City of Birmingham Choir: Equinox Cultures in Harmony

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350 singers take to Birmingham Symphony Hall's stage in a unique inter-cultural event awarded the 2012 Cultural Olympiad Inspire Mark

The City of Birmingham Choir is excited and proud to be promoting this once in a lifetime celebration of our local cultural heritage bringing together singers and percussionists for an innovative inter-cultural concert in Symphony Hall on Saturday 17th March.

The 350 singers involved in the project reflect the cultural diversity of the West Midlands. The project has inspired the creation of two new choirs, Chinese Community Centre Wan Cheuk Choir and Sanchita Pal Ensemble, joining forces with the City of Birmingham Choir and six other established groups - Black Voices, Town Hall Gospel Choir, World Music Youth Choir, SHAAM, Echo Doliny Polish Folk Choir and Bournville Young Singers. In addition there will be three percussion groups, Fieshah Amlak Drummers and the Birmingham Schools' Percussion Ensemble and Azaad Dhol Group.

The concert will open with a percussion fanfare composed by John Barber, before each of the cultural groups perform pieces reflecting the universal themes of equality, creation, family and citizenship. This 2012 Cultural Olympiad event will climax with all performers combining in the world premiere of a unique composition by Midlands composer Christopher Long, conducted by Adrian Lucas. The text in Hindi, Mandarin, Polish, Arabic, Swahili and Latin has been chosen by the performing groups.

This event is so significant that the Equinox project has been recognised nationally by the award of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad Inspire Mark. This makes Equinox part of the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic games. The Choir is also very grateful to the Arts Council for their support and the award of a lottery funded grant.

'Equinox reflects the Olympic values of respect for different cultures; excellence in the power of people to create experiences that motivate and inspire; and friendship through forging links between peoples based on a shared passion for humanity. The City of Birmingham Choir is hugely excited and proud to be part of this amazing celebration.' Martin Willis, City of Birmingham Choir member and the inspiration behind the project.

Anita Bhalla OBE, Chair of Midlands Arts Centre and community arts champion will be presenting the concert. Adrian Lucas will be conducting Christopher Long's composition.

Ends

Notes to Editors: For further information and images of the choirs and performers involved visit www.citychoir.org.uk/equinox/press Martin Willis can be contacted at dalley.willis@btinternet.com or 01684 891520 Also www.facebook.com/EquinoxConcert

The City of Birmingham Choir, currently celebrating its 90th anniversary was established in 1921 and has over 150 members. It is one of the few self-funding, independent choirs promoting its own series of concerts with a professional symphony orchestra.