

Partners in this Great Enterprise

An evening at the Royal Albert Hall
commemorating the centenary of the Balfour
Declaration, which paved the way for the
rebirth of the State of Israel



Key participants

Orchestra

Conductor/Music Director
Orchestral Director
Orchestra leader

Jan Quintus Zwart
David Hooke
Christine Townsend

The Holland Choir

Choir Manager
Artistic Director

Margie Markerink
Jan Quintus Zwart

The Redeemed Christian Church of God Choir

Choir Leader

Olamide Adenugba

Israeli Dance Institute

Artistic Director

Ilai Szpiezak

Shir Klezmer Ensemble

Leader

Ivor Goldberg

Historical characters portrayed

Bishop JC Ryle
(first Anglican bishop of Liverpool)
Charles Haddon Spurgeon
(acclaimed Baptist preacher of the 19th century)
Theodor Herzl
(founder of the Zionist movement)
Rev William Hechler
(friend and mentor to Theodor Herzl)
Arthur James Balfour
(World War I Foreign Secretary, signatory of the Balfour Declaration)
Chaim Weizmann
(Eminent scientist and prominent Zionist during World War 1)
Dramatic Director

Paul Alexander
Ruben Crow
Neil Gwynne
Robert Swinton
Anthony Sargent
Vince Pirillo
Yvonne Morley-Chisholm

Technical and Backstage

Producer and Narrator
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Royal Albert Hall Liaison
Royal Albert Hall Event Manager
Security Liaison
Costume Designer
Wardrobe assistant
Make-up
Lighting supplied by
Audiovisual support
VIP Reception

VIP Ushers

Nick Gray (Balfour 100 Ltd)
Brian Hilson (B & H Sound Ltd)
Ruth Morey
Melvin Hart
Jasmine Doughty
Len Grates (Balfour 100 Ltd)
Linda Haysman,
Emma Tilfold-Bagwell
Rosemarie Swinfield
SFL Ltd
B & H Sound Ltd
Judy Littler-Manners
Barbara Dingle
Marta Cabral

Backstage assistants kindly provided by St Martins Academy for Girls, South London

Soloists



Caleb Alalade

As a psalmist for over three decades and an itinerant pastor, Caleb ministers around the world, leading prophetic worship, preaching and teaching about the love and the presence of God. He is the president of the Father's Heart Ministry and he also hosts a series of worship events and Worship Encounter programmes on Christian networks like Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) Europe. Caleb's ministry has touched many lives and his desire is to draw people into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus, to see the hurting world restored, yokes broken, burdens lifted and lives dedicated to the Lord.

Nicola Hooke

Nicola studied flute and piano at Trinity College of Music, London, and has taught flute for many years. In recent years she has studied singing with Norman Welsby and she appears regularly as a soloist with Adoramus as well as being a founder member of the Asaph Ensemble. Nicola has been involved, as a singer and flautist, with several BBC TV and Radio broadcasts for religious programmes, and has sung roles in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel for St Albans Chamber Opera. Most recently she sang the demanding role of 'Elle' in Poulenc's opera for solo soprano, 'La Voix Humaine', at the Maltings Arts Theatre in St Albans.



Serguei Popov

Serguei Popov, a concert violinist from Finland, performs about 50 concerts a year and plays all over the world. In 2003 he was awarded a bronze medal in Finland for his contribution to art. He has played in such prestigious world venues as: Sydney Opera House, Australia; CongressHall, Washington; Metropolitan, Rio de Janeiro; Casino Konzert Halle, Basel, Switzerland; International Convention Center, Jerusalem. He is a regular contributor to the 'Christian Feast of Tabernacles' event in Jerusalem that draws thousands of Christians to the City annually to join Succot celebrations.

Tally Koren

Tally Koren is an Israeli-born international singer-songwriter and voice-over artist. In 2011, she received the London Fringe Awards for best singer songwriter and her single Beauty of the Duty (2011) was placed on the BBC Radio 2 playlist and subsequently played on over 100 radio stations around the globe. Tally is extremely passionate about using her music and voice to bridge the gap between different cultures. In 2014, Tally hosted a concert – Music for Peace in the Middle East – where Palestinians, Iranians and Israeli artists performed on one stage and she received a prestigious award as an 'Ambassador for Peace' at the House of Commons. Find out about her exciting 2018 Christian/Jewish tour at www.tallykoren.com/uktour



Programme

In the beginning

We start our evening with God's promise to Abraham in Genesis Chapters 12 and 15
(*voice-over Ian Cullen, pan flute soloist Noortje van Middelkoop*)

'I rejoiced when I heard them say' from Psalm 122 by the Holland Choir and Adoramus orchestra

The battle for the Bible

Christian leaders of the 19th century tell of their belief in the prophesied restoration of the nation of Israel to their biblical homeland*

Statement 1 read by Pastor Dennis Greenidge

(*Senior pastor of Worldwide Mission Fellowship, London*)

Christians today reconnect with their spiritual heritage

Choral/orchestral interlude

Mozart's 'Laudate Dominum' presented by the Adoramus orchestra (soloist Nicola Hooke)

'Jerusalem' presented by the Holland Choir and orchestra

Despair to Hope

The Israeli Dance Institute and Shir Klezmer Ensemble portray life in the Jewish villages ('Shtetls')

of Russia and Eastern Europe in the 19th century

Hope began to rise in Europe with the arrival of Theodor Herzl. He was befriended by an English clergyman, Rev William Hechler. Hear their views of the future for the Jews

Israeli singer Tally Koren sings 'Eli Eli' accompanied by the orchestra

God moves in mysterious ways

Moving into the twentieth century, another Jewish-Christian partnership develops between British politician Arthur Balfour and Jewish émigré scientist Chaim Weizmann. Listen as they discuss the issue of a Jewish homeland.

In the process that resulted in the Balfour Declaration, the events of 31 October 1917 were key. Dr David Schmidt and historian Kelvin Crombie tell us about that day

Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour makes history with a short letter from the British Government to the senior Jewish figure in Britain, Lord Rothschild. With Balfour's signature on it, this letter forever bears his name as 'The Balfour Declaration'

Statement 2, read by Rev David Campbell

(*a National Leader of the Elim Pentecostal Churches*)

Remembering God's hand in the production of the Balfour Declaration

Interlude to mark the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem

Juliet Dawn sings 'City of God' accompanied by the song's writer, Brenda Taylor

Tally Koren sings her own song 'Magical Powers' followed by the iconic 'Jerusalem of Gold'

Interval

* All our historical sketches are composed of direct quotes from the speeches, sermons or writings of the characters. They are therefore original expressions of the thoughts and hearts of the people portrayed.



Dr David Schmidt is a Christian academic and pastor. He has carried out extensive research into the backgrounds of Lloyd George's War Cabinet members



Kelvin Crombie is an Australian Christian historian. He lived for many years in Israel, and has a deep knowledge of the military history of the region as it affects modern Israel

Musical interlude

The black churches in Britain are almost unanimous in their biblical support for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, with thousands making pilgrimage each year to Israel from all over the world. In recognition of this, a massed choir from the Nigerian Redeemed Christian Church of God will sing 'Made A Way' by Travis Greene and 'Forever Young' by Bob Dylan

In praise of God

We sing together 'O praise ye the Lord', a hymn written by Henry Williams Baker in 1875 and drawn from Psalm 149. God delivers Israel from all who oppress her

v1 Audience

*O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.*

v2 Choir only

*O praise ye the Lord!
All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord
re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story
of what he hath done.*

v3 Audience

*O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to him be out-poured
all ages along!
For love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of redemption,
O praise ye the Lord!*

From hope to expectation

Dancers from the Israeli Dance Institute portray the real-life story of how the village of Sokolka in Poland reacted to news of Britain's declaration of support for a renewed Jewish homeland

Partners together

The year is now 1920. Here, in the Royal Albert Hall, the Zionist Federation holds a rally to celebrate the granting of the Mandate for Palestine to Great Britain. The honoured guest speaker is someone we have met already tonight, and we welcome back the Honourable Arthur Balfour

Promise betrayed

We know only too well that Britain did not maintain the 'partnership' so enthusiastically embraced by Arthur Balfour. Renowned violinist Sergei Popov accompanies a presentation of Britain's failure to live up to the noble intentions expressed in the Balfour Declaration

Statement 3, read by Pastor Clive Urquhart

(Senior Pastor of Kingdom Faith Church and Partnering Church Network)

Recognising Britain's betrayal of the intent of the Balfour Declaration and of the Mandate given her by the world's great powers of the time

Promise fulfilled

As Christians, we celebrate God's faithfulness to all his promises to his people Israel, especially his promise to Abraham. Caleb Alalade leads us in his own adaptation of the hymn 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' to express this

The Israeli Dance Institute and Shir Klezmer Ensemble return to express the joy and celebrations surrounding the independence of Israel in 1948

Statement 4, read by a group of today's generation of Christians

We move from the past to the present and future. Hear what today's 'millennial' Christians have to say about their ongoing love and support for Israel and the Jewish people

Musical finale

Caleb Alalade, both choirs and the orchestra bring our evening to a close with the song 'In His Love'

National Anthems

We sing together the National Anthems of Great Britain and Israel

The Holland Choir and Adoramus orchestra will 'play us out' as we leave with the song 'City of Light'

Actors and performers



Paul Alexander
(*Bishop JC Ryle*)

Trained Dartington Hall College of Arts, Rose Bruford College.

Theatre parts include: Hamlet, Bottom, Malvolio, Lord Fancourt Babberley, Christ in The Coventry Mystery Plays, Faustus. One man shows include Beau Brummell, John's Gospel, Francis of Assisi, Shakespeare, Krapp's Last Tape, The Psalms, The Old Testament, Falstaff. Television appearances include Warship, Emmerdale Farm, Eastenders, Villians, Upstairs Downstairs, The Madness of George the Third, Beryls Lot Series, The Pre-Raphaelites, Z Cars, Persuasion, Doctor Who, Heartbeat, A Touch of Frost and Casualty. Most recent film Dave Hill in Warhorse. Theatre Direction includes Waiting for Godot, The Psalms, In Camera, A Sleep of Prisoners, Boy in Darkness, Plastic Birthday. Recently directed the film Finding Saint Francis. Currently completing a full-length feature film.



Ruben Crow
(*Charles Haddon Spurgeon*)

Ruben trained at LAMDA before spending a year on stage touring with The Reduced Shakespeare Company. He has had parts on TV: Mutual Friends (BBC), Heartbeat, (ITV) and Doctors, (BBC) as well as roles in a number of feature films. He does regular voice-over work for computer games, commercials and corporates.



Neil Gwynne
(*Theodor Herzl*)

Neil trained at Arts Educational School, London. Theatre credits include Scaramouche Jones (Georgian Theatre Royal), The Angry Brigade (Andrew Lloyd Webber Theatre). TV includes Wings of War, World's Most Evil Killers. Films include P.R.O.B.E., Lacey.



Robert Swinton
(*Rev William Hechler*)

Rob is an actor, writer, and joint artistic director of touring theatre company, Damn Cheek Productions. His writing career began at the Oxford Playhouse in 1972. Recent work includes a verse drama, Light and Dark, and a satire of the education system, Faction,

to be performed by Damn Cheek next year. He was Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Festival in Stafford for three years. Parts have included Measure for Measure (Angelo), Twelfth Night (Malvolio) the Dukes in As you Like It, Buckingham in Richard III, and del Bosco in Marlowe's Jew of Malta. He has worked extensively on radio over thirty years, including a four-year stint on The Archers, and various forays in film and TV.



Anthony Sergeant
(*Arthur Balfour*)

Anthony has a BA from Loughborough University and won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He has worked at the Royal National, Glasgow Citizens, Crucible, Sheffield, Theatre Royal, Windsor, Southwold, and has just returned from the Cambridge Shakespeare festival. TV appearances include: Blood Money, The Bill, Tale of Two Cities, Fourth Floor, Rebecca, Grange Hill, Under Milk Wood, Time Watch (playing Sir Fitzroy Maclean). He has performed in numerous fringe shows, playing Gaugin, Claudius in Hamlet, Gayey in The Cherry Orchard, The Bedbug at the Gate, and recently the prosecuting barrister in Pursuing Justice for the ECP. Films include: Place to Stay, Claude Debussy in House of Sweets, Nostradamus in Premonitions, The Biggest Thing That Ever Hit Broadway, and Elijah in a soon-to-be-released Nollywood film, The Watchman.



Vincent Pirillo
(*Chaim Weizmann*)

Vincent has appeared in numerous West End shows, including: Inherit the Wind (Goodfellow, Rev Brown), Fiddler on the Roof (Rabbi), Imagine This (Rabbi), The Woman in White (Signalman), Ragtime (Grandfather), Napoleon (Garrau) and Sammy Cahn-Words and Music (Mario Lanza). UK tours include: The Phantom of the Opera (Piangi) and Sunset Boulevard (Cecil B DeMille, Max). Other shows include: Grandpa Gellman in Caroline or Change (Chichester), Maraczek in She Loves Me (Menier), Clairon in The Grand Tour (Finborough), Sweeney Todd (Chichester), D'Arque in Beauty and the Beast (Vienna), Chagal in Dance of the Vampires (Vienna), Anatoly in Chess (European Tour), Warbucks in Annie (Dubai), Gus in Cats (Los Angeles) and Magaldi in Evita (Los Angeles and US Tour). He has also sung major roles in professional opera productions across Europe.



Israeli Dance Institute

Oranim Dance Performing troupe is organised by the Israeli Dance Institute (IDI) – registered charity 279801 – the UK’s leading Jewish charity developing culture through music and dance. For details visit www.idi.org.uk. Dance choreography by Ilai Szpiezak, who is Dance Development Manager for IDI.



Shir Klezmer Ensemble

For 20 years, Shir (Hebrew for song) has been a major force on the UK Jewish music scene, performing concerts and fulfilling the original function of Klezmer bands – entertaining at Simchas (Jewish parties). Shir attempts to be as true as possible to the original sound of the Klezmerim, playing music of the Jewish Diaspora and Israel – Klezmer, Traditional, Yiddish, Ladino and Sephardi repertoire, while also catering for more modern tastes with current popular Israeli and Jewish tunes



Adoramus Christian Orchestra

Formed in 1996, Adoramus is a Christian choir and orchestra gathered from many different denominations that serves the Church and wider community by offering concerts that communicate aspects of the Christian faith creatively, sensitively, and to a high standard. This Christian musical community is based in

north London and seeks to offer one another encouragement and support through a shared faith and love of music. The choir and orchestra are led by music director David Hooke, whose vision, commitment and expertise have made Adoramus a unique experience for singers, orchestral musicians and listeners alike.



RCCG Mass Choir

The Redeemed Christian Church of God is a pentecostal church that started in Nigeria in 1952. It is now active in 186 nations and has over 750 parishes in the UK alone. RCCG UK’s flagship programme ‘The Festival of Life’ has been running for 20 years, attracts about 50,000 attendees and is attended by many national and international dignitaries. With the approval of the General Overseer, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, the RCCG Mass Choir was put together specially for the celebration of the Balfour Declaration centenary and is composed of choir members from different parishes within the RCCG. The State of Israel is very close to the heart of the Redeemed Christian Church of God worldwide.



Holland Choir

The Holland choir was founded in 1989 as a ministry of the dutch Christians For Israel (CvI), one of the biggest Christian-Zionist organisations in Europe. The choir came out of a vision to ‘sing to the glory of God and to encourage the Jewish people.’ After two successful singing visits to Israel in the early 1990s, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek invited the choir to bring 1,000 singers in 1996 to help celebrate the 3,000 anniversary of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Jan Quintus Zwart became the choir’s conductor in 1993 and the choir has gone from strength to strength. Although now separate from CvI, the Holland Choir’s objective remains: Sing FOR Israel, sing IN Israel, sing WITH Israel!

A thank you message

Staging 'Partners in this Great Enterprise' has been a mammoth task for a small group who are not professional promoters or theatrical producers! As Christians, we acknowledge that this has been a huge faith venture. We have seen God's hand in it at every turn and we thank him for his grace and direction.

In this programme you have seen information about our performers and participants.

What you cannot see in print is the amazing co-operation between Christians and Jews that has made this evening possible. Nor can you see the sacrifices made by so many people for just a couple of minutes in the programme. Literally hundreds of our performers have travelled great distances at their own expense for the privilege of joining you here tonight.

Many that you see tonight are amazingly talented professionals, who could have charged very high performance fees. Yet we have been blessed again and again as time and talents have been offered at reduced rates, expenses only or for no charge at all. Thank you!

Over the past year, we have reached out to the Jewish community in different ways, always conscious of the tensions between our two faiths; worshippers of the same God, yet too often divided by a troubled history. We have been received warmly at every turn and we are delighted to see our vision of Jews and Christians celebrating this centenary together taking place tonight. May this not be the last time this happens!

The Balfour Declaration was in part a product of Jews and Christians fighting together for the Zionist dream. If tonight's celebration opens even one door for us to be 'Partners in this Great Enterprise' and for closer friendships between our two communities, it will all have been worthwhile.

To our Jewish friends; please know from tonight that you have many friends in today's evangelical Christian community. To Jews, Christians and neither, who have contributed to tonight in any way at all – thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Finally, it is our prayer that 'Partners In This Great Enterprise' will bring our communities closer together and – above all else – bring glory to Adonai: God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and King of Israel!

Nick Gray, Producer, 7 November 2017

