



17 January 2024 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Online choir invites the nation to sing “We Are The Champions” in support of Sub-Postmasters

Choir of the Earth today extends a UK-wide invitation to all those who want to show their support for the Sub-Postmasters by teaching and encouraging everyone to contribute their own voice recording on a new arrangement of the iconic song “**We Are The Champions**” by Queen, with net proceeds from the £5 participation fee going to the **Horizon Scandal Fund**.

“We Are The Champions” starts with the words:

*I've paid my dues  
Time after time  
I've done my sentence  
But committed no crime*

Choir of the Earth has commissioned a brand-new unison arrangement of this majestic song for everyone up and down the land to sing in support of the Sub-Postmasters. This unique event is open to everyone, with **no previous singing experience required**. Singers and non singers alike are all welcome.

Those taking part simply need access to YouTube, a phone or device capable of recording sound and a pair of earbuds or headphones. The singing takes place offline and in the privacy of their own homes before being mixed together by world-class sound engineers.

**Mark Strachan**, the Choir's Founder, explains: "With all the wheels turning so slowly in the courts and Parliament, we felt that we all needed a way to show our support collectively as a nation for the Sub-Postmasters. By joining together to sing this song, we shall show that the thoughts of the whole country are with them."

“The words of this song are so appropriate they could almost have been written for this terrible situation” says **Ben England**, award-winning conductor and Musical Director of Choir of the Earth. “Our way of teaching and recording means that

literally anyone can take part from anywhere in the world. We would love everyone to be part of it, young or old, wherever and whoever they are - no previous singing experience is needed!"

## **How it works:**

Everyone can join here: <https://choiroftheearth.com/sing-for-subpostmasters>

As soon as people join, they will receive an email with a link to tune in via YouTube to a singing rehearsal where they will be taught the notes and given tips on how to sing and record.

This teaching session will be led by Choir of the Earth's award-winning Musical Director, Ben England BEM, and will be streamed live at

### **18:00 on Friday 23 February 2024 on YouTube**

It should be noted that people singing along at home cannot be seen or heard by anyone else, meaning there is no pressure as they learn. They only record when they are ready and can sing in comfort and in private.

If people cannot make the livestream as it broadcasts, they can watch it later on and as many times as they wish. This has the effect of making sure that the singers are comfortable with the line before they record their voice.

Once Ben has taught the part, he will explain how to submit the recorded track via a Dropbox link.

The closing date for voice submissions is **Saturday 23 March 2024 at 22:00 UK time.**

Our sound engineers will then combine all voices together in the recording studio to create our unique **SING FOR SUB-POSTMASTERS.**

Then on **23 April 2024, the anniversary of the quashing of criminal charges at the Court of Appeal**, the song will be played to the world through a live broadcast on YouTube.

## **How much is it to take part?**

It costs only £5 to register and join in. All net proceeds will be donated to the [Horizon Scandal Fund](#) which exists to help those caught up in the scandal by disbursing small cash grants to those in need. The grants could be for access to legal advice, counselling, therapy, travel, social events, hardship alleviation and much more. Any singers who wish to give more to the fund will be encouraged to do

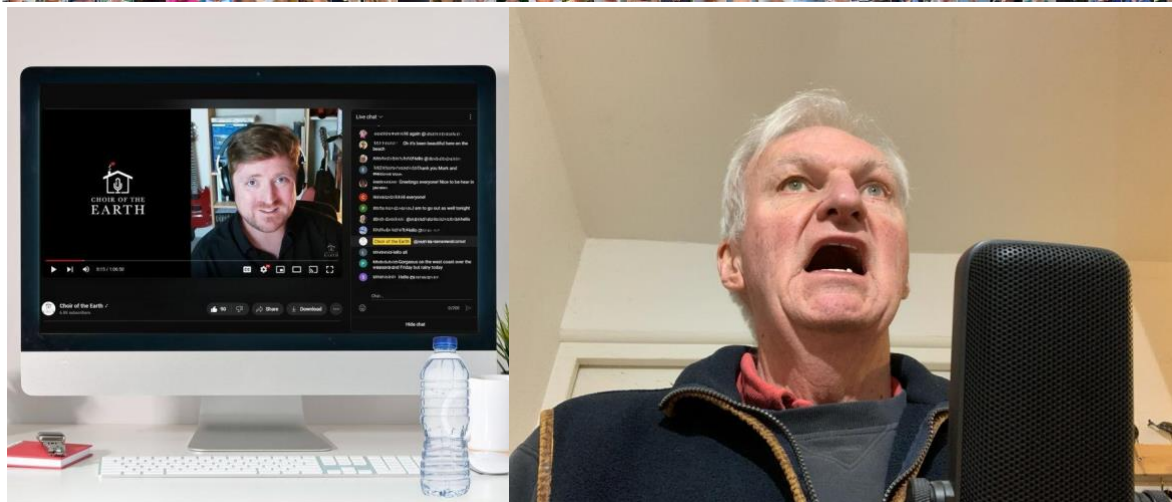
so via the Fund website. Through this project we hope to raise a substantial donation for this vital cause, as well as giving the country an opportunity to raise their voices together to show solidarity and support for the sub-postmasters and their families who have been affected by this scandal.

ENDS

**About Choir of the Earth ([www.choiroftheearth.com](http://www.choiroftheearth.com))**

Choir of the Earth (formally 'The Self-Isolation Choir') was founded in March 2020 as a response to the coronavirus pandemic, aiming to provide comfort and support to people worldwide who were feeling disconnected from family, friends and society by bringing them together to sing glorious choral works. The award-winning online Choir has since attracted more than 10,000 singers worldwide.

Further information about this project and how to take part is available on Choir of the Earth's website: <https://choiroftheearth.com/sing-for-subpostmasters>



Link to hi-res images: <https://we.tl/t-YXjBC1FV6w>

**Mark Strachan founded** Choir of the Earth in March 2020 and it has attracted more than 10,000 singers from all over the world since then. It played a vital role in reducing loneliness levels during the many lockdowns throughout the pandemic.

**Ben England is Musical Director** - an internationally renowned and award-winning conductor, educator and innovator who has received global acclaim for his pioneering work with digital music-making.

Both Mark and Ben were awarded the British Empire Medal by Queen Elizabeth II for services to Musicians, the Community and Choral Music during the pandemic.

### **Technology:**

All that is required to take part is a device with a microphone, an internet connection and a pair of earbuds or headphones. Even for those who don't feel they have a good singing voice, a teaching session where Ben will guide everyone through how to produce a good sound and how to sing the tune. The rehearsal will take place via YouTube on **Friday 23 February 2024 at 18:00 and all participants will be sent the link by email**. Afterwards, participants will be encouraged to record their voice and submit this by **Saturday 23 March 2024**. All voices will be combined in a recording studio and then the complete song will be played back to everyone in a LIVESTREAM on YouTube on **Tuesday 23 April 2024**, the anniversary of the quashing of criminal charges at the Court of Appeal and, by chance, St. George's Day.

For more information, contact Mark Strachan at [mark@choiroftheearth.com](mailto:mark@choiroftheearth.com)