

Will Todd

# MASS IN BLUE

A thrilling  
music project  
for Worcestershire  
secondary schools!

Starting April 2023

Concert in  
Worcester Cathedral  
Saturday 27 April 2024

Will Todd Ensemble  
Neil Ferris — Conductor



Jess Gillam — Guest Artist

# MASS IN BLUE

— a music project for our times



An exceptional musical opportunity for students in current Years 7–12 to:

- ▶ **be part of a 200-strong chorus of students** and teachers performing **Will Todd's** amazing **MASS IN BLUE** — a jazz setting of the Latin mass for SATB chorus, soprano soloist, and 13-piece jazz ensemble — in **Worcester Cathedral**.
- ▶ **discover the thrill of singing** as part of a large chorus through a programme of teaching/learning both in school and at **exhilarating massed rehearsals** in Worcester.
- ▶ **work with** top choral conductor **Neil Ferris** (Director, BBC Symphony Chorus), the **Will Todd Ensemble**, and special Guest Artist **Jess Gillam MBE**.
- ▶ **develop vocal and musical skills**, boost self-confidence, make new friends, reach a high standard of performance alongside professional musicians and artists.
- ▶ **enjoy the challenge and rewards** of an experience with multiple personal and educational benefits.

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- ▶ **PLUS Masterclass** with saxophonist **Jess Gillam**. **A fantastic opportunity** (for up to six students, put forward by schools) to work with one of the country's leading young artists in a special Masterclass session on the afternoon of concert day. (Further details will be advised in due course).



## Key Rehearsal Dates:

- ▶ Saturday 22 April 2023  
— Launch session (10–1)
- ▶ Saturday 14 October 2023  
— 1st massed rehearsal (10–1)
- ▶ Saturday 27 January 2024  
— 2nd massed rehearsal (10–1)
- ▶ Saturday 2 March 2024  
— 3rd massed rehearsal (10–1)
- ▶ Saturday 20 April 2024  
— final massed rehearsal (10–1)
- ▶ Saturday 27 April 2024  
— Concert Day  
(afternoon rehearsals)



**A joyful celebration of life, music, youth and vitality to inspire our communities**



**Schools — for further information and to register your interest in taking part:** please contact project manager **Anne Renshaw** — [annerenshaw@me.com](mailto:annerenshaw@me.com) — 07810 823322

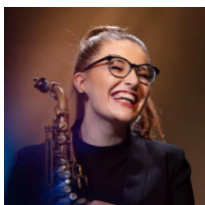
 @YouthChoralWorcs

## Neil Ferris



Neil is the Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, Artistic Director of the professional chamber choir Sonoro, and Music Director of Wimbledon Choral Society. Formerly Director of choral studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Neil is recognised as one of the country's leading teachers of choral conducting. He first directed the Worcestershire schools choral project in 2017 when we performed Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* at a sell-out concert in Worcester Cathedral with the Orchestra of The Swan. Neil is delighted to be returning to the county to work with us on Will Todd's uplifting *Mass in Blue*. He looks forward to welcoming new schools and participants as well as those who have taken part before.

## Jess Gillam



Jess is an astonishing young artist, setting the music world on fire with her outstanding talent and infectious personality. Recently awarded the MBE for Services to Music, Jess was the first ever saxophonist to reach the final of BBC Young Musician, has been a recipient of a Classic BRIT award, and has performed live to millions. BBC News described her performance at the Last Night of the Proms 2018 as "the indisputable highlight". She is a presenter on TV and radio, and hosts her own award-winning weekly show 'This Classical Life' on BBC R3. Jess is passionate about music education! She is greatly looking forward to appearing as both a solo artist in our concert at Worcester Cathedral, and in leading a Masterclass for student instrumentalists. We cannot wait!

## Will Todd



Will is well known for his beautiful and exciting music, valued for its melodic intensity and harmonic skill, often incorporating jazz colours. His anthem *The Call of Wisdom* was performed at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations to a TV audience of 45 million. His *Mass In Blue* has been performed hundreds of times all over the world, and his arrangement of *Amazing Grace* was performed at President Barack Obama's Inauguration Day ceremonies. Will's music is broadcast regularly on Classic FM and BBC Radio 3. His extensive discography on the Signum Classic label includes *Mass In Blue*. We are delighted to welcome Will and the Will Todd Ensemble to Worcester to work and perform with our schools!