



Stay at Home Choir announces the most ambitious virtual choir project since lockdown

Singers from around the globe and the World Orchestra for Peace are to collaborate with Sir Karl Jenkins on his popular classic, *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, to mark its 20th anniversary.

Virtual choirs are forming across the world to give musicians an opportunity to come together to celebrate, discover and sing short pieces of music while physical rehearsals are not possible. The 10,000-strong **Stay at Home Choir**, in collaboration with **Boosey & Hawkes** and the **World Orchestra for Peace**, is giving its singers the opportunity to participate in a virtual performance, conducted by **Sir Karl Jenkins** himself, of the most popular large-scale choral work of recent decades.

20th Anniversary of The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace

Saturday 25 April 2020 marked the **20th Anniversary** of the world premiere of Sir Karl's *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. The work was premiered at the Royal Albert Hall in London to mark the millennium in 2000, featuring The National Youth Choir of Great Britain with Julian Lloyd Webber as the cello soloist. The piece has gone on to receive close to 3000 performances worldwide to date, and the recording (available on Decca Classics) has had a record-breaking 930 weeks (over 17 years) in the official UK Classical Chart.

The Project

The final product of this project will be a global virtual choir recording of over 20 minutes of highlight movements from *The Armed Man* accompanied by live orchestral footage performed by the World Orchestra for Peace, making it the most ambitious virtual choir project since lockdown. Enrolment in the project will give participants access to ten weeks of rehearsals with interactive content, learning resources including a 'conductor cam' of Sir Karl himself and webinar rehearsals with a host of professional musicians, alongside the chance to virtually meet the composer himself.

The Stay at Home Choir has become known for its vibrant webinar rehearsals, with available places often filling in as little as three minutes. Since the project began in early March more than 2,500 singers from 54 countries around the world have come together to rehearse their parts (in a 'mute and sing' format), interact with the rest of the Stay at Home Choir community, and meet featured artists such as The Swingles and the King's Singers. Now, more singers than ever have the opportunity to come together to sing and rehearse with professional musicians.

SAHC background

The Stay at Home Choir, formed since lockdown, is a **global musical community** of more than **10,000** people who come together to interact with and perform alongside some of their favourite artists. Previous collaborations have included the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, **The King's**

Singers, The Sixteen and The Swingles. Their performance of **Sir James MacMillan's** *O Radiant Dawn* had videos submitted from 54 countries around the world. The most recent project has been working with **The Swingles**, singing Marvin Gaye's Motown classic 'You're All I Need To Get By'.

Facts and Figures

SAHC facts:

- More than 10,000 members
- > 1 million views on its last two videos (combined Facebook and YouTube)
- Its most recent video release, 'And So It Goes' with **The King's Singers**, has received more than 450,000 views (combined Facebook, Instagram and YouTube)
- Members in 54 countries

Karl Jenkins / Armed Man facts:

- Sir Karl Jenkins is one of the **most performed living composers** in the world.
- His work *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* has been in the official UK Classical Chart for over 17 years.
- In 2015 he was confirmed as the most popular living composer in Classic FM's '**Ultimate Hall of Fame**' and holds the **Classic FM 'Red f' award** for 'outstanding service to classical music'.
- He was awarded a **Knighthood** in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours.
- Since its premiere, *The Armed Man* has received **close to 3000 performances** across the globe (averaging over two per week since the millennium), including a performance conducted by Sir Karl at Lincoln Center in New York on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.
- The work has featured regularly in the Classic FM Hall of Fame, ranking highly as one of the nation's favourite pieces of contemporary classical music, and has been in the official UK Classical Chart for 17 years.

World Orchestra for Peace facts:

- Founded (1995) by Sir Georg Solti for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations
- Uniquely designated (2010) UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador/Artist for Peace
- 25 concert events in first 25 years, at the greatest concert halls and festivals in 20 countries conducted by Sir Georg Solti, Valery Gergiev, Donald Runnicles and Sir Karl Jenkins.
- 625 players, from 125 of the world's leading professional orchestras have given their services without fee to keep alive Solti's Vision and his stated conviction and belief in "...the unique strength of music as ambassador for peace..."

Rondo Media Facts:

- To commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War in November 2018, around 2,000 choristers and The World Orchestra for Peace joined together to Sing for Peace in a truly unique historic occasion with relevance to the whole World.
- The performance of Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* at the Berlin Mercedes-Benz Arena was the largest ever staged and was uniquely performed in synchronisation with a specially commissioned war-archive film reinforcing the narrative of the work – the build-up to war, war itself and the consequences of war.
- The idea of staging the Concert for Peace in Berlin was the brainchild of Rondo Media Executive Producer Hefin Owen who has developed a close and successful working relationship with the composer.
- Rondo Media is a major Welsh independent media company, producing sport, drama, music, events, factual and entertainment content for a wide range of broadcasters including S4C, BBC 1, BBC Wales and Channel 4.

- Rondo's productions have won several awards, including Broadcast, RTS, BAFTA, Celtic Media and awards also at international television festivals in New York and Hollywood. Rondo's content is distributed by a wide range of companies, including BBC Worldwide, Cineflix, Passion and Sky Vision. The company has permanent offices based in Caernarfon, Cardiff and Menai Bridge.

Partnerships

- Boosey & Hawkes
- Rondo Media
- World Orchestra for Peace
- DECCA records
- Hal Leonard
- Sheet Music Direct
- Musicroom
- DCINY
- Nkoda
- World Choir for Peace

Promotional Video

Promotional video for The Global Armed Man:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_QtearucTMO-ltexp2HQZ-67qA901O7d/view?usp=sharing

Or on YouTube - this link will be made public when this press release is made public

<https://youtu.be/mebRJVLwz5o>

Audiovisual Assets

Linkfire from DECCA

<https://KarlJenkins.Ink.to/Peace0F>

DVD/BluRay *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* - images below

https://www.naxos.com/catalogue/item.asp?item_code=707604

Logos and Partner Assets

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1t9rYYIRYAH8Tb88jTSyWE5Ucad3DqieP>

Contact details

Stay at Home Choir press and media: contact@stayathomechoir.com

Boosey and Hawkes press and media: bronte.larsendisney@boosey.com

The World Orchestra for Peace Co-Founder and Director-Charles Kaye: ckconsult19@gmail.com

KARL JENKINS

THE ARMED MAN: A MASS FOR PEACE





The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace by Welsh composer Sir Karl Jenkins is the most performed work by any living composer. This performance is the largest ever staged and was uniquely performed in synchronisation with a specially commissioned war-archive film reinforcing the narrative of the work – the build up to war, war itself and the consequences of war. Projected on to five giant screens, the film delivers a poignant backdrop to the moving musical narration providing the audience with a powerful and emotional multimedia experience. In this truly unique historic occasion Sir Karl Jenkins conducts The World Orchestra for Peace and around 2,000 singers from nearly 30 countries who joined together to Sing for Peace in Berlin.

KARL JENKINS
THE ARMED MAN
A MASS FOR PEACE

Conductors: **SIR KARL JENKINS** (The Armed Man)
GRANT LLEWELLYN (Lament for Syria)

Soloists: **LEAH-MARIAN JONES, YUMEJI MATSUFUJI, PAULINE RATHMANN, AMIR AZIZ**

Cello: **VALENTINO WORLITZSCH**

WORLD ORCHESTRA FOR PEACE
WORLD CHOIR FOR PEACE

Executive Producer: **GARETH WILLIAMS**
 Producer / Director: **HEFIN OWEN**
 Music Producer: **GWAWR OWEN**
 Chorus Master: **NICOL MATT**
 Film Editors: **GARETH OWENS, CHRIS LAWRENCE**

BONUS: Interviews with Sir Karl Jenkins, Guy Wilson, "Lamentations" (A Lament for Syria) with words from poet Aminah Abouh Kerech, "Backstage Pass"

Recorded live at Mercedes Benz Arena, Berlin, 2 November 2018

FILMED IN HIGH DEFINITION MASTERED FROM AN HD SOURCE	PICTURE FORMAT NTSC 16:9	SOUND FORMATS PCM STEREO DTS 5.1	SING LANGUAGES CONCERT ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARABIC, WELSH, GERMAN, LATIN, JAPANESE	BONUS ENGLISH	REGION CODE 0 (WORLDWIDE)	TOTAL RUNNING TIME 90 MINS PERFORMANCE: 89 MINS BONUS: 27 MINS
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THE ARMED MAN
A MASS FOR PEACE

World Orchestra for Peace
 Conducted by **KARL JENKINS**

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World Orchestra for Peace

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