

Dear Concertgoer,

EQUINOX will be a once in a lifetime celebration of the rich depth of our local cultural heritage. After two years of creative planning, **Saturday 17th March 2012 in Symphony Hall** will witness the realisation of our vision of bringing together 350 choral singers reflecting the diverse communities of Birmingham and the West Midlands. Established groups, **Black Voices**, **SHAAM**, **Echo Doliny Polish Folk Choir**, **Town Hall Gospel Choir** and **City of Birmingham Choir,** will be joined by two choirs especially created for this project, **Chinese Community Centre Birmingham Wan Cheuk Choir** and **Sanchita Pal Ensemble**, and two youth groups, **Bournville Young Singers** and **World Music Youth Choir.**

Voices and percussion are the oldest forms of music making. Singing has the power to communicate human emotion both between and within cultures. Gareth Malone of BBC's 'The Choir' has said "The whole point of human society is that we get together and we enjoy each other's company. Choirs are the culmination of that and an expression of something that is deeply personal and deeply human." This is the spirit we aim to capture in a magical evening of music making. It is a spirit which reflects the Olympic Values of excellence, friendship and respect and we are proud of the fact that Equinox has been awarded the **2012 Cultural Olympiad Inspire Mark**.

Three percussion groups will complete the awesome line up, **Birmingham Schools' Azaad Dhol Group**, **Birmingham Schools' Percussion Ensemble** and **Fieshah Amlak Drummers**. The event will climax with all performers combining in the **world premiere** of a unique composition by Midlands composer **Christopher Long**. The text in Hindi, Mandarin, Polish, Arabic, Swahili and Latin has been chosen by the performing groups. Chris has previously worked with CBC and CBSO on the PRS 'Adopt a Composer Scheme' writing 'O Lord Remember' for which he gained the Making Music British Composers Award.

The **Arts Council** are supporting Equinox. The **Royal Society for the Arts** has designated it as an official regional RSA event and will host a pre-concert talk at 6.15pm in Symphony Hall. **Anita Bhalla OBE,** Chair of Midlands Arts Centre and community arts champion will present the concert. **Adrian Lucas** will conduct Christopher Long's composition. **John Barber's** percussion fanfare will open the event.

Equinox will be a feast of sound and emotion, an event to uplift spirits and renew faith in the power of peoples to create experiences that motivate and inspire, based on a shared passion for humanity.

Book your tickets at Symphony Hall box office, 0121 780 3333, or on-line at www.thsh.co.uk. Further information can be found at www.citychoir.org.uk/Equinox and at www.facebook.com/EquinoxConcert.

Join us on Saturday 17th March 2012 in this truly special celebration.

Martin Willis, Equinox Project Director

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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