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[Fonts – I have tried to find ones that, to me, look somewhat similar to those on the website – but I expect that we will want to standardise. This document uses ones that happen to be available in Word on a Mac:

Main titles Cambria (not bold)

All the rest Cambray Devanagari]

An invitation to choral singers

Join the Feast!



Rembrandt, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

We are recruiting a chorus to perform

Belshazzar's Feast

at the Bristol Beacon

on 4 April 2027

in support of two wonderful music charities!

You could be part of a 200 strong choir who will join professional soloists and talented local orchestral players in this exciting one-off event, organised by a dedicated and talented team of amateur musicians.

Our aim is to:

- Bring together hundreds of amateur musicians from local communities and further afield
- Raise money in support of young and professional musicians, and promote musical education across the area
- Have fun making music together to a high standard.

If you are a choral singer and you are confident that you can learn your own vocal line in Walton's great cantata *Belshazzar's Feast* in advance of the rehearsals, read on.

Here is everything you need to know about this opportunity, the commitment you will need to make, and what you need to do to sign up.

What's happening?

We will be performing Walton's epic cantata *Belshazzar's Feast*, and with it a major piano concerto and two world premieres specially commissioned for the event, by Liz Lane and Tom Green.

Belshazzar's Feast demands enormous instrumental forces – a very large orchestra, two brass bands, four percussionists and an organ – and it needs a choir to match! We have already booked Gavin Carr as baritone soloist and the conductor, Chris Hill, is raring to go.

Tom Green's piece will utilise the same vocal and instrumental forces as those needed for *Belshazzar's Feast*. And Liz Lane's piece will be for brass and percussion – continuing the flamboyant, brazen theme of our concert. And... to ensure that every seat in the concert hall is filled, we are delighted to have [xxx] to perform the [name] piano concerto with our orchestra.

ALL the money we raise is going straight to our two charities (see below).

A generous donor has agreed to cover the costs of hiring the Beacon, as well as the cost of the commissions and soloists. This means that everything we make, and everything we ourselves donate, goes to our charities, contributing to a lasting legacy of music making in the area.

Who is it in support of?

[Reproduce text agreed with the respective charities]

What commitment do I need to make?

Belshazzar's Feast is not an easy work to sing - and we don't yet know how tricky and demanding Tom Green's piece will be! So we need to ask all chorus members to commit to the following:

Learning all the notes for your part (including the rhythms, which are challenging at times) before the first rehearsal - see below for a suggested learning aid.

Attending rehearsals on the following dates:

- Sunday November 8 2026 (daytime)
- Sunday 28 February 2027 (daytime)
- Saturday 27 March 2027 (daytime)
- Wednesday 31 March 2027 (evening)
- Saturday 3 April 2027 (daytime)

All workshops and rehearsals will be in the Bristol area.

What should I do next?

If you haven't already done so, please complete an application form, which is available on our website - just go to the Sing page and click on Apply Now:

www.belshazzar.org

Involvement in this project is on a first-come, first-served basis and we anticipate there will be a lot of interest - so please act fast! Bear in mind that we will need to recruit a balanced choir, so the conductor will take final decisions about participation.

Once your application has been accepted and your voice part confirmed, you should:

- **Emblazon the rehearsal dates into your diary in letters of fire**
- **Contribute to the chosen charities** - this is entirely voluntary, but we do want to make a difference, so we would suggest a minimum donation of £20. Many of us received the gift of a free musical education and have benefitted from the guidance and inspiration of both professional and amateur teachers and mentors. We are passionate about the role music can play in enhancing people's lives. This is our opportunity to pay back in some way for the precious gift of music we received.

The arrangements for making a donation are straightforward and can be accessed by the following link on our website:

[\[link to charity donation page\]](#)

- **Get a Belshazzar score** - please acquire a vocal score for Belshazzar's Feast (OUP). The best one is the 2007 New Edition - ISBN 978-0-19-335954-3 as it's easier to read than earlier versions. Available second-hand (Amazon, EBay and similar) or from music suppliers.
- **Mark up your score** - you will be provided with comprehensive notes which must be transferred to your score before the first rehearsal.
- **Start learning your part.** No doubt you have your own preferred way of learning parts, but we have found that Cyberbass provides a straightforward set of rehearsal tracks for each part: https://cyberbass.org/Major_Works/Walton_W/Walton__BelshazzarsFeast.htm

When Tom Green's work is available, we will circulate it as a PDF document by email, for you to print your own copy.

- **Watch out for emails with any updates** - if it's all gone very quiet, check your junk / spam folders and don't hesitate to email choir@belshazzar.org with any questions or concerns.
- **Keep checking our website** for all the latest news as it becomes available – www.belshazzar.org

We look forward to having a fantastic time making music together!

Belshazzar's Feast - A Musical Banquet

Savour the Feast!