

RUSSELL WATSON

the voice



IN CONCERT

2002

WNO

Welsh National Opera



SUMMER SEASON 2002

RIGOLETTO

Verdi

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Mozart

THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN

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MADAM BUTTERFLY

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PERRY HUGHES

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the voice

IN CONCERT

"In the last year we have taken "the voice" all over the world together and blown everyone away with your star quality. All those who hear your recordings want to come and hear you in concert so now is their chance to be blown away as well. Enjoy yourself."

PERRY HUGHES



RUSSELL

Just don't say it all came as a bit of a surprise, that's all. You were told this would happen. And I know because I was the one who told you in the sleeve notes to *THE VOICE*, Russell Watson's debut album. To be fair, he even told you himself. "You can either do it or you can't", he smiled at the time, with righteous self-belief. "And I can."

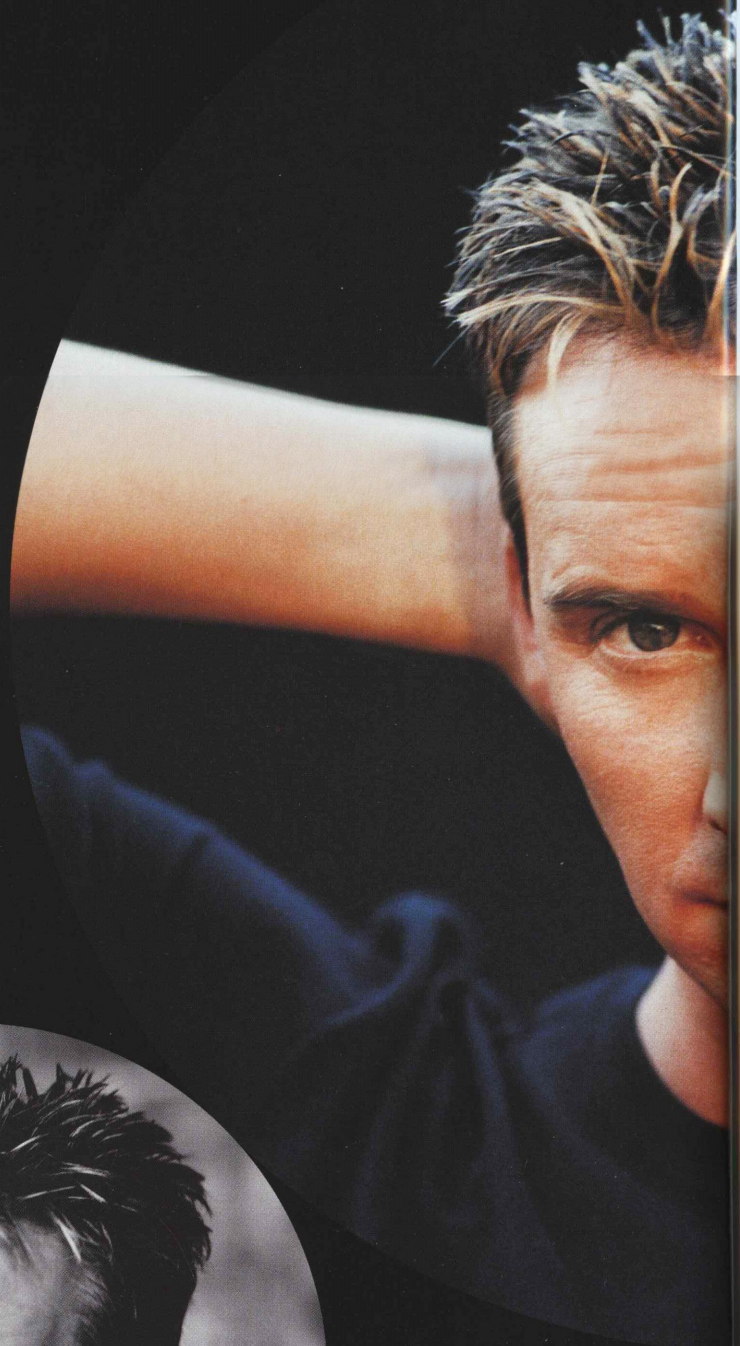
For those few still not familiar with Russell's background, you should know that Watson was the YTS kid charged with putting nuts and bolts in a machine in a factory before he was lifted from a monochromatic life of drudgery and repetition by virtue of his voice and a determination to let the rest of the world hear it for themselves.

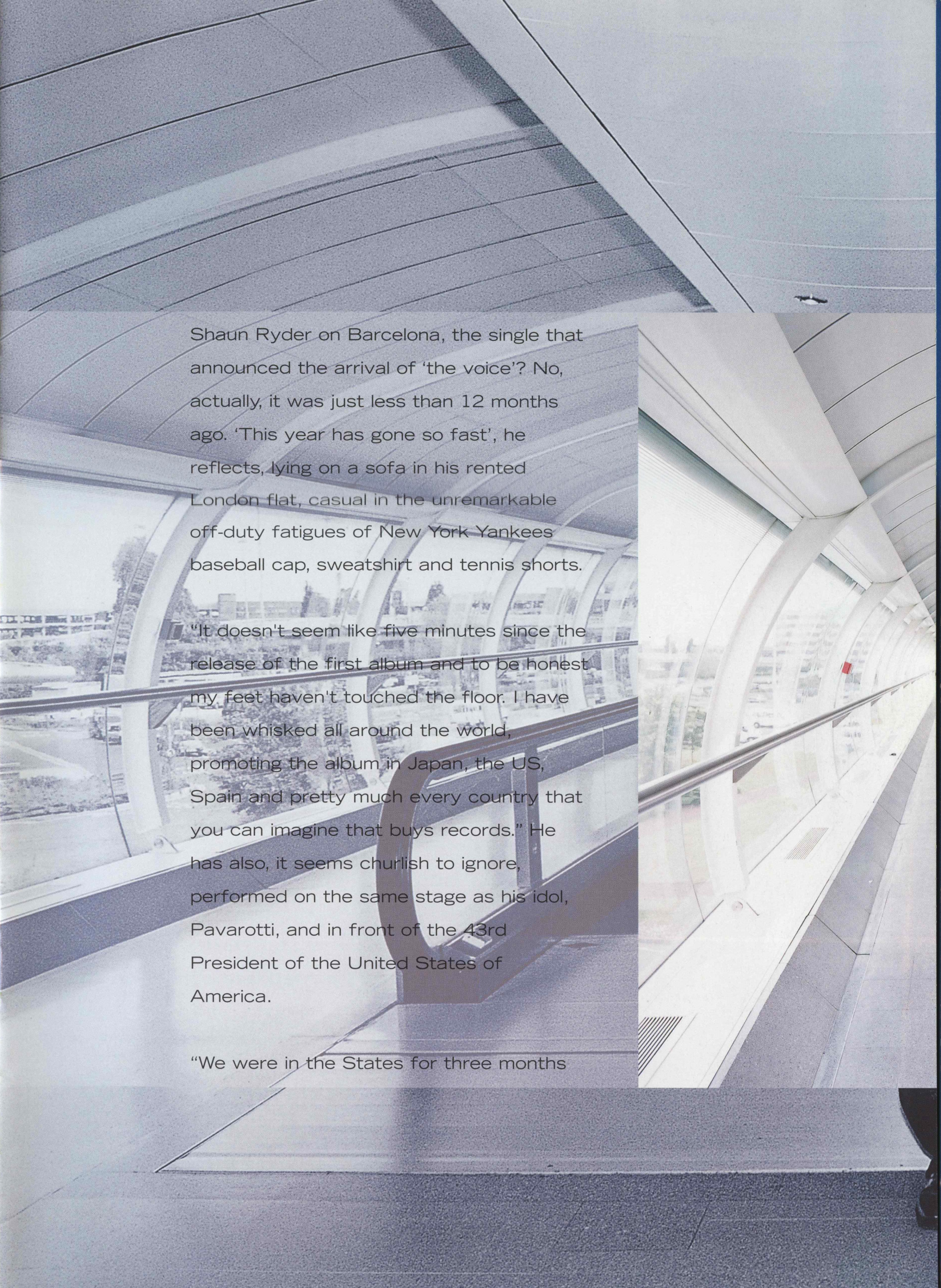
L WATSON

At least one and a half million people across the globe have bought Russell Watson's first album THE VOICE.

Hook, line and sinker. And there are people buying it still. It is a voice so powerful and versatile that his voice coach, William Hayward, does not hesitate to call it unique and with no qualifying adjectives. It is a voice which has been at number one in the UK Classical chart since it was released (and is still there at the time of writing) whilst also gracing the top spot in several other countries.

Was it really 12 months ago since I saw him break down and cry as he listened to the final edit of his genre-defining and inspirational duet with





Shaun Ryder on Barcelona, the single that announced the arrival of 'the voice'? No, actually, it was just less than 12 months ago. 'This year has gone so fast', he reflects, lying on a sofa in his rented London flat, casual in the unremarkable off-duty fatigues of New York Yankees baseball cap, sweatshirt and tennis shorts.

"It doesn't seem like five minutes since the release of the first album and to be honest my feet haven't touched the floor. I have been whisked all around the world, promoting the album in Japan, the US, Spain and pretty much every country that you can imagine that buys records." He has also, it seems churlish to ignore, performed on the same stage as his idol, Pavarotti, and in front of the 43rd President of the United States of America.

"We were in the States for three months



recording the new second album and made a lot of friends over there. To begin with, leaving home for that amount of time was quite daunting. I missed my family, but even so it was nothing like singing in Italy, essentially the home of opera music. I did a lot of TV there and the first show was the equivalent of the National Lottery over here except for the fact that there were about 500 people sat in an amphitheatre. When I walked on from the side I felt like Spartacus going into the arena.”

“Anyway, I was singing Nessun Dorma on this show and I was thinking....I hope I get the words right, but at the first high section the audience started clapping and cheering. I finished the piece and the whole place was cheering. I felt like I had conquered Italy. Veni, vidi, vici.... Well almost.”







“That might have to wait for the success of this album to outstrip the first and, when you consider that THE VOICE is the fastest-selling classical recording in UK history, that is asking for a lot.”

“But if you don't ask, you don't get. You learn that as you put nuts and bolts into a machine on the shop floor in a factory.”

“I have matured as an artiste”, he explains. “I am more confident as an entertainer, move around the stage more and communicate better with my audience, I think. It is all experience... I started out in the clubs in front of 200 people and it is a bit of a culture shock to work with a 70 or 80 piece orchestra and perform in front of thousands. The very first time I worked with the Royal Philharmonic it was...” he lets his bottom lip tremble. And then bursts out laughing.




"I sort of had this feeling that all these guys are at the top of their trade and I kept thinking here's little old me, fresh from clubland... Yeah it was daunting and I have to say that, at first, they possibly didn't take me particularly seriously as a result of where I am from but I have worked with the Royal Philharmonic several times now and feel at least ten feet taller. Now I am introduced as Russell Watson and they cheer and that makes you feel good because it's like I have been recognised by real musicians."

"It makes you feel good, makes you feel like you are part of a team. You aren't given respect, you have to earn it."

Presumably that is why, combining his trademark mix of pop classics and operatic arias, he has worked on his new album with songwriters of the calibre of Lionel Richie and Diane Warren, who has written the theme song for the new worldwide STAR TREK TV



A full-page photograph of a man with short, dark hair, looking down and slightly to his left. He is wearing a dark blue, short-sleeved t-shirt. His hands are tucked into his pockets. The background is dark and out of focus.

series (Enterprise), 'Where my Heart will take me', and duetted with Lionel and the legendary Lulu.

But before you sit back and float away, please, if you will, observe a minute's silence for the Sunday newspaper critic who said that Russell Watson would never be successful until he received formal and classical musical training. That notice appeared the same day the first album went double platinum. Well, as the nameless critic is doubtless aware, you can't put a premium on timing. Goodnight.

BILL BORROWS,
OCTOBER 2001



Programme

Russell Watson will be performing a selection of these songs.

O Sole Mio

Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod)

Caruso

Pokarekare Ana

You Are So Beautiful

Nella Fantasia

E Lucevan Le Stelle

Someone Like You

Volare

Somewhere

Where My Heart Will Take Me

Catch The Tears

La Mattinata

Nessun Dorma

Va Pensiero





The Orchestra will be performing a selection of these songs

Overture Russian & Ludmilla
(Glinka)

Overture The Force of Destiny (Verdi)

Overture le Nozze di Figaro (Mozart)

Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
(Mascagni)

All songs are listed in no particular order and are subject to change



Concert guests



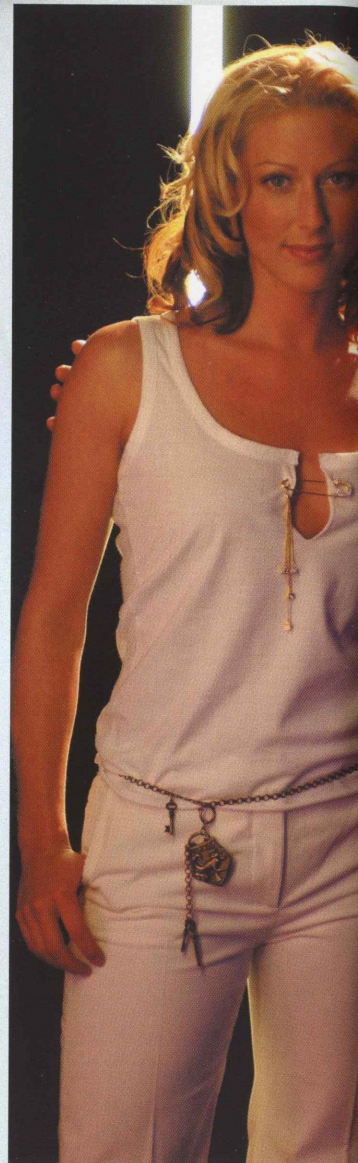
Hayley Westenra

At only 14 years of age, Hayley Westenra is already achieving accolades that most people work a lifetime for.

2001 was a landmark year for Hayley Westenra. She had recorded, released and achieved a 4 x platinum series for her album Hayley, making her one of the fastest selling debut acts in New Zealand history. The album topped the NZ charts for 5 weeks.

However it wasn't until the visit in September from Decca Records Worldwide President, Costa Pilavachi, that her dreams really came to life. In December 2001, Hayley was signed to Decca Records on a worldwide multi-album deal. "When I first heard Hayley I was touched and captivated by the beauty and expressiveness of her voice... I am convinced that she will be a world star".

Hayley has a busy year ahead of her with performances in Taipei, Los Angeles and the recording of her first album for Decca in the next few months which will be released globally later this year.





Faye Tozer

After five wonderful years, four triple platinum albums, five sell out arena tours, Faye is probably best known for her part in the most successful British mixed group 'Steps'.

During this time her talents have taken her further afield, Faye has enjoyed co-writing with Cyndi Lauper, presenting award ceremonies and is often co-hosting TV shows.

Russell Watson & Faye Tozer are 'stepping' out together with the release of their fantastic single 'Someone Like You'. This sensational collaboration between a pop princess and the king of classical music was produced by Steve Mac (Westlife, Ronan Keating & Samantha Mumba) and co-written by Russell Watson and Alistair Gordon. The enhanced CD single will feature the breath-taking video directed by Midge Ure.

'Someone Like You' is the first single to be released by Faye since the split of 'supergroup' STEPS. Faye & Russell have become great friends since first meeting last year at the Children's BBC Proms in the Park and they recently performed together at a huge out-door concert in Auckland to an audience of 100,000. The response to the track was overwhelming prompting Universal/Decca to release their single.

Both artists have enjoyed incredible world-wide success in their respective fields and are looking forward to the chance to work together. Faye and Russell will be performing the single at all of the live shows.



WILLIAM HAYWARD, CONDUCTOR

William Hayward is a free-lance composer, conductor, arranger and concert organist in addition to working as voice and music coach to the now legendary Russell Watson.

Russell's meteoric career has resulted in a great deal of prestigious work for William, now Russell's permanent music director. In addition to conducting many of the concerts

(including the opening for the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, new home for the Oscars: a prestigious night featuring the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra) William supports Russell's guest conductors and oversees all the musical arrangements.

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William Hayward will conduct the Royal Philharmonic and Royal Scottish National Orchestras, together with many fine choirs including the Huddersfield Choral Society, on Russell's forthcoming UK tour (April/May

2002) of stadiums in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, including Wembley Arena and Birmingham NIA. He is also featured as conductor on Russell's latest album, *Encore*, sales of which now exceed a million in the UK alone.

As an organist, William has given recitals in many cathedrals including Westminster Abbey, Notre-Dame, Paris and Ghent, Belgium, and has written an organ concerto and many solo pieces.

In the field of composition, William has now completed six oratorios, generally commissions from various choirs: these are entitled Solomon, Magnificus Vir, Son of Thunder, The March of Time, The Fall of Jericho and Requiem. There is also a





Orchestras and Choirs for the Tour

great deal of church music: anthems, motets and mass settings (several in French, composed for Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris) together with three orchestral suites and two concertos.

A new composition, The Bard of Wales, has been commissioned by the Hungarian State and will be performed at St. David's Hall, Cardiff, in December.

Wednesday 3 April: Cardiff International Arena

Orchestra: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Choir: Ardwyn Singers and Cardiff Polyphonic Choir

Saturday 6 April: London Wembley Arena

Orchestra: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Choir: Huddersfield Choral Society

Saturday 20 April: Newcastle Arena

Orchestra: Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Choir: Gibbside Singers and Newcastle Male Chorale

Saturday 27 April: Brighton Centre

Orchestra: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Choir: Guildford Philharmonic Choir

Saturday 4 May: Glasgow SECC

Orchestra: Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Choir: Gibbside Singers and Newcastle Male Chorale

Friday 10 May: Birmingham NIA

Orchestra: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Choir: Huddersfield Choral Society

Wednesday 15 May: Belfast Odyssey

Orchestra: Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Choir: to be confirmed

All the above subject to change





Schooldays

Russell always liked going to school as a young man and he had a natural ability to keep his friends and class members entertained when the teachers weren't looking! The added incentive for his classmates was their anticipation of which day it was going to be when one of the teachers caught him mimicking them! More often than not, Russell's personality couldn't help but target the teacher that happened to be conducting the lesson at the time ...and the result was inevitable – this back in the days when corporal punishment was administered swiftly to the backside.

"I didn't enjoy the pain" Russell remembers "but it just added to the notoriety of the things I got up to". Did it deter him from the playful disruption during class? ("The disruption was only from the teachers point of view"). "The rest of us were having a great time and no it didn't deter me for long – maybe a day or so!" Russell just became more careful when and where to make the delivery, a twisted face, a comment, a movement, all of which honed his delivery and timing from this early age. Was he the only young man at school that did this? Certainly not! There were several, but as one teacher recalls "he always had the special knack of making you feel worse than he did – especially after administering corrective punishment for the jokes, whispers and contorted faces that erupted each time you turned your back to write on the blackboard".

Variety Club

It may come as somewhat of a surprise to many people that long before the bright lights of TV studios and the “not to be missed concerts” Russell gave his time to various charities, and one in particular called “The Variety Club of Great Britain” who welcomed his endeavours to help in any way he could. Naturally his wonderful gift entertained people at fund raising events, but more importantly he saw first hand the difference the charity made to various groups and individuals targeted for help by the Club.

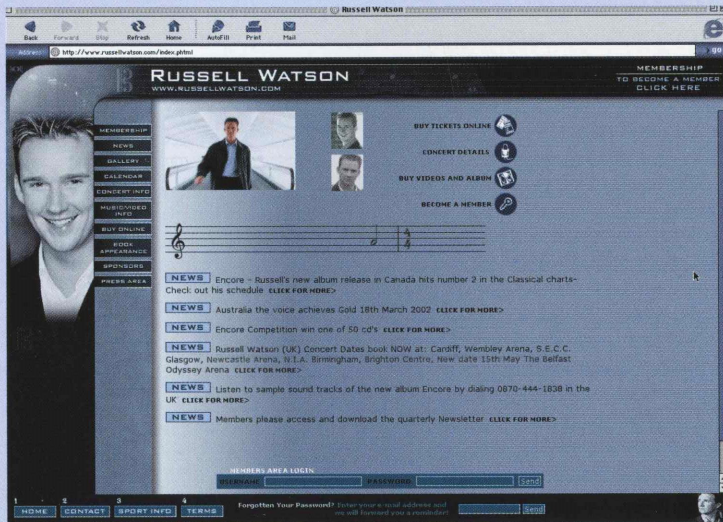
In light of Russell’s dedication to the charity, he was bestowed the honour of Ambassador well before the release of his first album “the voice” and naturally Russell reflects “thankfully the more successful my career the greater help I can be to The Variety Club”.

Should you wish to find out more about the Charity, the link below is to the North West Region website.

www.variety-northwest.org.uk



www.russellwatson.com



Become a member of the official Russell Watson Fan Club.

For more information contact
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PO BOX 77
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CONDUCTOR William Hayward
& MUSICAL DIRECTOR

GUESTS Hayley Westenra
Faye Tozer

BAND Bass Guitar – Trevor Barry
Guitar – Paul Dunne
Drums – Martin Beedle
Keyboards – Pete Murray

Hayley Westenra will not be performing
at Birmingham and Belfast owing to
prior commitments



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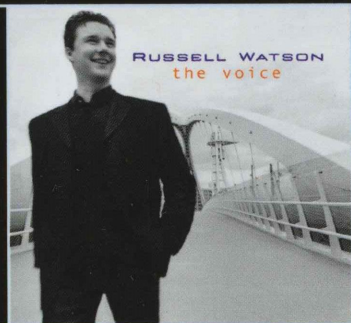
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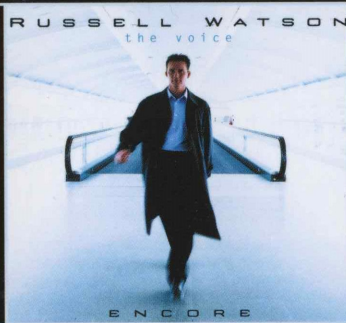


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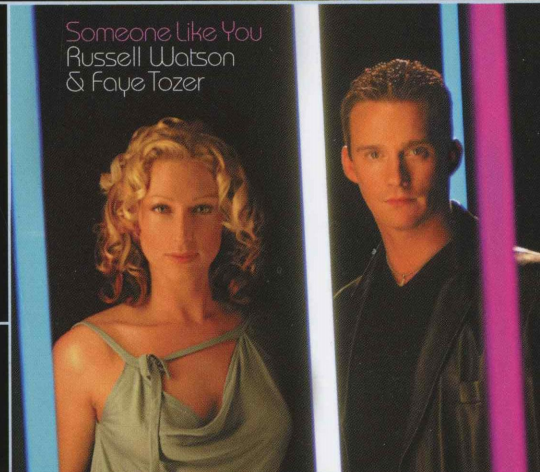
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