THE ASSOCIATION OF THE POLISH KNIGHTS OF MALTA (UK)
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

CAROL OF THE BELLS

Charity Gala Concert
in aid of the Barczewo Hospital, Poland
and the Homeless in London

7th December 2018

St Clement Danes
RAF Church, The Strand, London
DENITE ADOREMUS DOMINUM!

We wish all Donors, Benefactors and Friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The knights & dames, companions, volunteers and the cadets of The Association of The Polish Knights of Malta (UK)
Dear Friends, Donors and Benefactors!

I am very honoured to serve as the Chairman of the Association of The Polish Knights of Malta UK. 2018 was a very successful year for us. We have managed to rebuild our structures by developing two new branches of the APKM UK: the cadets and the companions team. We started up a few new charity projects such as: monthly tea parties for the elderly in Balham and training programs for teenagers.

The work of the organisation highlights the enormous contribution which its members are continuing to deliver in aid of The Polish Knights of Malta’s Hospital in Barczewo, Poland.

In previous years our volunteers supported the fund-raising efforts for the Disabled Children’s Hospital in Kraków and the Oncology Hospital in Poznan.

This time we should not forget the poorest people here in London. A ‘Soup Kitchen’ project, run by the British Association of the Order of Malta, has for several years provided meals for the homeless, among which are many Poles.

I firmly believe that, with your generosity and understanding for these critical projects, we will manage to help those who need our support and assistance. Thank you for your open hearts.

I would like to encourage you to explore our website: www.apkmuk.co.uk and learn about the many projects the APKM UK has supported over the years. Please do contact us if you would like to be involved in any way.

Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM

Chairman

London, 7th December 2018
Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am very privileged to be appointed the Musical Director for this year’s ‘Carol of the Bells’ concert. This is the seventh time that wonderful artists, choirs and readers will gather at St Clement Danes for a unique and memorable night to celebrate a feast of love and compassion dedicated to the sick, poor and homeless. Solidarity with disadvantaged and forgotten people is a miraculous sign and shows a deep understanding of the beauty and power of Christian values.

Tonight’s concert will take us through the wonderful world of music and emotion. The wide range of styles, composers and instruments, which includes traditional British and Polish Christmas carols, will create a colourful and memorable experience. Among the great baroque composers such as Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, a very special place has been reserved for some Polish music by Chopin, Paderewski, Nowowiejski. This is to commemorate the centenary anniversary of Poland’s Independence, which she regained after 123 years of the partition of Poland in the 18th Century.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the Performers who have so generously supported tonight’s concert.

I wish everybody a very happy and enjoyable evening!

Przemysław R. Salamoński KM MA

Artistic Director

London, 7th December 2018
Ladies and Gentlemen,

2018 is an exceptional year for Poland. 100 years have passed since Poland regained its longed-for independence following years of annexation and attempts to erase Polishness from the hearts of our compatriots.

Heroic Poles paid for this freedom with their blood because “freedom is measured with crosses” — as we sing in the famous war song “The Red Poppies on Monte Cassino”, a song that is especially close to my heart.

Today, after many years, this song evokes sentiments and memories. Among them, as if through a mist, emerge those who became our national pride – Polish officers, soldiers, pilots and those who took part in the Warsaw Uprising.

Among these memories appears the figure of General Władysław Anders, who today, more than ever before, is becoming for us Poles an icon of the struggle for the Independence of Poland.

I strongly believe that my beloved father, General Anders, as a Knight of the Sovereign Order of Malta, is a spiritual patron of today’s concert and the outstanding work of Polish Knights in Great Britain.

Unable to accept the invitation of The Association of Polish Knights of Malta UK to attend the “Carol of the Bells” concert, I would like to extend my warmest greeting and Christmas wishes to all artists, organizers and guests. Let the atmosphere of this unique concert turn your thoughts to those who are or were close to your hearts.
PART I

A. Vivaldi – Concerto in C for 2 trumpets (1st movement)

Gabriele Tamari & Gabriele Annibali, trumpets; Przemysław Salamonski, organ

Welcome – Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki KM MBE, APKM UK Chairman
Antoni Daszewski KM, APKM UK Hospitaller, on behalf of Senator Anna Maria Anders

G. F. Handel – Eternal Source

Carmen Lasok, soprano; Roberto Antonolfi, trumpet; Przemysław Salamonski, organ

J. S. Bach – ‘Jesus bleibet meine Freude’ from Cantata BWV 147

Roberto Antonolfi, trumpet; Przemysław Salamonski, organ

Reading: Ewa & Janusz Kwaśniewski

Anioł pasterzom mówił / words 16th Century, music 17th Century, arr. J. Gałuszka
Nuż my dziś, krześćijani / Kancjonał staniątecki 1586, music Anonim

Schola Cantorum conducted by Kasia Fuksa

A reading from the Letter of James 2:14-24,26 Janusz Sikora-Sikorski KC*SG

H. Purcell – Trumpet Tune in D

Roberto Antonolfi, trumpet; Przemysław Salamonski, organ
'Christmas Acrostic’ / Poem by Johnnie Des Rochers, *Teresa Greliak*

*Mizerna cicha* / *words* T. Lenartowicz, *music* J. Gall, *arr. M. Pośpieszalski*

*Z narodzenia Pana* / *words* 17th Century, *arr. D. Kusz OP*

   *Schola Cantorum conducted by Kasia Fuksa*

**F. Schubert - Ave Maria**

   *Carmen Lasok, soprano; Ryszard Bielicki, piano*

‘A Prayer for Christmas’/ Poem by Helen Steiner Rice, *Anna Smagała*

*Zaśpiewam Jezuskowi* / *words* A. Zachner, *music* S. Moryto,

   *Schola Cantorum conducted by Kasia Fuksa*

**F. Manfredini – Concerto in C for 2 trumpets (1st movement)**

   *Gabriele Tamari & Gabriele Annibali, trumpets; Przemysław Salamoński, organ*

**Ewa & Janusz Kwaśniewski**

**THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS EVE WAFERS**

*Msgr. Canon Władysław Wyszowadzki PhD*

*Conventional Chaplain of Grand Cross ad Honorem of The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta*

**INTERVAL**
PART II

I. J. Paderewski – Menuet Ryszard Bielicki, piano

Reading: Ewa & Janusz Kwaśniewski

Talk by Colonel Richard Ciągliński

‘Polish Fantasia’ / music trad., arr. S. Ellery, J. Pockert, P. Salamoński
Legiony, Piechota, Maszerują strzelcy, Modlitwa obozowa

All choirs conducted by Stephen Ellery; Przemysław Salamoński, piano;

Talk by Rafe Heydel-Mankoo

COMMEMORATING THE POLISH II WORLD WAR PILOTS

F. Chopin - Nocturne in C Sharp Minor Ryszard Bielicki, piano

J. S. Bach – Double Concerto in D Minor (2nd movement)

Justyna Gołowacz & Małgorzata Jagoda, violins; Ryszard Bielicki, piano

Mary did you know / Poem by Mark Lowry, Teresa Greliak

Mario czy Ty wiesz?/ music by Buddy Green; arr. Stephen Ellery,
soloist Wojtek Hinc, Jurek Pockert, piano; Ave Verum conducted by Stephen Ellery
Soprano solo:

Joy to the World, the Lord is come

Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

All together:

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Choir only:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.
ALL TOGETHER:

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE,
AND MAKES THE NATIONS PROVE
THE GLORIES OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE,
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE,
AND WONDERS, WONDERS, OF HIS LOVE.

SOPRANO SOLO:

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY,
STOOD A LOWLY CATTLE SHED,
WHERE A MOTHER LAID HER BABY,
IN A MANGER FOR HIS BED:
MARY WAS THAT MOTHER MILD,
JESUS CHRIST, HER LITTLE CHILD.

CHOIR ONLY

HE CAME DOWN TO EARTH FROM HEAVEN,
WHO IS GOD AND LORD OF ALL,
AND HIS SHELTER WAS A STABLE,
AND HIS CRADLE WAS A STALL:
WITH THE POOR, AND MEAN, AND LOWLY,
LIVED ON EARTH OUR SAVIOUR HOLY.
**All Together**

For He is our childhood's pattern;

Day by day, like us, He grew;

He was little, weak, and helpless,

Tears and smiles, like us He knew;

And He cares when we are sad,

And He shares when we are glad.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,

Through His own redeeming love;

For that Child so dear and gentle,

Is our Lord in heaven above:

And He leads His children on,

To the place where He is gone.

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*A babe is born* (op. 55) / words 15th Century, music William Mathias (b. 1934)

*Ave Verum* conducted by Jurek Pockert; Przemysław Salamoński, organ;

C. Franck – *Panis Angelicus*

*Carmen Lasok*, soprano; Justyna Gołowacz, violin; Przemysław Salamoński, organ;

*John Paul II Choir conducted by Jurek Pockert*

Reading: Ewa Kwaśniewska & Anna Smagała
ALL TOGETHER:

8 POLISH CAROLS conducted by Kasia Fuksa

All choirs; Cantabile Music School Ensemble; Przemysław Salamoński, piano

ALL TOGETHER:

PRZYBIEŻELI DO BETLEJEM PASTERZE

GRAJĄC SKOCZNIE DZIECIĄTECZKU NA LIRZE

CHWAŁA NA WYSOKOŚCI, CHWAŁA NA WYSOKOŚCI A POKÓJ NA ZIEMI!

ODDAWALI SWE UKŁONY W POKORZE

TOBIE Z SERCA OCHOTNEGO, O BOŻE,

CHWAŁA NA WYSOKOŚCI, CHWAŁA NA WYSOKOŚCI A POKÓJ NA ZIEMI!

CHOIR ONLY:

Gdy śliczna Panna / words and music 18th Century, arr. J. Życzkowski

Schola Cantorum

ALL TOGETHER:

GDY SIĘ CHRYSYSTUS RODZI I NA ŚWIAT PRZYCHODZI

CIEMNA NOC W JASNOŚCI PROMIENISTEJ BRODZI

ANIOŁOWIE SIĘ RADUJĄ, POD NIEBOSY WYŚPIEWUJĄ:

GLORIA, GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!
CHOIR ONLY:

Lulajże Jezuniu / words and music 18\textsuperscript{th} Century, arr. Józef Świder
Schola Cantorum

ALL TOGETHER:

BÓG SIĘ RODZI, MOC TRUCHLEJE,

PAN NIEBIOSÓW OBNAŻONY.

OGIEŃ KRZEPNIE, BLASK CIEMNIEJE, MA GRANICE NIESKONCZONY.

WZGARDZONY, OKRYTY CHWAŁĄ, ŚMIERTELNY KRÓL NAD WIEKAMI,
A SŁOWO CIAŁEM SIĘ STAŁO I MIESZKAŁO MIĘDZY NAMI.

Christmas Wishes:

Teresa Greliak, Anna Smagała, Ewa & Janusz Kwaśniewski

FINAL HYMN SUNG BY ALL

All the artists & choirs conducted by Stephen Ellery; Przemysław Salamoński, organ;

All sing Together:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, Born the King of angels

O come, let us adore him (3 times), Christ, the Lord.
**CHOIRS ONLY:**

**GOD OF GOD, LIGHT OF LIGHT,**

**LO, HE ABHORS NOT THE VIRGIN'S WOMB;**

**VERY GOD, BEGOTTEN, NOT CREATED:**

**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM (3 TIMES), CHRIST, THE LORD.**

**ALL TOGETHER:**

**SING, CHOIRS OF ANGELS, SING IN EXULTATION;**

**SING, ALL YE CITIZENS OF HEAV'N ABOVE!**

**GLORY TO GOD, GLORY IN THE HIGHEST!**

**OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM (3 TIMES), CHRIST, THE LORD.**

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**M. A. Charpentiere – Prelude from ‘Te Deum’**

Roberto Antinolfi, Gabriele Tamari & Gabriele Annibali, trumpets;

Przemysław Salamoński, organ
PERFORMERS:

Carmen Lasok – soprano

Justyna Gołowacz – violin; Małgorzata Jagoda – violin

Roberto Antinolfi KM – trumpet

Gabriele Tamiri – trumpet; Gabriele Annibali – trumpet

Ryszard Bielicki – piano; Przemysław Salamoński KM – organ / piano

Katarzyna Fuksa – conductor; Jurek Pockert – conductor

Stephen Ellery – guest conductor / saxophone

READERS:

Teresa Greliak, Ewa Kwaśniewska, Janusz Kwaśniewski, Anna Smagała

Janusz Sikora-Sikorski KC*SG, Rafe Heydel-Mankoo

CANTABILE MUSIC SCHOOL ENSEMBLE, BALHAM

SCHOLA CANTORUM, EALING

JOHN PAUL II CHOIR, BALHAM

AVE VERUM, CROYDON
Schola Cantorum, the four part, mixed, a cappella choir was formed in March 1999 to prepare music for the Paschal Triduum and enhance the liturgy celebrated in the Polish R-C Church of Our Lady Mother of the Church in Ealing (London). The choir practises regularly under the leadership of the parish organist and conductor Kasia Fuksa. Its principal goal is to enrich ceremonies of the liturgical year with sacred music. The choir has performed Christmas and Lent concerts and taken part in many events organised by the Polish civic and church authorities, including the Pentecost celebration in Fawley Court and the choral festival "St. Cecilia’s Autumn in London". Furthermore the choir performed at the Polish Embassy and Polish Social and Cultural Association (POSK) Theatre in London. They performed this year at Westminster Cathedral and the Royal Albert Hall for the 100th anniversary of the Independence of Poland. Schola Cantorum’s repertoire consists of works by ancient and modern composers, including: J. Arcadelt, P. Bébenek, A. Bruckner, J. Gałuszka, M. Gomółka, H. Górecki, J. Sykulski, A. Mozart, P. Pałka, K. Zoltan and T. de Victoria.
The choir was formed by Rev. Msgr. Władysław Wyszowadzki. Under the direction of its former conductor Anna Stein, it became one of the most active Polish musical groups in South London. Thanks to Anna Stein’s efforts, the choir initiated and successfully ran the “London Autumn Choir Festival”, which brought together many musical groups to celebrate the joy of singing. The choir’s aims are focused on the musical liturgy at Christ the King RC Church, Balham. The choir also performs a wide variety of music both secular and sacred including works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn as well as contemporary pieces composed by its present director Przemysław Salamoński. The choir has performed in venues such as Westminster Cathedral, St Clement Danes and The Royal Albert Hall.
Formed in 1999 by Jurek Pockert, this amateur choir shares a love of Polish culture and the joy that music brings to all. As a concert choir, Ave Verum performs a wide variety of music ranging from secular and sacred works, through opera, to jazz and popular music. They have performed in some magnificent venues including Westminster Cathedral, Malbork Castle and the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw where the heart of Frédéric Chopin is interred in a pillar. More recently Ave Verum took part in Moniuszko's opera ‘Straszny Dwór' performed in POSK and conducted by Steven Ellery and at the Polish Gala Concert “Sto Lat” at the Royal Albert Hall. The choir has won several awards culminating this year in receiving the ‘Gloria Artis’ from the Polish Government.
The ‘Cantabile’ Music School, Balham, is a Polish Catholic music school based at the Christ the King Church in South London. It was founded in 2013 thanks to the immense support and kindness of the parish priest Msgr. Władysław Wyszowadzki, a Honorary Patron of the school. The mission of the CMS is the message of St John Paul II: ‘You cannot waste your talent, instead you must develop it to serve your neighbour and all humanity’. The CMS is one of the best non-public music schools in London and its teaching programmes are based on a balance of East-European and British teaching methods. All CMS students are prepared for state exams according to the strict standards set by the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM). The CMS teachers are professionals who graduated from music academies in Poland and Great Britain. All of them are very active on the concert platform and in teaching. Tonight’s ensemble of the CMS is a representative group of our youngest violin students.
GUESTS OF THE EVENING

Carmen Lasok - was born in Exeter and studied English and Drama at Surrey University. She then studied at Trinity College of Music where she gained her Post-Graduate Certificate of Performance. Her roles include: Queen of Night Die Zauberflöte, Olympia and Antonia Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Countess Almaviva Le Nozze di Figaro, Nella and Lauretta Gianni Schicchi, Donna Anna Don Giovanni, Violetta La Traviata, Fiordiligi Così fan Tutte, Euridice Orfeo ed Euridice, Clio Parnasso in Festa, Rosmene Imeneo and Morgana Alcina. Carmen regularly performs with the Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir, with Charles Farncombe CBE and with the group Amici Musicali. She has performed at the Wigmore Hall, the Barbican, the Royal Albert Hall (as part of the BBC Proms), the Polish Embassy, St Alban's Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral and the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. She also regularly performs in Devon and abroad. In oratorio, Carmen has performed Schubert’s Mass in G and Stabat Mater, Mozart’s Mass in C and Coronation Mass, Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, Beethoven’s Mass in C, Respighi’s Lauda per la Natività del Signore, Handel’s Messiah, Solomon, Gloria, Vivaldi’s Gloria, Bach’s Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, B Minor Mass and Magnificat and Haydn’s Creation. Carmen has also performed concerts at Gray’s Inn Hall, King of Hearts in Norwich, Islington Town Hall and the Exeter Festival with Crispian Steele-Perkins.

Roberto Antinolfi KM - studied Organ Trumpet Composition at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Rome. Winner of numerous national auditions, he has worked with the Orchestra of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia, the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, the RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana, the Opera di Genova, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, under conductors including Leonard Bernstein, Carlo Maria Giulini, George Pretre, Riccardo Muti, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Wolfgang Sawalisch and many others. He performs in Italy and abroad, including film soundtracks with Ennio Morricone and Riz Ortolani. He works as an organist in various basilicas of Rome and the Vatican. He played for St. John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He is a professor of Trumpet at the Conservatory of Music of Santa Cecilia, Rome. He is Maestro of Cappella Organista del Grand Priory of Rome of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, where he is holding the title of the Knight of Magistral Grace.
**Gabriele Tamiri** - 22 year old Italian trumpet player, a student of Maestro Roberto Antinolfi at St. Cecily Conservatory, Rome. Gabriele was born in Tarquinia, a little Etruscan town near Rome and began playing the trumpet at the age of seven in the musical band of Giacomo Setaccioli which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. At the age of 18 he started attending St Cecily Conservatory where he met Maestro Antinolfi who introduced Gabriele to the professional concert stage. He continuous performing with his teacher as well as with other artists.

**Gabriele Annibali** was born in Rome in 1999. He began studying the trumpet at the age of 8 with his father Giancarlo Annibali. In 2013 he began his musical studies at the Liceo Musicale Farnesina from where he graduated in July 2018. Gabriele won two young musicians competitions and participated in many masterclasses with teachers, including Omar Tomasoni, Antonio Ruggeri, Andrea DiMario, Vincenzo Tiso. In 2017 he was chosen to be the lead trumpet of the Youth National Orchestra with which he played a concert during the International Music Campus of Sermoneta. He has currently been attending Santa Cecilia Conservatorio in Rome where he continues his studies with Maestro Roberto Antinolfi. Gabriele is also a member of the ‘Gruppo Italiano Di Ottoni’.

**Justyna Gołowacz** graduated from the Gdańsk Academy of Music, Poland. As a violinist she performed in Europe and the USA. She collaborated with many musical groups and orchestras, such us: The 18th Century Ensemble London, Polish philharmonic orchestras and Capella Gedanensis. Justyna is a very successful and enthusiastic teacher and all her students have passed their ABRSM exams with the highest scores, mostly with distinction. As a co-founder of the ‘Cantabile’ Music School, Justyna co-ordinates all educational events and concert. Based on the Catholic foundations school provides many opportunities for students to take active part in the spiritual life of the Polish Parish of Christ the King, Balham.
Małgorzata Jagoda – was born in Poland where she started her musical education. After studying at the Music School in Oświęcim, she moved to London to carry on her musical studies at the ‘Cantabile’ School of Music. Her first violin teacher in London was Justyna Gołowacz. Subsequently she continued her musical studies under the guidance of Barbara Dziewiecka-Data. She has taken part in many CSM musical activities such as: concerts and religious performances. She performed at St. John Smith Square, the Royal Albert Hall, the Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon. Małgorzata’s specialises in baroque repertoire.

Ryszard Bielicki is a composer-pianist of Polish origin, born in London. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Professor A. Richardson, H. Craxton and G. Green. After graduating from the Royal Academy he studied with L. Kentner and Madam N. Karp. He holds several important prizes, awards and scholarships in addition to later winning the Beckenham Festival Jubilee Musician of the Year Award, the Hendon and Finchley Times Best Musician Award and the Louise Child Memorial Gold Medal Award. Ryszard has a very wide repertoire which covers music from Bach and Scarlatti to the present day. He is particularly acclaimed for his interpretations of Chopin's pianoforte music which he has performed with much success in the UK, Europe and the USA. His appearances in the UK and abroad include performances for high-ranking dignitaries and eminent celebrities. Ryszard has also played in the presence of Saint John Paul II and many prominent members of the British Royal Family; as well as for TV and Radio. He has written over 100 works in a variety of musical styles and genres for different solo instruments. Ryszard remains very active as a private music tutor, accompanist, piano-entertainer, church organist and piano-accordionist. His CD, a solo piano album entitled 'The Sacred and the Profane' contains 'World Premiere' recordings of some of his piano compositions. Ryszard hopes to publish his compendium and musical thesis, entitled 'Chopin the Visionary'.

Jurek Pockert embarked on his musical studies from the age of 7, learning piano under the late Prof. Zbigniew Gedel. At the age of 11 he won a scholarship to study piano, organ and composition at Trinity College of Music. He completed his musical studies at London University by the age of 23. More recently he has studied jazz piano under Terry Seabrook. Passionate about all types of music, Jurek has been involved with musical activities in both his career and his leisure time. He co-founded the Polish folk song and dance ensemble ‘Karolinka’ and was their musical director for 20 years. From the age of 16 he has served as church organist, first at the Polish parish of Brokeley-Lewisham, later moving to the Polish Community Centre in South Norwood where he is currently organist and choirmaster.
Kasia Fuksa - graduated from the Music High School in Krosno, Poland in Flute Performance. She continued her further education at the Catholic University of Lublin where she acquired her master's degrees in Theology and Musicology, specialising in liturgical monody, including organ and vocal sacred music. In 1998 she arrived in London to undertake the post of cantor and organist at the Polish R-C Church in Ealing, London. By 1999 she formed the Schola Cantorum choir and since then has continued to be its music director and conductor. In 1995-2005 she was employed as an assistant lecturer at the Theological Institute of the R-C Diocese of Kamyanets-Podilskyi (Ukraine) and in 2011 she obtained her doctorate in Humanistic Studies (History-Musicology) from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

Przemysław R. Salamoński KM – graduated from the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Theory of Kraków Academy of Music, Poland, with distinction. At the age of four, he started to play the piano, then the cello and organ. Under the guidance of Prof. Ewald Kooiman he developed his organ skills in Berlin subsequently with Prof. Krzysztof Latała in Kraków. His professional musical career started in 1995 in Germany where at age of 17 he performed his first organ concert to great acclaim. He has performed in most European countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovakia, Poland, Bosnia and Hercegovina, England) and Russia. He acts as a musical consultant on a variety of musical projects and he is a vocal coach for operatic singers. Since 2004 he has held the post of Head Organist at Christ the King Church, Balham. For his dedicated service to the Church the Polish Primate, His Eminence, Cardinal Józef Glemp awarded Przemysław Salamoński the medal ‘Ecclesiae Populoque Servitium Praestanti’, in 2009. Since 2016 Przemysław has been a member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.

Stephen Dominic Ellery conducts the London Gala Orchestra in the UK performing opera in Arts Festivals, open air Summer Prom events for thousands (with fireworks and laser shows) and New Year Concerts celebrating the music of Vienna. He as conducted in all the major German cities including the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic and Leipzig Gewandhaus. He has also conducted in Japan, Poland, Austria, Australia, Peru, Mexico, Vietnam, India, Ghana, Lithuania and China. On Sunday November 11th 2018 he conducted at the Royal Albert Hall, London, to an audience of over 5000 in a concert commemorating 100 years of Poland’s independence. He studied conducting in St Petersburg, Russia, with Ilya Musin from 1991-95 and earlier 1988-91 in Krakow, Poland, under Jerzy Katlewicz.
Janusz Sikora-Sikorski KC*SG. A graduate of Reading University in 1974. Worked in the international live music industry for 40 years, ending up as the chief operating officer of The Agency Group Ltd. In a voluntary capacity - former Chairman of the Polish Catholic Mission In England and Wales, PCM Housing Association and the MB Grabowski Fund. Former Vice Chairman of Polish Housing Association (Penhros). Producer of the concert "StoLat" at the Royal Albert Hall 11th November 2018. Knight Commander with Star of the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great, Gold Medal of honour from the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, Dziennik Polski Man of the Year (UK) 2008.

Ewa Kwaśniewska graduated from the Łódź College of Culture and Education. She then started working at the Museum of Art in Łódź where, as a museum guide, she honed her communication skills while expanding her already considerable knowledge of Polish art and culture. She moved to London in 1976 where she found her literary skills as a freelance writer ever more in demand by organizations such as the Polish Daily (Dziennik Polski and Dziennik Żołnierza). Ewa is a passionate believer in intercultural exchange and making art and culture accessible to everyone. Her articles, always written with warmth and humour that so typifies her writing style, enlighten her readers on historical, artistic and literary traditions. This warmth is reflected in the way Ewa puts together Ave Verum’s concert programmes. Her mantra: "Bring joy to others and joy will come to you."

Janusz Kwaśniewski born in London. Educated at Salesian College and the University of Manchester. His engineering career has taken him to Poland, Middle East and Far East. Since 1994 he has been working in the UK for a large construction company. He is one of the original members of the Ave Verum Choir and often contributes to the narrative at its concerts. He is proud of his heritage and attaches great importance to the correct use of the Polish language.

Wojtek Hinc is a professional insurance broker with over six years experience within London's insurance industry. Currently, he is responsible for the development of European insurance business. His biggest passion, however, is music. Wojciech is a baritone and a member of the Ave Verum choir since 2010 where, in addition to singing with the basses and sometimes the tenors, he has had many solo parts. Along with singing, he also pursues his love of playing guitar and piano.
Anna Smagała – born in London. She attended the Godolphin and Latymer School for Girls, and obtained a degree in Applied Zoology and one in English Literature. A primary school teacher for 23 years, she currently works as a Reading Recovery specialist in Bermondsey. She danced and sang with the Polish folk group Karolinka, and for the last 20 years has been a member of the Polish choir Ave Verum. Her Polish heritage is a huge part of her identity, and remains important as she passes on customs, traditions and her love for Poland to her own children.

Teresa Greliak - actress and singer, studied at the Frederick Chopin Music Institute in Warsaw. From 1973 she took part in many productions in POSK in London, where she performed with such artists as: Irena Anders, Lola Kitajewicz, Irena Delmar, Maria Drue, Wlada Majewska. She was also, for four years, an outside contributor for the Polish section at the BBC working in radio plays. For many years has performed with Theatre ZASP, Theatre Syrena, Theatre Nowy. She has a long relationship with Scena Poetycka and now with Scena Polska and the Schola Cantorum Choir in Ealing, London.

Colonel Richard Ciągliński BA Med graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, served with the Adjutant Generals Corps. Knowledge of Slavonic languages and interest in defence intelligence resulted in his appointments as British Military Attaché in Poland and Bulgaria. In 1998/9 was attached to the Kosovo Verification Mission, mentioned in Despatches and subsequently he testified against Slobodan Milošević at the Hague Tribunal. EU representative of the Ceasefire Commission in Darfur and Georgia. A member of BCMH and a long term active supporter of the Polish Heritage Society (UK).

Rafe Heydel-Mankoo is one of North America’s leading royal commentators and is a popular choice with international media, providing expert analysis, interviews and commentary. An expert in Monarchy, protocol, honours and British traditions, Rafe is the former editor of the critically-acclaimed Burke’s World Orders of Knighthood & Merit and has advised various governments on policy matters. He is a trustee of the Canadian Royal Heritage Trust and a Research Associate at the leading public policy think tank ResPublica. Rafe appears regularly on TV, radio and in the print media, including BBC, Fox, Sky and CTV, covering global royal events such as The Queen’s Jubilee and the wedding of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.
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