

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT**
[Stereo] [TV-G] [CC]

LENGTH: 1/60

NOLA CODE: ANGV

CATEGORY: Music and Entertainment

OFFERED: Premium Service 18 offer, June 2007

RELEASE DATE: November 23, 2007

CONTRACT TERMS: Unlimited use through December 31, 2010.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: IDTV Film and Video Productions

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Libera, a South London choral group of boys aged 9 to 15, brings a uniquely mystical and transcendent sound to their first public television concert special. Robert Prizeman, founder, arranger and director of Libera, has taken the simple purity of boys' voices and, with great care and respect for classical vocal tradition, has created a new sound. **ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT** was recorded with an orchestra at the historical St. Peter's Church in Leiden, Holland and includes performances of "Sanctus" (Pachelbel's Canon), "Libera," "Abide With Me," "Going Home" (Dvorak New World), "Far Away," "Adoramus," "Salva Me," "I Am the Day," "Stay With Me" and many more from the group's internationally best-selling CDs.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use the above program description for guide listing. A press kit, including fact sheet, press release, and song list will be posted to PBS Connect and APTonline.org. Color photos will be available via email and on APTonline.org.
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ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT / 2

FACT SHEET

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PRODUCTION CREDITS:

Producer: Daniel Hart
Director: Phillip Byrd
Executive Producers: Bernard
Hammelburg, Frank DeJonge,
and Costa Pilavachi
Musical Director: Robert Prizeman

BROADCAST HISTORY:

U.S. television debut

RELATED MERCHANDISE:

Individual viewer purchase: Recordings by Libera are available in retail outlets nationwide.

Pledge:

Program DVD, related CDs, tickets for concert tour.

VIEWER INQUIRIES:

American Public Television
Viewer Services
55 Summer Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
617-338-4455 ext. 202

WEB SITE:

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PRESS RELEASE

Innovative “Boy Band” / Chorus Group Libera Comes to Public Television in New Concert Special

“They come from the mean streets of south London but sing like little angels.”

– The Evening Standard, London

Combining the best elements of pop-centered “boy bands” with the extraordinary vocal talents of traditional choruses, Libera has quickly become one of the world’s most successful and innovative vocal groups. Libera heads to public television in the new program **ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT**, a concert special showcasing the pure and inspirational quality of a truly unique vocal ensemble.

Filmed live at the beautiful Pieterskerk (St. Peter’s Church) in Leiden, Holland, **ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT** features stunning, emotional versions of material featured on all three of Libera’s bestselling albums on the EMI Classics label. The special features a wide range of Libera’s repertoire, from the wistfully sweet solos “Do Not Stand at My Grave” and “Lacrymosa,” to the beautifully re-worked hymn-tunes such as “I Vow to Thee.” Also featured in **ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT** are the deeply moving “Going Home,” an ethereal version of “Sanctus” (based on the enduring favorite, Pachelbel’s ‘Canon’) and the mystical “I Am The Day.”

Highlights of the program include the solos of young singers Tom Cully on “Always With You” and Liam Connery on “Libera.” In between songs, some of the performers provide brief explanations about the music and background information on members of the group. The boys’ sweet and unpretentious narration will undoubtedly capture the hearts of viewers.

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ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT / 2**PRESS RELEASE**

Created and directed by acclaimed musician Robert Prizeman, Libera features a diverse group of 24 amazingly talented young boys—busy with normal middle-school activities such as soccer and skateboarding when not astonishing audiences worldwide. The group meets every week at a church in South London to rehearse and perform.

“They are virtually impossible to pigeon-hole, as their sound covers a variety of styles,” says Prizeman. “It is here their strength lies and I very much hope that this will enable their music to cross borders and cultures around the globe.”

Since its inception in 1999, Libera has provided vocal back-up to such recording stars as Elton John, Pavarotti and Bjork. They have also been heard on such high-profile film soundtracks as Baz Luhrmann’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Terry Gilliam’s *Twelve Monkeys* and Ridley Scott’s *Hannibal*. Their music has also garnered a “Classical Brit” award nomination in the United Kingdom.

ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT is presented by IDTV Film and Video Productions in association with American Public Television’s Premium Service. The program is produced by Daniel Hart, directed by Phillip Byrd, and executive produced by Bernard Hammelburg, Frank DeJonge and Costa Pilavachi.

About American Public Television

For 46 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation’s public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the Create channel featuring the best of public television’s lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules such as *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves’ Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America’s Test Kitchen From Cook’s Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia’s Family Table*, *California Dreamin’ – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary & Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith’s Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs and classic movies. For more information about APT’s programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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GROUP BACKGROUND

LIBERA

The distinctive sound of Libera has traveled the world in the last few years. The group's albums have topped both mainstream and classical charts in many countries, and their recordings hold their place in top-tens alongside the likes of Andrea Bocelli and Luciano Pavarotti. They have released three albums for EMI Classics; *Free*, *Visions* and *Angel Voices* and most recently they have won the BBC1 hit TV show *When Will I Be Famous* in February 2007.

The boys who make up the band have been described as 'normal' and 'ordinary' and are drawn from South London schools but as their recordings and performances demonstrate, the music they produce is extraordinary. Although the vocal sounds have their roots in ancient music, Libera is an entirely original concept. Boys' voices have been featured on recordings from classical to rocked-up Gregorian chant - from cathedrals to samples on trance mixes – but here the voices are truly integrated into a music of their own. Special to Libera are the innovative textures, and the expressive range of the vocals. Chillingly intimate and meditative soloists contrast with vibrant ecstatic chorus harmonies which stretch across the full range of the boys' voices.

Many people recognize their music, without ever knowing their name. Libera can be heard on the haunting soundtrack to *Merchant of Venice*; accompanying the gruesome *Hannibal*; serenading Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo & Juliet*; abetting Gary Lineker's acclaimed television adverts in the UK; backing Pavarotti, Elton John, or Björk; supporting Hayley Westenra and Aled Jones; or bringing the long-running UK TV series *This Is Your Life* to a close.

The singers of Libera are aged seven to sixteen and attend many different local schools in South London and come from a variety of backgrounds. Although they are boys and they sing, they do not think of themselves as choirboys, but rather as an alternative kind of boy band. While the unique sound of Libera may be impossible to pigeonhole, its universal appeal has endeared the group to fans all over the world, particularly in the US, the UK, Korea and Japan, where their CDs top the mainstream and classical charts and where they pack concert halls appearing in their trademark flowing white robes.

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SONG LIST

ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT

“Adoramus”

“Going Home”

“Far Away”

“Prayer”

“Libera”

“Sanctus”

“Salva Me”

“Lacrymosa”

“Abide With Me”

“I Vow to Thee”

“Stay With Me”

“Do Not Stand at My Grave”

“I Am The Day”

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SONG NOTES FOR PLEDGE PITCHES

ANGEL VOICES: LIBERA IN CONCERT

- 1. ADORAMUS**

Robert Prizeman is the director of Libera. He and producer Ian Tilley both used to sing at the same place in South London where the present Libera boys live – indeed they went to some of the same schools. So Libera crosses the generations. This song is co-written by Ian and Robert.
- 2. GOING HOME**

The tune is by Dvorak and appears in his famous ‘New World Symphony.’ It’s thought to have been inspired by some spirituals he heard when he traveled the USA, but it’s not actually a spiritual. The words were written by one of his students William Arms Fisher. It is, of course, a great favorite and has been heard in many films, and at many memorial occasions and must be one of the saddest but hopeful songs ever written!
- 3. FAR AWAY**

This atmospheric song has been a hit in Japan where it is used as the theme music to a TV drama series – adding to Libera’s fame in the Far East where extra security is needed at the end of concerts to control the fans! The song, which was written only a few months ago, begins intimately and builds to an exciting cascading chorus, as all the harmony parts sing their tunes across each other. 12 year old Tom Cully sings the solo.
- 4. PRAYER**

Hansel and Gretel are left alone in the dark and frightening forest, as night falls in the famous opera. Before they go to sleep they sing this famous evening prayer. Tom Cully and Ed Day sing the solo parts.
- 5. LIBERA**

This is the very first Libera song which gave the group its name – and characteristically mixes ancient and modern - setting original words and old Latin against a contemporary musical backing. The soloist is Liam Connery, who is 11. You can hear him sing particularly high at the end, when he goes up to a top ‘D’ on the last chord.

PLEDGE BREAK #1

- 6. SANCTUS**

Based on the enduring favorite, Pachelbel’s ‘Canon,’ ‘Sanctus’ has become one of Libera’s theme tunes. With its stratospheric vocal lines, and rich harmonies, it is ideally suited to the young voices. In common with several Libera songs, the language is Latin, and the title means “Holy.’ The vocal range goes rather

– more –

ANGEL VOICES / 2

SONG NOTES FOR PLEDGE PITCHES

beyond the usual highest treble notes – but with many boys able to sing this high, seemed a good way to match the heavenly heights mentioned in the lyrics – ‘Hosanna in the highest’.

7. **SALVA ME**

It starts with a chant, like you might hear in a medieval monastery – then things get more up to date with a modern backing. Some of the words are brand new, some are very old indeed, and come from the Latin mass. Joseph Snelling who is 11, sings a high solo tune you will hear throughout.

8. **LACRYMOSA**

Sometimes Libera base their music on some well-known classical pieces. This one comes from the ‘Carnival of the Animals’ by the composer Saint-Saëns – but soloist, Ben Philipp weaves his own special melody around the original music which the other boys sing.

9 **ABIDE WITH ME**

One of the most famous hymns in the world, sung by almost every denomination. The words were written by Henry Lyte shortly before his own death, almost as if it were a prayer of his own before passing away. Bizarrely, it has been sung almost every year since 1927 in the U.K. by the crowds at the FA football cup final.

PLEDGE BREAK #2

10. **I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY**

The famous hymn tune begins with violinist Fiona Pears on solo. Fiona often appears with Libera, but is a well-known performer in her own right, playing to large audiences in many different countries, including her home, New Zealand. The tune appears in the long classical piece by Holst – the ‘Planets’. The song was sung at both the wedding and the funeral of Princess Diana.

11. **STAY WITH ME**

11 year old Liam Connery has some stratospheric notes to sing in this. You can hear him floating over the top, with Ed Day, also 11, on the solo.

12. **DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP**

Surely one of the most moving poems ever written – though no-one is certain for sure who wrote it. The song is a Libera original, and features Tom Cully.

13. **I AM THE DAY**

Libera are inventive with their musical textures, and in this you can hear a number of very original sounds including some whispering as well as the singing, making for a very atmospheric effect. Joshua Madine is the soloist in ‘I am the Day.’

FINAL PLEDGE BREAK