers Séga Dancers are a group of female British Mauritian dancers based in South London. Founded in 1999, the troupe formed between cousins who all shared the same passion for dancing. Primarily starting out at family parties, the group gradually moved into performing at more recognisable events within the Mauritian community and elsewhere. To date, Tropical Flowers has six members who continue the tradition of séga dancing here in the UK.



The Hertfordshire Commonwealth Choir

The Commonwealth Resounds is proud to present The Hertfordshire Commonwealth Choir, which has been created by Marie Price and staff from the Abbey CE VA Primary School. The choir brings together young children from many different cultural backgrounds living in the county of Hertfordshire. The choir will sing a range of songs specially chosen for this occasion and reflecting the 2019 theme 'A Connected Commonwealth', accompanied by The Dionysus Ensemble.



The Dionysus Ensemble

The Dionysus Ensemble is the ensemble in residence for The Commonwealth Resounds. It is a virtuosic chamber ensemble with a string quartet at its core. Formed in 2003, they have performed in renowned international venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord's, and Villa Park. A founding ethos of The Dionysus Ensemble is to bring live music into a wide range of communities, and since 2013 have been providing not for profit interactive children's concerts.



The Dhol Foundation

Established in 1990 by Johnny Kalsi, Master Drummer, The Dhol Foundation began as an independent weekly workshop teaching the art of playing the North Indian Dhol Drum to children aged 7-18. The Drumming school continues its mission of spreading the art of playing this indigenous Drum to workshops at festivals and community projects across the globe. The Dhol Foundation often headlines at major festivals including the London 2012 Olympic Closing Ceremony. With their love for world music, they have produced five albums absorbing influences and displaying their musical muscle through The Dhol Foundation.

Participants



Clean Bandit

Global hit makers Clean Bandit - comprising of musicians Jack Patterson, Luke Patterson and Grace Chatto - have continually proved themselves one of the most successful and in-demand British acts of this century with their matchless blend of pop, classical and electronica. Breaking through in 2014 with their Grammy-winning single "Rather Be", Clean Bandit have gone on to land four No.1 singles in their native UK. From 8 X BRIT Award nominations to 2 x Ivor Novello wins, they have now sold over 40 million singles worldwide and accumulated over 10 billion streams to date.



Lewis Pugh OIG

Lewis Pugh is an endurance swimmer and an ocean advocate. Over 30 years he has pioneered swims in the most vulnerable ecosystems on earth to campaign for their protection. He was the first to swim across the North Pole and, last year, to swim the full length of the English Channel. In 2013, the United Nations appointed him UN Patron of the Oceans. In 2015, Lewis helped create the largest protected area in the world in the Ross Sea off Antarctica. He grew up in the UK, Malta and South Africa.



The Right Honourable Theresa May MP

Theresa May became the Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in July 2016. Prior to this she served as Home Secretary from May 2010, having first been elected to Parliament in May 1997 to represent the constituency of Maidenhead. She was a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 1999 to 2010, including roles as Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. From 2002 to 2003 she was the first woman Chairman of the Conservative Party. She married her husband, Philip, in 1980.



William Barton

Born in Mount Isa in Queensland, Australia, William Barton has been playing the didgeridoo for over 20 years. During this time, he has forged an international profile as a multi-instrumentalist and composer in the classical musical world, performing with the Philharmonic Orchestras of London and Berlin and the acclaimed Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra. William's unique talent has also been featured at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2018 opening ceremonies of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and the Sydney Invictus Games. With his prodigious musicality and the quiet conviction of his Kalkadungu heritage, he has vastly expanded the horizons of the didgeridoo.

Participants



Alfie Boe

Alfie Boe is cemented as The Nation's Tenor and one of the best-loved vocalists of his generation. A hugely successful recording artist, Alfie has achieved four top ten solo albums in his career. Alfie's exceptional voice has made him Britain's biggest-selling tenor, who has triumphed on theatre stages and in concert halls around the world. Alfie has two UK #1 albums under his belt and over 1 million copies sold for 'Together' and 'Together Again' combined, made with his great friend Michael Ball OBE.



The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland OC

Patricia Scotland took office as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in April 2016. She serves the 53 governments and 2.4 billion citizens of the Commonwealth. Born in Dominica, she moved to the UK at an early age. A lawyer, she became both the youngest and first black woman to be appointed Queen's Counsel. She is the only woman since the post was created in 1315 to be Attorney General for England and Wales.



B Positive, featuring Lurine Cato

The B Positive choir, featuring Lurine Cato is the choir of NHS blood donation. It comprises people whose lives are affected by the lifesaving power of blood donation. Its members include donors and recipients, people with conditions such as sickle cell, and people who work with blood. The NHS needs 600 first time blood donors every day, especially young donors and black donors, to help ensure patients get the best-matched blood. In 2018, the choir reached the final of Britain's Got Talent, and their campaign continued with the NHS70 celebrations on BBC Breakfast, the NHS Windrush 70 event in Manchester, and performances at festivals around the country.



The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Abbey's world-famous choir of boys and men plays a central role both in the daily choral services in the Abbey and in the many royal, state and national occasions, which take place here. In addition, the choir's schedule includes a wide range of high-profile recordings, broadcasts, concerts, and overseas tours. All the choristers are educated at the Abbey's unique Choir School. Auditions take place throughout the year and enquiries are welcome at any time.

With thanks to

The Council of Commonwealth Societies (CCS)

The CCS is a group of organisations, which promotes the value of Commonwealth Day and seeks to raise the profile of the modern Commonwealth. The CCS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of its member organisations:

- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Commonwealth Countries League
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (International Secretariat)
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK)
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Corona Worldwide
- English Speaking Union
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Goodenough College
- Pacific Islands Society
- Royal Over-Seas League
- The Royal Commonwealth Society
- The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship

The CCS would like to thank the following Commonwealth organisations for their support in 2019:

- Association of International Accountants
- Commonwealth Association of Architects
- Commonwealth Games Federation
- Commonwealth Lawyers Association
- Rotary International



Behind the Scenes

The Commonwealth Mace

The Mace, carried by Panayiotis Krashias, goes before Her Majesty The Queen. It was a gift of the Royal Anniversary Trust to The Queen in her rôle as Head of the Commonwealth, on the fortieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Mace is used on special Commonwealth occasions, including the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, and at biennial Heads of Government Meetings.

Flowers

The striking flowers you see around the Abbey have been prepared by the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies under the direction of Marilyn Marsh and Genevieve Hall.

Flag-bearers

The flag-bearers have been recruited with the support of the High Commissions in London, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Pacific Islands Society. The Commonwealth Flag is carried by Esanju Maseka and is accompanied by an escort of Brownies and Cubs from the United Kingdom.



SINGAPORE BICENTENNIAL

The Singapore Bicentennial in 2019 marks the 200th anniversary of Sir Stamford Raffles' arrival in Singapore – a key milestone in Singapore's rich and storied history. But that story did not start in 1819. It actually began in 1299. For over 700 years, Singapore has been open to a diverse flow of people and ideas, and connected to wider geopolitical currents. This year is an opportune time for Singapore to explore how its past has formed its people, discover what this means for the present, and inform the path for the future.

Discover more at bicentennial.sg, or FB: Singapore Bicentennial



THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2019



The 2018 Winners and Runners-up from Pakistan, Canada and Singapore and the authors who read their pieces; David Walliams, Gyles Brandreth, Sharlene Teo and Nimesh Shukla. Pictured at the Award Ceremony in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest international writing competition run by The Royal Commonwealth Society since 1883. Commonwealth citizens aged eighteen and under are encouraged to enter the competition, expressing their ideas, hopes and thoughts, through the written word, to an international body of voluntary judges.

The competition gives young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to make their voices heard on a global platform, to engage with issues important to them and to express their aspirations for the future. Each year, participants demonstrate their ability to stimulate and provoke discussion about important Commonwealth and global issues from a young person's perspective and to showcase their critical and creative skills. Past winners have gone on to become authors, journalists, politicians and academics, and include Mr Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, and Pulitzer prize winning journalist, Mei Fong.

In 2019, The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition explores the theme of A Connected Commonwealth, in line with that of the wider Commonwealth. This year's topics call upon young people to consider how they can work to use cultural, technological and environmental connections for positive change across the Commonwealth. It asks young people to consider the potential of the Commonwealth in strengthening the vast and varied links between citizens.

Participants are encouraged to be creative in their responses and answers can be submitted in any form of creative writing, including poems, letters, folk tales, scripts or essays. The closing date for entries is 1 June 2019.

Further information can be found at www.thercs.org/competition

Commonwealth



Celebrating the modern Commonwealth

In the 1949 London Declaration, leaders agreed that Commonwealth countries are “free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress”



Join the Abbey Association 15 months of membership for the price of 12

Membership benefits include:

- Free entry to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries
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- Early notification of selected services
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- Quarterly e-newsletter

Please contact the membership office on 020 7654 4843
or association@westminster-abbey.org and quote CWI5412
to claim this membership offer!





THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

SUPPORT THE ROYAL
COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
IN OUR 150TH YEAR

150

1894 – 2016

1957 – 2017

1883 – 2018

Champion of Equality

The RCS has long championed the use of dialogue to challenge the most pressing Commonwealth issues and has been at the forefront of debate on gender discrimination, domestic violence and child marriage within the Commonwealth. As far back as 1894, the RCS promoted Gender Equality, inviting a woman to read a paper at a meeting for the first time and admitting women as Fellows to the Society in 1922. Since 2016 we have enabled a youth voice to address the United Nations on gender issues.

Trusted Convenor

Statesmen of newly independent countries, including Ghana's first Prime Minister, Kwame Nkrumah in 1957, sought the platform of the RCS to share their visions for the future. In the 80's Oliver Tambo, Thabo Mbeki, Chief Buthelezi and Desmond Tutu joined us to speak about South Africa's future and Nelson Mandela gave his first UK press conference from the RCS in 1990. This reputation continues and saw us convene a number of former Presidents in 2017 to discuss 'leaving no one behind' in global development.

Promoter of Youth

Each year, since 1883, the RCS has encouraged the creativity and imagination of tens of thousands of young people. With its rich history of empowering young voices and recognising the achievement of aspiring writers, the international schools' writing contest, now The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, continues to be a vehicle for the development of young people's literacy and critical thinking skills, helping to expand their world view.

Through youth empowerment, education and advocacy, the RCS champions human rights, equality, democracy and sustainable development.





THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Founded in 1868, it is non-partisan, is independent of governments, and is supported by public generosity. The Society engages with its youth, civil society, business, and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Royal Commonwealth Society is constituted by Royal Charter and is a registered charity (no 226748) in England and Wales.



The Abbey is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aids to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

Photographs from this event are available from www.picturepartnership.co.uk