

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Llangollen 2020 announces UK première featuring
Welsh Soprano Elin Manahan Thomas and a
'Llangollen-Special' performance by Only Men Aloud**

This week, **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod** reveals more of its 2020 line-up (7-12 July 2020) which includes the UK première of **Bobbi Fischer's *Magnificat*** featuring soloist **Elin Manahan Thomas** and a 'Llangollen-Special' performance by **Only Men Aloud**.

International Eisteddfod Artistic Director, Dr Edward-Rhys Harry said: *"It is a real coup to have the UK première of Bobbi Fischer's *Magnificat* at Llangollen 2020 and to be able to welcome back the exceptional Elin Manahan Thomas. It has also been a joy to work closely with Only Men Aloud to create a special repertoire around our founding mission of peace and harmony in what promises to be a wonderful and unique performance by this well-loved choir."*

Fusion (Wednesday 8 July) sees eclectic musical elements from different cultures sit side by side. The first part of the evening will present the UK première of German composer, **Bobbi Fischer's *Magnificat***, where this traditional choral work is fused with rhythm and harmonies of Latin America with Samba, Rhumba, Bossa Nova and Cha Cha. In this setting of the hymn of praise from St Luke's gospel, **Elin Manahan Thomas**, is the solo soprano as the voice of Mary. Described as one of the most exceptional sopranos of her generation, Elin Manahan Thomas released her debut album *Eternal Light* in 2017 and has performed at many of the world's most prestigious festivals and venues and was invited to perform at the Royal Wedding in May 2018. Elin last appeared at the International Eisteddfod in 2017 to perform in Christopher Tin's mesmerising *Calling All Nations* concert.

The second part of *Fusion* will feature **Manchester Collective** with their critically-acclaimed show ***Sirocco***, where nine players perform an electrifying fusion of music by composers such as Haydn and Mozart with traditional music of Africa.

The following evening, Thursday 9 July, sees the inaugural ***Concert for Peace*** featuring a bespoke 'Llangollen-Special' performance by Welsh Male Choir **Only Men Aloud**.

Only Men Aloud have become well known for their strong vocals and their varied and eclectic repertoire. They have won BBC One's Last Choir Standing, a Classical Brit Award for Best Album of the Year, performed twice at The Royal Variety Performance, and sang at the London 2012 Opening Ceremony at the very moment the Olympic Flame was lit. For *Concert for Peace* they will be performing a special programme of songs around the theme of peace.

This uplifting and vibrant concert will also feature **The Parade of Nations** presented by International Eisteddfod President, **Terry Waite CBE**, Young Instrumentalist winner 2019 **George Todica (pianist)**, the annual **Peace Message** performed by local schoolchildren, the **Rotary Peace Award** and performances by international participants.

Fusion and **Concert For Peace** form part of the Eisteddfod's evening concert series, which this year also includes **Back in Harmony** with **Aled Jones and Russell Watson**, **BK25** with **Beverley Knight**, and competition finale concert, **Choir of the World**. The week ends on Sunday with the one-day music festival **Llanfest** featuring co-headliners **James Morrison** and **Will Young**.

Tickets for **Fusion** and **Concert for Peace** are available now online from Llangollen.net or from the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Box Office on 01978 862 0001

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For further information, images and to arrange interviews, please contact Pippa Lea, Marketing Director on 01978 862 016 or pippa.lea@llangollen.net

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod is an annual festival of music, dance and culture, which includes competitions showcasing choirs and dance groups from across the globe. Founded in 1947, the International Eisteddfod promotes peace and goodwill between nations and has been nominated for a number of awards, including the Nobel Prize for Peace. For more information and tickets visit llangollen.net

The International Eisteddfod is a charity supported by the Arts Council Wales, Welsh Government and The National Lottery. Sponsors include Kronospan, Linguassist, Pendine Arts and Community Trust, Westminster Stone, SG Estates and Wrexham Lager.

[Manchester Collective](#)

[Only Men Aloud](#)

[Elin Manahan Thomas](#)