

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Belfast Philharmonic Choir Invited to Perform with Composer/Conductor Patrick Hawes at Carnegie Hall**

New York, N.Y. – July 19, 2018

Outstanding music program  
receives special invitation

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) announced today that Stephen Doughty and the Belfast Philharmonic Choir have been invited to participate in the joint US Premiere performance of Patrick Hawes' *The Great War Symphony* on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place on Sunday, November 11, 2018 – Veteran's Day/Armistice Day – in Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Composer/Conductor Patrick Hawes. These outstanding musicians will join with other choristers from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Maestro Hawes will serve as conductor of the performance and clinician for the residency.

Why the invitation was extended

Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for DCINY states: "The Belfast Philharmonic Choir received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional recommendation of Patrick Hawes.

"It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York. These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community's recognition and support."

The singers will spend 5 days and 4 nights in New York City in preparation for their concert. "The singers will spend approximately 9-10 hours in rehearsals over the 5 day residency," says Griffith. "Not all of the time is spent in rehearsals, since there is so much history and culture to see in New York City. However, the performance is the primary purpose for their visit to the city." Members of the community are encouraged to give financial support in sending these singers to New York by contacting Alastair Rankin at [chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk).

Composer/Conductor Patrick Hawes

In recent years, Patrick Hawes has emerged as one of the country's most popular and inspirational composers. Born in Lincolnshire, he read music as an organ scholar at Durham University, and soon went on to make an impact in the world of choral music with his cantata *The Wedding at Cana*. It was with the release of his debut album *Blue in Blue*, however, that Patrick first gained widespread public recognition.

Patrick was commissioned by HRH The Prince of Wales to write the *Highgrove Suite* in 2009. This began as a one-movement work for harp and strings and was premiered at Covent Garden on the Prince's sixtieth birthday by the royal harpist Claire Jones and the Philharmonia orchestra. In 2011, Patrick was commissioned again to write a piece for the Lancaster Festival Ohio in the United States, for which he produced the phenomenal *Te Deum*. The American audience was enthralled during the premiere at which Patrick was fortunate enough to be present.

Patrick's biggest choral work to date is his *Lazarus Requiem*. Premiered at the Cadogan Hall, London in 2008, the work was recorded in January 2012 by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Exeter Philharmonic Choir, Exeter Cathedral Choir, and the soloists Thomas Walker, Elin Manahan Thomas, Rachael Lloyd, and Julian Rippon. The work intersperses the traditional Latin Requiem text with an account in English about the raising of Lazarus from St John's Gospel.

During the course of 2014, Patrick was commissioned to write three new works to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War: the first was *Eventide: In Memoriam Edith Cavell* inspired by the heroism of the WWI nurse; the second depicted the legend of *The Angel of Mons* appearing to soldiers in the first battle of the war; the third was a work inspired by the unfinished Wilfred Owen poem *I Know the Music*.

He is currently working on a new piece for harp ensemble for the National Youth Harp Orchestra, a new piece for the soprano Sarah Brightman and his biggest project to date – a choral symphony entitled *The Great War Symphony* – to be premiered at London's Royal Albert Hall in 2018.

DCINY Productions

Founded by Iris Derke and Jonathan Griffith, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) is the leading producer of dynamically charged musical excellence. With its unforgettable concert experiences in renowned venues, empowering educational programs, and its global community of artists and audiences, DCINY changes lives through the power of performance.

Tickets

For more information on tickets, group sales or other special offers, please contact us at 212-707-8566 Ext. 307 or [BoxOffice@DCINY.org](mailto:BoxOffice@DCINY.org).

Contact, Interviews, and Photos

To acquire high-resolution images of DCINY performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for media use, interviews, and press requests, please contact [Press@DCINY.org](mailto:Press@DCINY.org).

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