



**TCR  
Project 6**

**Supported by the Commonwealth Foundation**



**A THANKSGIVING FOR PEACE – MOZART’S REQUIEM**

**Participants**

**Namirembe Cathedral personnel**

**Christ The King Cathedral Choir, All Saints Cathedral Choir, Namirembe Cathedral Choir, The Kampala Singers**

**An international orchestra consisting of young musicians from Kampala Music School and many of the UK’s conservatoires and specialist music schools**

**Simon Yiga – Director, Kampala Music School**

**Bob and Jane Barsby – volunteer organisers**

**The Reverend Dr. Isaac Nsereko**

**Paul Luggya – organ**

**The African Children’s Choir**

**Soloists – Lucy Crowe (soprano), Florence Bukenya (contralto), Charles Dickens (tenor), Benjamin Katumba (bass)**

**Simon Wills – Conductor**



*The international choir and orchestra for Mozart’s Requiem*

The original idea of a 'Concert for Peace' for Uganda during the CHOGM period had been suggested by Stuart Mole during a discussion with Alison Cox at the Royal Commonwealth Club in early 2006. The idea was to make the concert a high-profile affair, with an international Commonwealth-based orchestra and choir, possibly a guest conductor, special guests and lots of media coverage, to promote the idea of peace as widely as possible.

Shortly after this, Alison Cox began to discuss with Simon Wills the possibility of including an orchestral event in Kampala as part of the CPF programme of events, and also as a development of the successful inclusion of the Cyprus State Orchestra as part of 'The Commonwealth Resounds!' in Malta 2005. This was also discussed further with partners from the Kampala Music School, Fiona Carr, Bob and Jane Barsby and Simon Yiga, and initial contact was made with Namirembe Cathedral.



*Simon Wills conducting the Cyprus State Orchestra during CHOGM 2005 in Malta*

In April 2007 during a 6-day fact-finding visit to Kampala generously sponsored by the Commonwealth Foundation, Alison Cox and Martin Wess visited Namirembe Cathedral to discuss with Ugandan partners their musical involvement in the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum. They attended the Easter Day Service, to hear all three cathedral choirs singing during which a new possibility occurred to Alison.



*One of the choirs at Namirembe Cathedral on Easter Sunday, April 2007*

**Alison's idea was to try and create an event linked to the annual Observance organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) at Westminster Abbey, which would also incorporate the idea of a 'Concert for Peace'. After a few phone calls and emails between TCR and the RCS in London, the cathedral staff were approached, and there was great initial enthusiasm for the idea. The project was taken to the Bishop for consideration, and after much discussion a programme based around Mozart's Requiem was eventually approved by all partners.**



*Alison Cox with the Dean and other Namirembe Cathedral staff in April 2007*

**After returning to the UK, Alison and Martin were invited to the RCS with Stuart Mole and Alice Kawoya to meet The Reverend Dr. Isaac Nsereko, who had been sent to the UK to discuss the involvement of the Ugandan churches in CHOGM. Reverend Isaac confirmed that the churches and cathedrals were happy to be involved in the musical programme**



*Namirembe Cathedral*

**Simon Wills suggested the performance of Mozart's Requiem as a tribute to all those throughout the Commonwealth who had died as a result of warfare, and Martin Wess suggested the amended title 'A Thanksgiving for Peace'.**

**A large choir of 100 voices was assembled by Simon Yiga, Bob and Jane Barsby but there were no scores of the Mozart Requiem in Uganda, so the Purcell School of Music (UK) kindly loaned 50 copies for the event.**

Once the music was available, the choirs quickly managed to learn the Requiem. There were singers from several different African countries as well as Uganda, so Bob Barsby suggested the name 'CHOGM Festival Chorus' especially as there would be singers from the UK and India joining them for the performance. This naturally led us to consider the name 'CHOGM Festival Orchestra' in association.

Simon Wills was able, thanks to British Airways who provided a free return flight, to travel out two weeks before the performance to work with the choir, and he was extremely impressed with them.



*The CHOGM Festival Chorus at Namirembe Cathedral – November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007*

Simon also worked with the orchestra, most of whom were connected with the Kampala Music School. They were mostly string players – all the wind and brass players (and additional strings) were brought in to fill the gaps by TCR. During the TCR week, rehearsals for both happened every evening at the Fairway Hotel, to whom we are grateful for the loan of their Conference Suite. Joy Hill gave some coaching to the choir and Simon Wills directed the orchestra and the performance of the Requiem.



*Kampala Music School string players rehearsing for Mozart's Requiem*



*Simon Wills, rehearsing with KMS players (above) and with the orchestra, choir and soloists at Namirembe Cathedral (below)*



*The African Children's Choir waiting to perform in the 'Thanksgiving for Peace'*



# Namirembe Cathedral

Thursday 22 November, 7.00pm

**CHOGM FESTIVAL CHOIR  
AND ORCHESTRA**

with Namirembe Cathedral Choir and  
the African Children's Choir

# MOZART REQUIEM

A Thanksgiving for Peace

Everyone welcome      Free Admission

The beautiful poster, designed by Simon Shuel and Martin Wess was displayed in many parts of Kampala

# A THANKSGIVING FOR PEACE

Namirembe Cathedral  
Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup>

**THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
THE NAMIREMBE CATHEDRAL CHOIR  
PAUL LUGGYA – ORGAN SOLO  
REQUIEM - MOZART  
THE CHOGM FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA  
*'Churches Together for CHOGM'***

The service was attended by the Archbishop and the Bishop of  
Namirembe



*The Bishop (right) and the Archbishop (in purple)*

During the first part of the service, congregation was delighted by a lively performance from the African Children's Choir, and an impressive organ solo played by the talented Ugandan organist, Paul Luggya. Another highlight was a deeply moving performance of 'Can You Hear me?' by Steve Dobrogosz, performed by the African Children's Choir, and directed by Joy Hill, which will be repeated in Westminster Abbey in the presence of The Queen as part of Observance Day (March 2008).



*The African Children's Choir performing at Namirembe Cathedral during the  
'Thanksgiving for Peace'*

The Namirembe Cathedral Choir also sang beautifully and movingly during the first part of the service, and their performance was greatly admired by the large appreciative congregation.



*The Namirembe Cathedral Choir*

This was followed by a unique and never-to-be-forgotten performance of Mozart's Requiem. The cathedral was full, many people in the congregation had never heard the Requiem before and the soloists were magnificent, especially Lucy Crowe. The international orchestra made a fine sound, and the choir was superb.



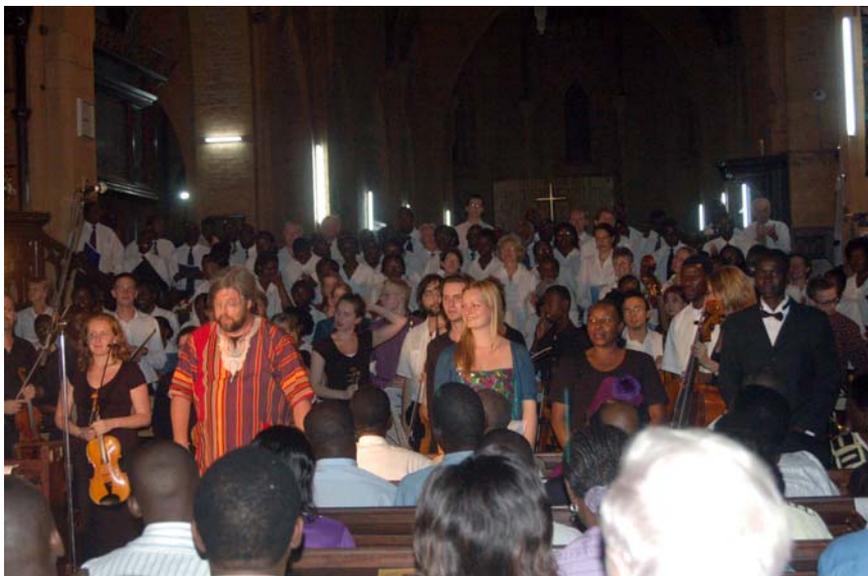
*trombones*



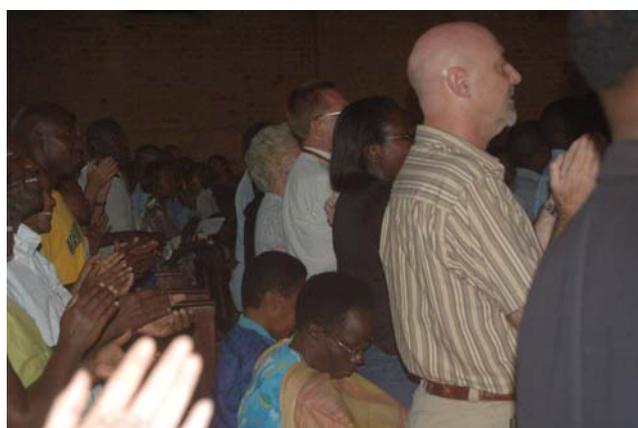
*cellos*

The 'Thanksgiving for Peace' was a special, memorable and beautiful occasion and at the end, the congregation rose to its feet, giving the performers a standing ovation.

As people left the cathedral they generously contributed to a collection in aid of people who had lost their homes and livelihoods during the recent floods in several parts of Uganda. We hope that this collection will help them in some small way to rebuild their lives.



*Simon Wills and the performers acknowledging applause after their extraordinary performance of Mozart's Requiem on Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007*



*A standing ovation from the congregation!*

**'The Commonwealth Resounds!' would like to express sincere thanks to Stuart Mole and Alice Kawoya from the Royal Commonwealth Society for their interest and involvement in this special event, to British Airways for contributing a free return flight to Simon Wills, to Bob and Jane Barsby, Simon Yiga, Reverend Isaac Nsereko, Frederick Kiapi and his team from CPAU Uganda, David Ives and Jenny Groves for their help and support and of course to the Commonwealth Foundation without whose sponsorship the 'Thanksgiving for Peace' would not have been able to happen at all.**

**Documentation by Alison Cox  
Photographs by Martin Wess, Peter Harvey, Marianne Welbourn and Margaret Moore**

