



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hand in Hand: The Pink Singers celebrate 30 years with ambitious plans for a one-day festival of song, celebration and new music.

London, May 2013;

On Saturday 13th July, 15 LGBT choirs and singing groups from all over the UK will join the Pink Singers for a day of vocal workshops and song in the amazing East End venue, 'The Troxy'.

The performance features the première of the new work '*The Great Choir of London*' from Jerry Springer *The Opera* composer Richard Thomas.

The Pink Singers are Europe's longest-running LGBT choir. They formed in London in 1983 and have been performing together ever since. Touring extensively around the world, the choir regularly presents their own sold-out concerts and performs at a variety of events in the capital including Pride..

This summer, the choir is celebrating 30 years with a fabulous one-day festival called 'Hand in Hand' and an exhibition about their musical and LGBT civil rights to take place at Audit House, Blackfriars and the Guardian building; Kings Cross. Following the festival, the choir is travelling to Iceland to take part in Reykjavik Pride 2013 and to perform with Hinsegin Korinn - the Reykjavik Queer choir.

During the festival day the Pink Singers will invite guest performers to participate in workshops led by renowned musicians Jamie Burton, Chris Rowbury, Lore Lixenberg and Louise Shephard, specialising in developing in participants World Music, Opera and vocal techniques.

In the evening, the choir will present a spectacular concert including energetic performances from their brilliant guest choirs including London Gay Men's Chorus, Diversity, Manchester Lesbian & Gay Chorus and Brighton Gay Men's Chorus.

The Pink Singers' birthday commission, written and composed by Richard Thomas (*Jerry Springer the Opera, Kombat Opera*) receives its world premiere during the evening performance. Inspired by his observations of the Pink Singers in rehearsal and includes new songs including '*I, choir*'. The work demonstrates the tricks and skills choirs use to inspire audiences through the power of music. It's guaranteed to bring a smile to your face..

Murray Hipkin, Musical Director of the Pink Singers said:

"Although i have only been with the Pink Singers for 3 of their 30 anniversaries, the choir has long been part of the fabric of gay life in the capital. In hosting Hand in Hand we are delighted to be able to share something of that life with you and with the other LGBT choirs in the UK. We are also thrilled to have a chance to demonstrate our joy of singing - and that we don't always take ourselves too seriously - with Richard's irreverent and unique piece."

The commission, and the festival day are generously supported by the BBC Performing Arts Fund and PRS for Music Foundation. The exhibition is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Both events form part of the 30th anniversary celebrations taking place throughout 2013.

Tickets are available now, directly from the Troxy priced from £12. <http://www.troxy.co.uk/event/hand-in-hand/> / 0844 888 0440

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

For further information

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Images, video and further information about the Pink Singers suitable for use in publication is available here:

<http://30.pinksingers.co.uk/media/information-images-for-journalists/>

Ticket information

Tickets are available directly from The Troxy:

Event listing: <http://www.troxy.co.uk/event/hand-in-hand/>

Venue website: <http://www.troxy.co.uk>

About the Pink Singers

Pink Singers festival and exhibition microsite <http://30.pinksingers.co.uk/>

Pink Singers Website <http://www.pinksingers.co.uk>

The Pink Singers is Europe's longest running LGBT choir, based in London. The choir produces a range of exciting, high quality performances throughout the year. Their mission is to provide a fun, inclusive environment for members whilst entertaining and informing the public with their music.

Rehearsing every Sunday in Kings Cross, the choir membership is made up of a diverse group of people from all walks of life. Anyone with an interest in music is able to join the 80 strong group and many members come to the Pink Singers with no prior experience of performance.

About Murray Hipkin

Murray Hipkin studied at York University, the Guildhall and the National Opera Studio before joining the Music Staff of English National Opera (1983–8) and then working as a piano teacher and freelancing for Opéra de Lyon, La Monnaie, Opera Factory, Scottish Opera and Opera Brava (as Musical Director).

Since returning to ENO in 1995, he has appeared in *Mahagonny*, *The Silver Tassie*, Leoncavallo's *La bohème* and *The Rake's Progress*, and worked extensively as Senior Coach and Répétiteur (his productions have included Deborah Warner's production of *Death in Venice*, Phyllida Lloyd's *Ring Cycle* and Terry Gilliam's *The Damnation of Faust*) and Assistant Conductor, including, most recently, *The Passenger*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, *Madam Butterfly*, Damon Albarn's *Dr Dee*, *Julius Caesar*, Charpentier's *Medea* and the world premiere of Michel van der Aa's film-opera *Sunken Garden* (ENO/Barbican).

He has conducted *La bohème* (Surrey Opera, Opera Box), Salieri *Falstaff*, Haydn *La vera costanza*, (Bampton Classical Opera), Mozart *Apollo and Hyacinth* and Gluck *Le Cinesi* (BCO at the 2009 Cheltenham Festival), *Sweeney Todd* (Shawford Mill), and for ENO, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers* and *Kismet* with Michael Ball. Opera translations include *Le cinesi* and *La vera costanza* (BCO). In July 2011 he was Associate Conductor of the award-winning ENO/Punchdrunk collaboration *The Duchess of Malfi* by Torsten Rasch.

Highlights from his freelance work as vocal coach, accompanist and chorus master include assisting the composer John Adams and conducting on location for the award-winning Channel 4 film *The Death of Klinghoffer*, coaching and playing excerpts from Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with Björk at the 1996 Verbier Festival, and guest coaching with British Youth Opera. In September last year he assisted John Adams again on *Nixon in China* at the BBC Proms and in Berlin. In February 2009 he completed an 8-month sabbatical from ENO as Musical Director of *The Sound of Music* at the London Palladium, conducting over 170 performances.

Murray has been Musical Director of the Pink Singers since November 2010 and the North London Chorus, for whom he has conducted over thirty performances, since January 2003. Plans include playing the solo piano in a revival of *Death in Venice* (ENO/Amsterdam) and conducting the chamber orchestra in Britten's *War Requiem* for the Britten Centenary celebrations in November 2013 in Berlin (NLC/Cantus Domus/Konzerthausorchester Berlin).

About The Troxy

The Troxy originally opened as a grand cinema in 1933 and was designed to seat an audience of 3520 people. Erected on the site of an old brewery, it cost £250,000 to build.

During its time as a cinema, the Troxy regularly hosted international stars such as the Andrews Sisters, Gracie

Fields, Petula Clark, Cliff Richard and even Clark Gable.

The building remained empty and unused for almost three years until 1963, when surprisingly, a tenant was found and the London Opera Centre was created in the Troxy. Run by the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Troxy was used for rehearsals on an extended stage that was the exact size of the Royal Opera House stage.

The current owners, Ashburn Estates, have restored the venue as much as possible to its original glory, whilst incorporating the needs of today's event requirements and the Troxy is now deemed to be London's most versatile venue.