

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
**THAMES DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT**  
— THE OFFICIAL ALBUM —



1952 — 2012

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## MUSIC FOR THE THAMES DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT

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Londoners gathered by the Thames in April 1661 to watch a spectacular show for Charles II's coronation. Musicians graced the Merry Monarch's river pageant and returned to the water for many future royal events. Handel's famous *Water Music*, for instance, was probably first performed by the band that accompanied George I on a grand barge trip from Whitehall to Chelsea. The London Philharmonic Orchestra continues the tradition on 3 June 2012 as part of the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. Its musicians play works chosen for their association with British history and London landmarks.

Timothy Walker, the Orchestra's Chief Executive and Artistic Director, has created an orchestral tribute fit for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. 'I looked at British ceremonial music and works suitable for a summer's afternoon,' he recalls. 'I realised that many compositions were connected with places along the Pageant's route. There were times when I was stumped – Battersea Power Station didn't quite work for me! But I finally compiled a programme appropriate to the Diamond Jubilee festivities.'

The London Philharmonic Orchestra's Thames adventure begins at Albert Bridge, named for the consort of Queen Victoria. The *UK Theme*, a medley of tunes from Britain's home nations, was commissioned

in 1978 as a morning greeting for BBC Radio 4 listeners. It opens with clear echoes of *Early one morning* and *Rule, Britannia!*, and includes clever contrapuntal combinations of *What shall we do with the drunken sailor?*, *Greensleeves*, *Men of Harlech* and *Scotland the Brave*.

Percy Grainger gained global fame as performer and composer. The Australian-born musician discovered the original folk melody of *Country Gardens* in 1908 and adapted it for solo piano. Its orchestral version will sound as the Orchestra passes the Royal Hospital Chelsea, site of the annual Chelsea Flower Show, and the exquisite Chelsea Physic Garden.

Gustav Holst's *The Planets* includes one of his finest inventions. *Jupiter* begins in suitably jovial mood. The movement's noble central melody rescued its over-worked composer when he was invited to set 'I vow to thee, my country'. The adapted tune, published in *Songs of Praise*, has acquired the status of a national hymn.

Workmen discovered Roman and Celtic weapons while building Chelsea Bridge. The site was the scene of a fierce battle, perhaps between local tribes and Julius Caesar's army. 'Greensleeves' follows the chord progressions of the *romanesca*, a gentler Italian import. The *Fantasia on Greensleeves* began life as part of Ralph Vaughan Williams's Shakespeare-inspired opera *Sir John in Love*.

Thomas Arne's *Rule, Britannia!* was first performed during an outdoor entertainment for Frederick, Prince of Wales. The piece, revised for the stage in 1745, found favour with London audiences concerned about

the Jacobite rebellion. Henry Wood's arrangement, conceived for the centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, remains an essential component of the BBC Last Night of the Proms. Arne introduced London to what became Britain's National Anthem. His version of *God Save the King* played to packed houses in September 1745, its opening plea intensified by Bonnie Prince Charlie's recent victory over the British army at Prestonpans.

Anyone searching for Britain's Secret Intelligence Service will find its headquarters next to Vauxhall Bridge. The *James Bond Theme* is the Orchestra's musical offering to Her Majesty's Secret Service. The unmistakable SIS Building, known to spies as Legoland, features prominently in the film *The World Is Not Enough*.

The Orchestra's Thames journey passes Westminster Abbey. Elizabeth II was crowned there on 2 June 1953 in a ceremony accompanied by music old and new. William Walton's *Orb and Sceptre* was premiered at the coronation under the LPO's chief conductor, Sir Adrian Boult. The Orchestra plays another work of the 1950s, *The Dam Busters*, as it glides past the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force Memorial. Eric Coates's march commemorates the heroic dam-busting mission undertaken by 617 Squadron.

London audiences caught the operetta bug in the 1870s. Richard D'Oyly Carte prolonged the condition after he established the partnership between Gilbert and Sullivan and created the Savoy Theatre to showcase their work. The impresario launched *HMS Pinafore* in May 1878 and presented its revival at the Savoy Theatre a decade later.

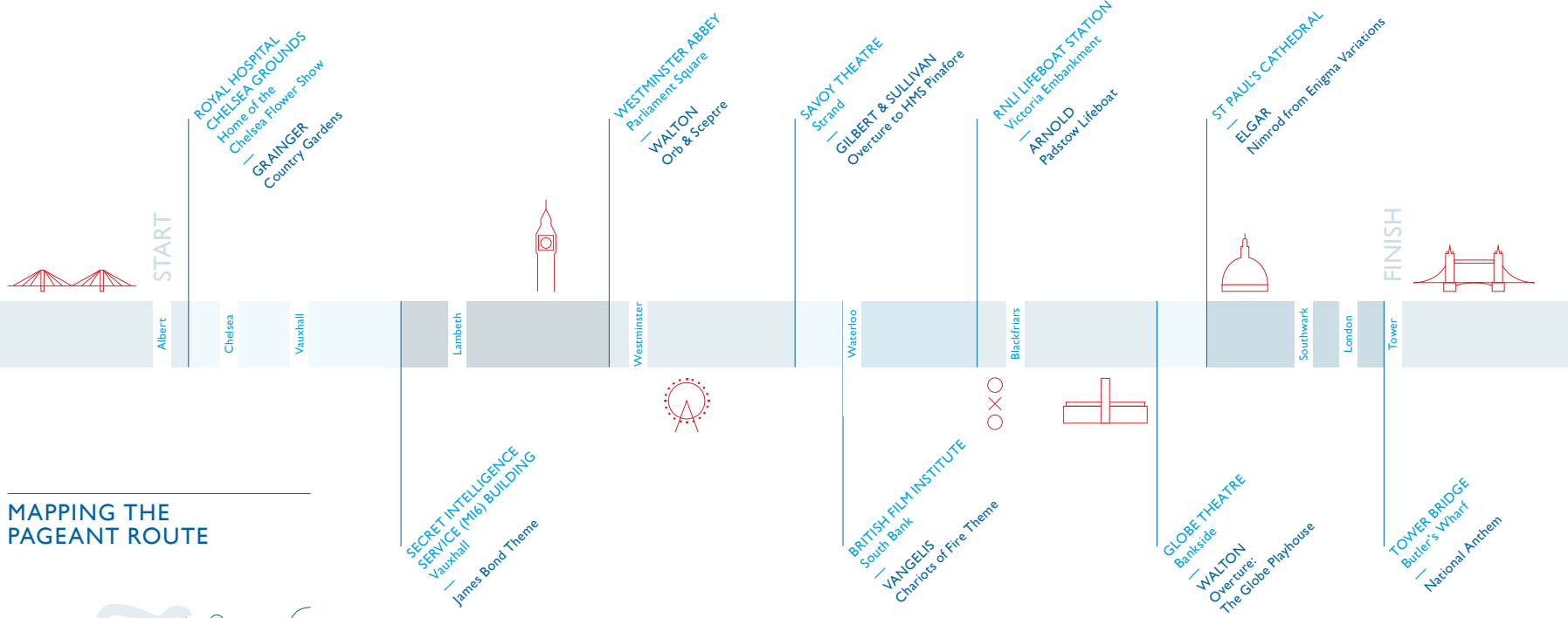
Malcolm Arnold was in constant demand thanks to his Oscar-winning success. The composer retreated from London to live in a village near Padstow in 1965. *Padstow Lifeboat*, created for brass band, dates from his time in Cornwall. The Orchestra's performance pays tribute to the volunteer crew of the RNLI's Waterloo Bridge station.

Blackfriars Bridge stands as a monument to Victorian confidence. The spirit of the age also informs Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. The *Nimrod* variation, hallmarked by its noble dignity and nostalgia, is performed every November at the national Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph. In 1902 Elgar was invited to set Arthur Benson's *Coronation Ode* to celebrate Edward VII's coronation. The composer crowned the work with part of his *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*, adapted to carry the words 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

Shakespeare worked by the Thames, at the Blackfriars Theatre to the north and the Globe Theatre to the south. The playwright's *Henry V*, perhaps first performed at the Globe, helped stiffen sinews of cinemagoers in 1944. Laurence Olivier's epic film, introduced by William Walton's rousing *Overture: The Globe Playhouse*, contributed to the war effort. The movie was dedicated to the Commandos and Airborne Troops of Great Britain – 'the spirit of whose ancestors it has been humbly attempted to recapture'.

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## MAPPING THE PAGEANT ROUTE



## THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Have you ever been to a classical concert that left you on a high, stopped your breath or moved you to tears? No? Then have a listen to the London Philharmonic Orchestra. We think it's our job to change your mood, the way you feel, even the way you think.

Recognised as one of the world's top orchestras, the LPO was founded back in 1932. We've been performing at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in London since 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra there in 1992. We also have flourishing residencies in Brighton and Eastbourne, perform regularly

around the UK, and travel the world performing to sell-out audiences. In 1956 we were the first British orchestra to appear in Soviet Russia and in 1973 made the first-ever visit to China by a Western orchestra. More recently we've visited the USA, Spain, China, Russia, Oman, Brazil and Germany. As well as our part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, another recent honour was the commission to record all 205 of the world's national anthems for the London 2012 Olympics.

Even if you've never set foot in a concert hall, you've probably heard us on many blockbuster film scores, from *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy to *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Mission*, *Philadelphia*, *East is East* and *Hugo*. We often broadcast on TV and radio, and in 2005 established our own record label. There are now over 60 releases on the label, all available on CD and as iTunes downloads. [lpo.org.uk](http://lpo.org.uk)



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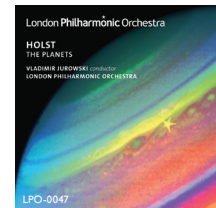
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01	Orb & Sceptre	William Walton	07:26
02	Fantasia on Greensleeves	Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Ralph Greaves	04:30
03	Knightsbridge March from <i>London Suite</i>	Eric Coates	04:37
04	Overture to <i>HMS Pinafore</i>	W S Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan	04:24
05	Radio 4 UK Theme	Arr. Fritz Spiegl & Manfred Arlan	05:35
06	Padstow Lifeboat	Malcolm Arnold, arr. Philip Lane	04:16
07	Chariots of Fire Theme	Vangelis, arr. Nic Raine	03:18
08	Country Gardens	Percy Grainger, arr. Leo Artok	02:27
09	Overture: The Globe Playhouse from Henry V Suite	William Walton, arr. Muir Mathieson	02:26
10	March from <i>The Dam Busters</i>	Eric Coates	04:07
11	Nimrod from <i>Enigma Variations</i>	Edward Elgar	04:34
12	Jupiter from <i>The Planets</i>	Gustav Holst	07:45
13	James Bond Theme	Monty Norman, arr. David Arnold, orch. Nicholas Dodd	02:47
	From <i>Fantasia on British Sea Songs</i> :	Henry Wood	
14	The Saucy Arethusa		01:48
15	Jack's the Lad		02:27
16	See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes		01:35
17	Rule Britannia		01:33
18	Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1	Edward Elgar	05:48
19	National Anthem		00:52
			72:15

David Parry *conductor*  
London Philharmonic Orchestra  
Vesselin Gellev *leader*