



PRESS RELEASE

24 September 2010

BRITAIN SINGS ITS HEARTS OUT IN PUBS, ON BIKES AND EVEN IN A NUCLEAR BUNKER FOR CLASSIC FM'S CHARITY MUSIC MAKERS

On 1, 2 and 3 October 2010 Classic FM and Making Music are bringing the whole nation together to celebrate the power of singing as part of their first ever national singing weekend, *123sing!* Over 150 events are happening across the UK to raise money for Classic FM's charity Music Makers. People will get together in schools, shopping centres, offices, streets, pubs, churches, coffee shops, a cold war bunker, harbours, village halls, concert halls and even up the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth.

From opera singing in Wales to folk songs in Kent, there is a *123sing!* event for everyone in every part of the UK. Capital Chorus, a west London-based barbershop group is inviting the public to join them on their bikes at Putney Wharf for a 'cycle and sing' along the Thames towpath. A flash mob will descend on Aylesbury town centre followed by a free singing workshop by Aylesbury Festival Choir. The Aire Valley Singers will sing at a wedding in Bingley, and opera singer Jennifer Parker-Lummis will be singing music from *The Magic Flute* atop the Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth, and inviting the audience to join in with *Jerusalem*.

123sing! invites the public to host, join or enjoy a singing event over the weekend of 1, 2, 3 October 2010, all in aid of Classic FM's charity Music Makers which raises money to fund music education and therapy projects for disadvantaged children and adults in the UK. Events can be anything from a concert for the community to a karaoke night with friends and neighbours, a singing workshop for beginners to a talent show at school or in the office. All types of music are welcome, so whether you love classical or pop, rock or musicals, you can get involved.

Created by Classic FM, the UK's largest national commercial radio station and Making Music, the largest umbrella body for amateur music, *123sing!* will highlight the life-changing effects of singing and how it can be a valuable activity to deal with the stresses of everyday life.

Details of all events can be found at: www.classicfm.com/123sing

---Ends---

Interviews with a leading expert on singing and health available on request.
Photos available on request.

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Notes to editors:

Classic FM is the UK's largest national commercial radio station with more than 5.5 million people tuning in each week. Programmes are hosted by a diverse range of broadcasters and musicians including Simon Bates, Myleene Klass, John Suchet, Alex James and Margherita Taylor. Since its launch, its aim has been to break down the barriers to classical music and in so doing introduce an entirely new audience to the genre. The station seeks constantly to expand its listener base through groundbreaking new audience initiatives and partnerships. Classic FM is available across the UK on 100 - 102 FM, digital and online at **classicfm.com**

Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies, is the largest umbrella arts organisations in the UK, representing and supporting over 2,900 voluntary music groups. Its

members include choirs, orchestras, music promoters, jazz and wind bands, community festivals, samba groups, sitar ensembles, barbershop choruses and brass bands and many more. It provides a comprehensive range of financial, artistic and administrative services, as well as development and training opportunities to member groups. Making Music also lobbies on behalf of its members to national and local government and other agencies. Collectively, Making Music's 250,000 musicians and music lovers present around 12,000 concerts each year to an audience of 1.6 million people. Making Music celebrates its 75th birthday in 2010/2011. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 308632. Registered Charity in England no. 249219 and in Scotland no. SC038849.

www.makingmusic.org.uk

Classic FM's Music Makers is a grant giving charity which raises money to fund music education and therapy projects working with the most disadvantaged children and adults across the UK. Set up in 2006, our vision is that everyone, regardless of their age, background, education or situation will have equal opportunity to access, enjoy and benefit from the power of classical music. Classic FM's Music Makers is an appeal run by Global Charities, a registered charity in England and Wales (1091657) and Scotland (SC041475). It relies on fundraising to sustain its work. For further information please visit: **www.classicfm.com**

Partners who are supporting the event are:

- British Association of Barbershop Singers
- Sing Up
- Ladies Association of Barbershop Singers
- Sing for Pleasure
- Voices Foundation
- Association of British Choral Directors
- Choir Schools Association
- Federation of Music Services
- National Association of Choirs
- Royal College of Organists
- Royal School of Church Music
- Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Service