



PRESS RELEASE

'A Song for the Commonwealth'

to celebrate the lighting of
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons
Thursday June 2nd 2022

To announce the lighting of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons and as a tribute to Her Majesty, **A Song for the Commonwealth** has been commissioned via a worldwide competition.

The longstanding tradition of lighting beacons to mark royal celebrations will be even more significant this year, with hundreds of choirs singing from all over the UK in harmony with choirs from throughout the 54 Commonwealth countries.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is a unique milestone celebrating Her Majesty's 70th year as Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth.



What's going to happen?

On June 2nd at precisely the same time as beacons are lit on the first evening of the 4-day Jubilee Weekend, thousands of choirs throughout the UK and around the world will sing the Song for the Commonwealth - *A Life Lived with Grace* - filling the world with music and song in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Lighting of the Beacons and the Song for the Commonwealth will take place at
21.45 p.m. in the UK and 21.15 p.m. in the rest of the Commonwealth

A Life Lived with Grace was written by Lucy Kiely from Australia (lyrics) and Vincent Atueyi Chinemelu from Nigeria (music)

The Commonwealth Resounds is delighted and privileged to be organizing this important element of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons.

These are some of the many fascinating arrangements of the song created by musicians and choirs from all over the world



***Here are some samples from recent arrangements of
'A Life Lived with Grace'***

Jazz arrangement

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j8x51pSZ9ek30etiJCxo2OxJkcfmZNV3/view>

4-part choir arrangement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leRoEyco9Gc>

Pop arrangement from Botswana

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SpsCpFgpRo>

There are many new arrangements emerging for school choirs, solo voice, brass band, community choir, two-part choir, male voice choir, Pan-African choir, brass band, wind band, and even hurdy-gurdy!

Choirs and communities are being encouraged to create their own versions of the song

Schedule for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on Thursday 2nd June 2022



2.00 p.m. Proclamation, heralding the lighting of the beacons announced by hundreds of town criers and 50 Pearly Kings and Queens

21.35 p.m. Traditional and Northumbrian pipers and pipe bands will play *Diu Regnare*, a unique tune specially composed for the occasion by Pipe Major Stuart Liddell, the world's leading piper.

21.40 p.m. Buglers linked to local beacon lightings officially announce the lighting of the beacons with a specially written call, entitled *Majesty*.

At 21.45 p.m. in the UK and 21.15 p.m. in all other countries, to coincide with the lighting of the beacons, choirs across all nations will sing *A Song for the Commonwealth*.



The Most Revd. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

“I warmly encourage Christians and church choirs throughout the country to join in singing *A Song for the Commonwealth* in the cities of the Commonwealth. This will be a moment of remarkable celebration as we join together across different generations, denominations, faiths and communities all over the world in proper tribute to Her Majesty, The Queen.”

Alan Hay, Chairman of The Royal Celtic Society, whose Patron is Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal

“We recognise the enormous commitment Her Majesty, The Queen, has made in serving the Commonwealth and its people. We are delighted therefore to encourage all our members to participate in the Jubilee celebrations and our pipers to play *Diu Regnare*, composed by our member Stuart Liddell in honour of this historic event.”

Melanie Nightingale, Director, Military Wives Choirs

“Our network brings together over 70 choirs, united through the power of singing, and we look forward to sharing in this momentous celebration. It is only appropriate that this unique milestone in history is marked with music, the strength of which is evident. Our passion for singing is clear and we are honoured to make these performances in a special event for Her Majesty, The Queen’s 70th year as our Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth on her Platinum Jubilee.”

Alison Cox OBE, Founder and Trustee, The Commonwealth Resounds

“We were delighted to be asked by Bruno Peek, The Queen’s Pageantmaster, to create a Song for the Commonwealth, which will be sung at exactly the same time as beacons are lit throughout the UK and in the 54 Commonwealth countries. We are hoping to encourage choirs of all ages, sizes, cultural backgrounds and levels of experience to take part in this unique, once-in-a-lifetime event.”

**For more details on the *Song for the Commonwealth*, go to
The Commonwealth Resounds**

www.commonwealthresounds.com

Contact details

Email commonwealthsong@commonwealthresounds.com

**For details of the music which will feature on the night, and a list of participants, see the Guide to Taking Part at
www.queensjubileebeacons.com**

Images of the Diamond Jubilee Beacons in 2012 are available from Getty and PA, including a Beacon lit at Westminster Abbey and the Principal Beacon at Buckingham Palace.

Bruno Peek, the Queen’s Pageantmaster - e-mail brunopeek@mac.com or phone 07737 262913

