



# The Commonwealth Service

## A Celebration of the Commonwealth

*In the presence of*  
*Her Majesty The Queen*  
*His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh*  
*His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales*  
*Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall*  
*His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales*  
*His Royal Highness The Duke of York*  
*His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex*

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 3.15 pm

**WESTMINSTER**  **ABBEY**  
Faith at the heart of the nation



The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Founded in 1868, it is non-partisan, is independent of governments, and is supported by public generosity. The Society engages with its youth, civil society, business, and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Its primary focus is the promotion of young people throughout the Commonwealth.

The Royal Commonwealth Society is constituted by Royal Charter and is a registered charity (no 226748) in England and Wales.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

# Commonwealth Day Message 2017

---

**T**HIS Commonwealth Day, a baton will set out from Buckingham Palace and begin a long and extraordinary journey. Over the next twelve months, the Baton will visit people living in the nations and territories of our Commonwealth family in every continent and ocean.

Carried on its way by thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds, by the time it reaches its final destination, The Queen's Baton will have brought together through its route and symbolism, almost 2.5 billion people who share the special connection of being Commonwealth citizens.

Contained within the Baton will be a written message that will be opened and read at the Commonwealth Games in Australia next year. However, there is an even more powerful message to be seen and experienced as the Baton passes from hand to hand, from seashore to mountaintop, through cities, towns, and villages. It is the message of a peace-building Commonwealth.

The cornerstones on which peace is founded are, quite simply, respect and understanding for one another. Working together, we build peace by defending the dignity of every individual and community.

By upholding justice and the rule of law, and by striving for societies that are fair and offer opportunities for all, we overcome division and find reconciliation, so that the benefits of progress and prosperity may be multiplied and shared.

As members of the Commonwealth family we can find much to be thankful for in the inheritances we have received from those who came before us. Through consensus and cooperation great things have been achieved.

We can find further reward and fulfilment by continuing to collaborate with others in a spirit of goodwill to build a peaceful and abundant future for all Commonwealth citizens.

**Elizabeth R.**

# Welcome

---

It is my great pleasure, as Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies, to welcome you once again to this great event of thanksgiving, hope, and commitment.

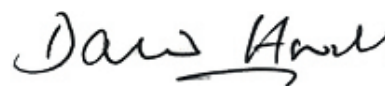
Each year our Commonwealth family gathering at Westminster Abbey seems to grow more special, more relevant, and more significant in the global pattern of things and perhaps also more necessary. In a disturbed and disoriented world the Commonwealth network of peoples and values becomes increasingly an asset and a legacy to be fostered and treasured by every one of its fifty-two member states.

Peace and security underpin all. Without them the advance out of poverty and towards prosperity cannot proceed. Without them the opportunities and aspirations of the younger generation—half the Commonwealth's 2.5 billion people—are narrowed and frustrated. Without them societies divide and destroy themselves.

So this is the indispensable foundation about which this year's Commonwealth's peace-building theme reminds us. On it we can and will assemble a renewed unity of purpose. In this we will be vastly aided by the intense connectivity which technology brings and our common working language, common ethical standards, and common cultural ties enable. The Commonwealth network and the digital age are becoming marvellously suited to each other. They link together, daily and constantly, every kind of interest, men and women, young and old, from every walk of life and every faith, schoolchildren and students, experts and professionals, creative artists and authors, scientists and young entrepreneurs, teachers, sports men and women, traders and technicians, designers and young leaders—and all those who serve the public and who guard, protect, and defend us.

The Commonwealth Service held in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, focuses all our minds on the essential role the Commonwealth can play in the future and the work we all have to do to make this happen.

Our celebratory event now spreads its message across the globe. It is matched by ceremonies, services, and flag displays across the towns and cities of the United Kingdom, as well as in many great cities across the Commonwealth. All these events are a reminder of our common family purpose, of what together we can achieve and of the goals towards which, in the interests of all humanity, we must now strive.



**The Right Honourable The Lord Howell of Guildford PC**  
Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies and  
President, The Royal Commonwealth Society

# A Peace-building Commonwealth

---

## **What is the Commonwealth?**

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of fifty-two independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.5 billion citizens, and includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest, and poorest countries, spanning five regions. Thirty of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

## **What is the Commonwealth theme?**

Every year, the Commonwealth chooses a theme to provide a focus for its activities. The theme is celebrated throughout the year with special events taking place during Commonwealth Week, including the Commonwealth Service.

## **What does 'A Peace-building Commonwealth' mean?**

At a time of increasing instability and uncertainty in the world, the Commonwealth family of nations in its rich diversity becomes an ever more-needed source of strength and hope for all its members.

'A Peace-building Commonwealth' is a natural follow on from the 2016 theme of 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' and reaffirms the Commonwealth Charter principle that 'international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all.'

---

## **A Peace-building Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth theme for 2017

[thecommonwealth.org/theme](http://thecommonwealth.org/theme)  
#Commonwealth4Peace  
#CommonwealthDay



## Before the Service

---

*The Commonwealth Service will be broadcast live on BBC One from 2.45 pm.*

*The use of private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off.*

*The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.*

*The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, directed by Trumpet Major Matthew Screen, and the Fanfare Team from the Band of the Grenadier Guards, directed by Sergeant Gavin Hall, both participate by kind permission of Major-General Ben Bathurst CBE, Major-General commanding The Household Division.*

*Outside the Great West Door, The Bhavan play*

Jatiswaram in Ragam Hamsadhwani

*Dr V Doreswamy Iyengar*

Jatiswaram in Ragam Sudha Hindolam or Varamu

*Balu Raguraman*

*The Commonwealth Festival Choir and Orchestra perform*

Song of a Dream

*arr Pablo Barrios*

A Commonwealth for Peace

*Carol Jones*

L-Añħar Bidwi f'Wied il-Għasel

*Paul Abela*

Il-ħBajja tal-ħ-Mellieħa

*Joe S Grech and Paul Abela*

The Dove

*arr Asha Parkinson*

One Song

*arr Zakia Fawcett*

Pokarekare Ana

*arr Graham Dinnage*

Looking towards Caledonia

*arr Zakia Fawcett*

A Commonwealth Chorale

*Graham Dinnage*

*Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays*

Urbs Jerusalem beata (Processional)

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

Rhosymedre

*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Hymns covered by Christian Copyright Licensing (International) Ltd are reproduced under CCL no 1040271*

# The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

---

*An Honorary Steward*

•  
*The Chair of The Royal Commonwealth Society*  
Claire Whitaker OBE

•  
*The Chairman of the Westminster Branch of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship*  
Eileen Davenport

•  
*The Chairman of the Royal Over-Seas League*  
Sir David Brewer KG CMG CVO

•  
*The Chairman of the English-Speaking Union*  
The Right Honourable The Lord Boateng

---

## PROCESSION OF THE QUEEN'S BATON

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill DBE  
Victoria Pendleton CBE  
Anna Meares OAM  
Kurt Fearnley OAM

*Athletes from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland process*

*Cody Simpson sings from the Nave*

## WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

# The Procession of the Flags

Canada			United Kingdom
New Zealand			Australia
India			South Africa
Sri Lanka			Pakistan
Malaysia			Ghana
Cyprus			Nigeria
Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Trinidad and Tobago			Jamaica
Kenya			Uganda
Malta			Malawi
Singapore			Zambia
Botswana			Guyana
Barbados			Lesotho
Swaziland			Mauritius
Tonga			Nauru
Fiji Islands			Samoa
The Bahamas			Bangladesh
Papua New Guinea			Grenada
Solomon Islands			Seychelles
Dominica			Tuvalu
Kiribati			Saint Lucia
Vanuatu			Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
Antigua and Barbuda			Belize
Brunei Darussalam			Saint Christopher and Nevis
Cameroon			Namibia
Rwanda			Mozambique

*The flags of the member countries are carried in the order determined by the date of membership (when read from right to left).*



# The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

## THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

A Verger

*Representing the  
Zoroastrian Community*  
Malcolm M Deboo

*Representing the  
Bahá'í Community*  
Patrick O'Mara

*The Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew  
Congregations of the Commonwealth*  
Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

*Representing the  
Jain Community*  
Dr Natubhai Shah

*Representing the Sunni  
Muslim Community*  
Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra

*Representing  
Liberal Judaism*  
Rabbi Rebecca Birk

*Representing the  
Buddhist Community*  
The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala

*Representing the  
Jewish Reformed Synagogues*  
Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

*Representing the Shia  
Muslim Community*  
Moulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi

*Representing the  
Hindu Community*  
Trupti Patel

*Representing the Sikh Community*  
The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE

## THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

A Verger

*The Methodist Church*  
The Reverend Tony Miles

*The Church of Scotland*  
The Reverend Andrea Price

*The Coptic Orthodox Church*  
His Grace Bishop Angaelos

*The Orthodox Church*  
His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios

*The Syrian Orthodox Church*  
His Eminence Archbishop Thoma Dawod

*The Roman Catholic Church*  
Canon Christopher Tuckwell

## The Service

---

*Their Royal Highnesses Prince Henry of Wales, The Duke of York, and The Earl of Wessex are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.*

*Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.*

*A fanfare is sounded. All stand.*

*Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh are received. Presentations are made.*

*All remain standing to sing*

### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**G**OD save our gracious Queen,  
long live our noble Queen,  
God save The Queen.  
Send her victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us:  
God save The Queen.

*arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)*

# The Service

All remain standing to sing

## THE HYMN



**B**LESSÈD City, heavenly Salem,  
vision dear of peace and love,  
who, of living stones upbuilt,  
art the joy of heaven above,  
and, with angel cohorts circled,  
as a bride to earth dost move!

From celestial realms descending,  
bridal glory round her shed,  
to his presence, decked with jewels,  
by her Lord shall she be led:  
all her streets, and all her bulwarks,  
of pure gold are fashionèd.

Many a blow and biting sculpture  
fashioned well those stones elect,  
in their places now compacted  
by the heavenly Architect,  
who therewith hath willed for ever  
that his palace should be decked.

Laud and honour to the Father;  
laud and honour to the Son;  
laud and honour the Spirit;  
ever Three, and ever One:  
One in love, and One in splendour,  
while unending ages run. Amen.

*Regent Square 401 NEH  
Henry Smart (1818–79)*

*204 NEH  
Jerusalem luminosa 15<sup>th</sup> century  
translated by John Mason Neale (1818–66)*

# The Service

---

## THE PROCESSION OF THE QUEEN

*The Beadle*

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

*The Cross and Lights of Westminster*

The Minor Canons

*The Canons' Verger*

The Canons of Westminster

The High Steward      The High Bailiff

The Queen's Almsmen

*An Honorary Steward*

*The Commonwealth Flag  
(with Brownie and Scout escort)*

The Commonwealth Secretary-General

The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat KUOM

*The Chief Honorary Steward*

The Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies

*The Dean's Verger*

The Dean of Westminster

*The Commonwealth Mace*

His Royal Highness  
The Duke of Edinburgh

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Her Royal Highness  
The Duchess of Cornwall

His Royal Highness  
The Prince of Wales

*Suites-in-Attendance*

# The Service

---

*All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives*

## THE BIDDING

**O**N behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I welcome you warmly to Westminster Abbey, for our annual celebration of the Commonwealth, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, whose role as Head of the Commonwealth binds us together in peace.

We celebrate this year the Commonwealth as a builder of peace. As we give thanks for the diversity of faiths, of resources and circumstances in our countries, we must pray that we may be united in peace and friendship and together promote peace in our divided world.

So, let us pray in the words of Jesus for the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

# The Service

---

*All sit. Measha Brueggergosman sings from the Sacrament Steps*

**SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT**  
*and*  
**WE SHALL OVERCOME**

*All remain seated for*

**A REFLECTION**  
*from the Nave Pulpit*  
*by*  
Achaleke Christian Leke  
*2016 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year*

*All remain seated. The choir sings*

## **O HEARKEN**

**O** hearken thou unto the voice of my calling, my King, and my God : for unto thee will I make my prayer.

*Roxanna Panufnik (b 1968)*

*Psalm 5: 2*

# The Service

---

*All remain seated. Dr Immanuel Mifsud, poet, reads from the Great Pulpit*

## THE BOOK

**T**OMORROW open the old book your mother gave you.  
Mind, open it carefully;  
from between pages  
a dawn will emerge, unlike any you've ever seen.  
Once the sun's risen, get up, walk about  
that old book your mother gave you.  
You'll find between pages  
hills to climb, rivers to forge.  
And gather a fistful of red, red soil.  
Halfway through the book you'll meet the sea.  
Now don't be scared of it, don't. There is land still;  
look, there on the page  
you'll be turning before the wave comes.  
And I will be there on the edge of the rocks,  
waiting with bread and water;  
waiting to welcome you,  
embrace, hold your hand. We shall walk;  
tell each other stories, stories  
collected in a book ages borne.

The next page on, when we get to my home,  
we spread out that precious red fistful of soil;  
place within it a seed,  
gently water it.

Low on the horizon our sun is now. Turn the page:  
we look at the moon and wait.  
And just as we are closing the book,  
a tree springs to life, firm and verdant  
from the seed, from the soil,  
flourishing between pages, pages  
of the old book that our mother gave us.

*Immanuel Mifsud (b 1967)*

# The Service

---

*All remain seated. Kurt Fearnley OAM, Paralympian, reads from the Sacrament Steps*

## PHILIPPIANS 4: 4–9

**R**EJOICE in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*All remain seated. Courtenay Cleary, violinist, plays from the Nave*

Largo from Violin Sonata III in C BWV 1005

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

*All remain seated for*

## A REFLECTION

*from the Great Pulpit*

*by*

The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat KUOM

*Prime Minister of Malta and Commonwealth Chair-in-Office*

*All remain seated. George the Poet performs from the Nave*

## MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE



# The Service

All stand to sing

## THE HYMN



**D**EAR Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

Repton 353 NEH  
Hubert Parry (1848–1918) from Judith

John Whittier (1807–92)

# The Service

---

*All sit for*

## THE PRAYERS

*The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, representing the Buddhist Community, says:*

He who devotes himself to this practice of meditation upon peace sleeps happily, awakes happily; he is calm in the senses, calm in the mind; endowed with strong faith, noble in intention; he is revered by his fellow-beings. If he fails to attain enlightenment in the present life, he is bound for happiness in the future.

*Anguttara Nikaya 8 Attaka Nipata, Metanisansa Sutta*

*Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, representing Reformed Judaism, says:*

God of all creation, we stand in awe before you, impelled by visions of human harmony. We are children of many traditions—inheritors of shared wisdom and tragic misunderstanding. In that which we share, let us see the common prayer of humanity; where we differ, let us wonder at human freedom; in our unity and our differences, let us know the uniqueness that is God. May our courage match our convictions and our integrity match our hope. Amen.

*Trupti Patel, representing the Hindu Community, says:*

Om, let us both protect each other together.  
May both of us enjoy together.  
May both of us put our energies together.  
May our studies be radiantly glorious.  
May there be no hatred between us.  
May peace radiate there in the whole sky,  
as well as in the vast ethereal space everywhere.  
Om, peace, peace, peace.

*The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE, representing the Sikh Community, says:*

O Lord, save our world on fire with conflict and strife.  
Let the healing kindness of your blessings  
save us, through any way you choose.  
Says Nanak, the path of peace  
lies in living true to the one God of us all.

*Guru Granth Sahib*

## The Service

---

*Moulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi, representing the Shia Muslim Community, says:*

Lord most high, we turn to you, beseeching you through your mercy which encompasses all of creation, your light which revives all hearts, and your love which provides us hope. Make firm our unity as we stand together and amend our shortcomings that we may be steadfast in what is to come. O he who is tranquil, place in our hearts tranquility, and in our actions, wisdom. O sustainer of the heavens and of the earth, strengthen through your grace our common wealth and clothe us in your virtues that we may be an example of benevolence to one another, in your name, most glorified. Amen.

*Canon Christopher Tuckwell, representing the Roman Catholic Church, says:*

O almighty God, you have called us to faith and life, and encourage us with such a great cloud of witnesses. Grant that we, strengthened by the example of your saints, may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at length we may receive with them the fullness of your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All remain seated. The choir sings*

### I WAS GLAD

I was glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord.  
Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem is builded as a city : that is at unity in itself.  
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem : they shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*Hubert Parry*

*Psalm 122: 1-3, 6-7*

# The Service

---

*All stand. The Right Honourable The Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, says*

## THE ACT OF AFFIRMATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH

**L**ET us now stand to pledge ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth.

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole.

We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations.

Joining together in kinship and affinity we celebrate all that we receive and are able to share with one another as members of the worldwide Commonwealth family, delivering social progress, advancing democracy, and building economic resilience with prosperity in which all can share.

We cherish the spirit of respect and understanding that inspires us as 'A Peace-building Commonwealth' to work for the eradication of all forms of violence from homes and communities, and with goodwill and cordiality for the comity of nations

We stand in solidarity alongside the vulnerable and marginalised, and all who live in fear of discrimination or oppression, pledging to uphold their rights to justice and dignity.

*All respond:*

**We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and for the future.**

# The Service

All remain standing to sing

## THE HYMN



**C**ROWN him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own:  
awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love!  
Behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end,  
and round his piercèd feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
Glassed in a sea of light,  
where everlasting waves  
reflect his throne—the Infinite!  
who lives—and loves—and saves.

*Diademata 352 NEH*  
George Elvey (1816–93)

*Matthew Bridges (1800–94)*

## The Service

---

*All remain standing. The Dean pronounces*

### THE BLESSING

**U**NTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The clergy and choir, together with Her Majesty The Queen and members of The Royal Family, move to the west end.*

*Music after the service*

Paeon

*Ernest Tomlinson (1924–2015)*

**Members of the congregation are asked to remain in their places until invited to move by the Stewards.**

*The Bells of the Abbey Church are rung.*

## Retiring Collection

---

### LifeLine Network International

LifeLine Nehemiah Project (LNP) began in 1996, during the Sierra Leonean civil war. Many children were kidnapped and forced to become child soldiers. Founders Richard and Yeakah Cole were moved to action. In partnership with LifeLine Network International (LNI), they provided a loving home and education to rehabilitate child soldiers, believing that one day they would rebuild a peaceful Sierra Leone. LNP, now led by ex-beneficiaries of the work, run a primary and secondary school, a home for children orphaned by Ebola, and a vocational training programme, Betteh Tumara, teaching youth the skills to gain an income.

LNP Executive Director, PJ Cole, is a former Queen's Young Leader (2015) and current Associate Fellow of The Royal Commonwealth Society. LNI is a UK Registered Charity No. 1134473.

## Speakers

---



### **Achaleke Christian Leke**

Achaleke is a leading Peace Advocate and CVE activist from Cameroon who was a victim of violence and radicalisation. Over nine years Achaleke has worked with young people in over 100 youth empowerment and peace-building projects. Currently a Chevening Scholar, pursuing studies in International Development (Conflict, Security and Development), Achaleke is the Coordinator of the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network. In 2016, he was named the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year, and the Most Influential Young Cameroonian because of his outstanding work in the fight against violent extremism.

---



### **Kurt Fearnley OAM**

Raised in the small country town of Carcoar, Kurt has always been determined. Being born without the lower portion of his spine has never held him back. Kurt is a three-time Paralympic Gold Medallist and three-time Commonwealth Games Medallist who has won numerous marathons across the world. His exploits are not confined to wheelchair racing having crawled the Kokoda track, Great Wall of China and sailed on a winning Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race crew. Kurt is a passionate disability advocate and devotes himself to a small number of charities.

---



### **The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat KUOM**

Dr Joseph Muscat graduated with Honours from the University of Malta in Public Policy and later as Master of European Studies. In 2004 he successfully contested the first European Parliamentary elections in Malta, and in 2006 he was the recipient of the Outstanding Young Person of the Year. Dr Muscat took office as Prime Minister of Malta on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Prime Minister Muscat is currently the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office and is leading Malta's Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2017. He is married to Michelle and they have twin daughters, Etoile Ella and Soleil Sophie.

---



### **The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC**

The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC took office as the first female Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. As Secretary-General she is privileged to serve the 52 governments and 2.4 billion people of the Commonwealth. The 2017 theme of the organisation is 'A Peace-building Commonwealth'. For the Secretary-General, that means working with member states in concrete ways to advance the inspiring goals of the Commonwealth Charter which recognises that international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development, and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all.

# Performers



## The Bhavan

As the largest centre for Indian arts and culture outside India, The Bhavan is committed to ensuring that the rich artistic and cultural heritage of India is alive and available to all. The Bhavan's expert teachers are dedicated to sharing classical Indian arts and culture in an authentic way. Today's performances feature Bharatanatyam dance and Indian classical music by students and teachers of The Bhavan.



## The Commonwealth Resounds (TCR)

TCR was created for the 2005 CHOGM in Malta and has performed at every successive CHOGM. TCR supports musical initiatives in Commonwealth countries, including many cross-cultural activities, a choir and an orchestra. TCR's Commonwealth Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform songs and instrumental music, mostly composed specially for the Pre-Service by pupils from 10 different schools and cultural backgrounds representing Jamaica, Malaysia, St Vincent, Malta, India, Uganda, Australia, Nigeria, the UK, and Sri Lanka.



## Cody Simpson

Born in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, Cody Simpson is a musician and environmental activist recognised worldwide. Music has been an integral part of Cody's life since he was a child. He began posting videos of himself singing and playing guitar on YouTube, racking up millions of views. As his music career flourished, Cody moved to Los Angeles in 2010, where he has been based since, creating music, touring the world, and focusing on philanthropic causes. Cody recently spoke at the UN Social Good Summit advocating for greater environmental awareness and conservation.



## Measha Brueggergosman

Measha began her career committed to the art of the song recital. Her first recording for Deutsche Grammophon, *Surprise*, is one of the most highly regarded debut albums of recent years. Her subsequent disc, *Night and Dreams*, which features songs by Mozart, Brahms, Strauss, Schubert, Debussy, Duparc, and Fauré won several awards and her recording of the *Wesendonck Lieder* with Franz Welser-Möst and the Cleveland Orchestra earned her a Grammy nomination. Measha also champions the education and involvement of new audiences and holds several honorary doctorates and ambassadorial titles with international charities.



## Performers

---



### **Dr Immanuel Mifsud**

Dr Mifsud is a poet and author. He has written two books for children. In 2002, 2013, and 2014 he won the National Book Award. He is also the first Maltese writer to win the European Union Prize for Literature (2011) with his book *In the Name of the Father (and of the Son)*, which has since been translated and published in English, French, and various other languages. In 2014 he was appointed Member of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Malta. Dr Mifsud lectures in literature and literary theory at the University of Malta.

---



### **Courtenay Cleary**

Courtenay is an Australian violinist on a full tuition scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music. She is a member of the Patronus Quartet and a core member of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. At the University of Queensland (2011) Courtenay was a finalist in the university's Bach Prize and The Howard and Gladys Sleath Prize for Strings. She was also the recipient of the Sleath String Scholarship for outstanding students. In 2010 Courtenay was concertmaster of the Australian Youth Orchestra Young Symphonists Program.

---



### **George the Poet**

George the Poet is a London-born spoken-word performer of Ugandan heritage. His innovative brand of musical poetry has won him critical acclaim both as a recording artist and a social commentator. The social commentary at the core of George's work extends beyond his music. With the brand new Search Party App, George connects his listeners with organisations around the world tackling the issues addressed in his poetry.

---



### **The Choir of Westminster Abbey**

The Abbey's world-famous choir of boys and men plays a central role both in the daily choral services in the Abbey and in the many royal, state and national occasions which take place here. In addition, the choir's schedule includes a wide range of high-profile recordings, broadcasts, concerts, and overseas tours. All the choristers are educated at the Abbey's unique Choir School. Auditions take place throughout the year and enquiries are welcome at any time.



# THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2017



The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest English language international writing competition and has been run by The Royal Commonwealth Society since 1883. Commonwealth citizens aged eighteen and under are encouraged to enter the competition, expressing their ideas, hopes and thoughts, through the written word, to an international body of judges. In 2015, the Competition was renamed 'The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition', in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II's role as both Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of The Royal Commonwealth Society.

The competition gives young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to make their voices heard on a global platform, to engage with issues important to them and to express their aspirations for the future. Each year, participants demonstrate their ability to stimulate and provoke discussions about important Commonwealth and global issues from a young person's perspective and to showcase their critical and creative skills. Past winners have gone on to become authors, journalists, politicians and academics, and include Mr Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, and writer Elspeth Huxley.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2017 explores the theme of A Commonwealth for Peace, which builds upon the 2016 theme of An Inclusive Commonwealth. This year's topics ask for a more active understanding of the role of the Commonwealth as a network of and for democracy, human rights and peace. We are asking young writers to explore peace at every level, from the personal to the political to the pan-Commonwealth.

Participants are encouraged to be creative in their responses and answers can be submitted in a number of formats, including a poem, letter, folk tale, script or essay. The closing date for entries is **1<sup>st</sup> May 2017**. Further information can be found at [www.thercs.org/youth-and-education](http://www.thercs.org/youth-and-education).

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2017 is run by The Royal Commonwealth Society in partnership with Cambridge University Press.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

## Behind the Scenes

---

### **The Commonwealth Mace**

The Mace, carried by Sionlelei Mario, the only Young Professional at the Commonwealth Secretariat from the Small Islands of the Pacific, goes before Her Majesty The Queen. It was a gift of the Royal Anniversary Trust to The Queen in her role as Head of the Commonwealth, on the fortieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Mace is used on special Commonwealth occasions, including the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, and at biennial Heads of Government Meetings.

### **Flowers**

The striking flowers you see around the Abbey have been prepared by the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies under the direction of Jane Rowton-Lee.

### **Flag-bearers**

The flag-bearers have been recruited with the support of the High Commissions in London, who each nominate a flag-bearer from their own country usually resident in the United Kingdom. The Commonwealth Flag is carried by Krystle Reid and is accompanied by an escort of Brownies and Scouts from the United Kingdom.

## The Council of Commonwealth Societies (CCS)

---

The CCS is a group of organisations which promotes the value of Commonwealth Day and seeks to raise the profile of the modern Commonwealth. The CCS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of its member organisations:

- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Commonwealth Countries League
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Games Federation
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (International Secretariat)
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK)
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Corona Worldwide
- English Speaking Union
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Goodenough College
- Pacific Islands Society
- Royal Over-Seas League
- The Royal Commonwealth Society
- Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship

## With Thanks To



**The Queen's Trust** was established in 1977 to help young people help others. Over the years it has invested over £100 million in charities that give young people opportunities to succeed. The charities supported by The Queen's Trust work with young people keen to address challenges caused by unemployment, socio-economic circumstances, ill-health or problems at home. The Queen's Trust is delighted to support the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey for the second year. For more information, see [www.queenstrust.org.uk](http://www.queenstrust.org.uk).



**City Year UK** has been chosen as one of the charities to receive support from The Queen's Trust. City Year is a youth social action charity which challenges 18 to 25-year-olds to tackle educational inequality through a year of full-time voluntary service in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK. Since launching in 2010, City Year volunteers have given over one million hours of volunteering time helping children to achieve more. City Year UK is one of the charities providing volunteers for this year's service.



**The Commonwealth Education Trust** is built on the premise that education is the foundation for development. Its purpose is to advance primary and secondary education across the Commonwealth with an emphasis on teacher professional development. We encourage innovation and share best practice from across the Commonwealth to assist teachers and young people to develop their skills that contribute to the building of sustainable communities. We focus on the use of meaningful technology and have a strong interest in MOOCs and children's literature. We thank Immanuel Mifsud for accepting our commission to write and perform his poem *The Book* today.



**The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)**, established in 1889, has influenced the musical lives of millions through its highly respected music exams, books, and resources. In partnership with four Royal Schools of Music in the UK, ABRSM supports music teaching and learning around the world. Every year, more than 600,000 candidates take their exams in over 90 countries, many of which are Commonwealth members. As a charity, they invest £6 million in music education annually. Part of this goes towards scholarships for outstanding young musicians, with more than 70 students receiving funding each year. Courtenay Cleary is an Australian violinist studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London on an ABRSM scholarship.

## With Thanks To



**Henley Media Group** is a specialist publishing and events company. Over the last decade, it has worked with the Commonwealth Secretariat and The Royal Commonwealth Society to help catalyse trade, investment, and sustainable development across the Commonwealth. Henley Media Group is delighted to assist with printing the Order of Service for today's Commonwealth Service. [www.henleymediagroup.com](http://www.henleymediagroup.com).



WESTMINSTER ABBEY  
ASSOCIATION

SAVE  
£10  
BY DIRECT DEBIT

# TREAT YOURSELF TO THE PERFECT GIFT



Enjoy 12 months of free entry and a wealth of benefits

To purchase membership and gift membership, please visit [westminster-abbey.org/association](http://westminster-abbey.org/association)  
For more information, email [association@westminster-abbey.org](mailto:association@westminster-abbey.org) or telephone 020 7654 4843

Thank you for supporting Westminster Abbey



**GREATNESS  
RARELY  
SEEN**

**4 - 15 APRIL**



**NUMBERS RARELY SEEN**

- 70 nations and territories
- 11 days of competition
- 18 competition venues
- Approximately: 6,600 athletes and team officials
- 15,000 volunteers
- Up to 1.5m spectators

**WITNESS GREAT SPORTS**

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Athletics        | Netball           |
| Aquatics         | Para Powerlifting |
| Badminton        | Rugby Sevens      |
| Basketball       | Shooting          |
| Beach Volleyball | Squash            |
| Boxing           | Table Tennis      |
| Cycling          | Triathlon         |
| Gymnastics       | Weightlifting     |
| Hockey           | Wrestling         |
| Lawn Bowls       |                   |



Get the latest QBR news from  
[gc2018.com/qbr](http://gc2018.com/qbr)

# Queen's Baton Relay

The Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) is a Games tradition that celebrates the Commonwealth's diversity, inspires community pride and excites people about the world-class festival of sports and culture to come.

The Queen's Baton carries a message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II that calls the Commonwealth's athletes to come together in peaceful and friendly competition.

The GC2018 Relay will be the longest and the most accessible ever, not just passing through, but spending quality time in each community it visits.







The Abbey is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aids to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off.

Photographs from this event are available from [www.picturepartnership.co.uk](http://www.picturepartnership.co.uk)



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

