

## So Many Beauties: a new oratorio written by composer Holly Marland and people with Dementia



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

### Information for participant singers

#### Background to the Adages project

The Adages project was set up to create and perform a new, extended piece of music for voices and instruments through working with different groups of older people with Dementia and their carers. So Many Beauties will be performed at Manchester Cathedral on **Thursday 6 April 2017 at 7pm**. The performance will be recorded and discussions are underway with BBC Radio 4 with regard to the possibility of live broadcasts of parts of the work during Dementia Awareness Week in May 2017.

Holly Marland, an experienced music for health practitioner/composer worked in residence with 3 different dementia care settings delivering group and individual sessions with residents/patients and their carers. The project has been supported through partnership between lead practitioner Holly Marland and Music in Hospitals, Royal Northern College of Music and Manchester Cathedral. It has received funding from Arts Council England.

The sessions offered to dementia care settings were designed to stimulate the creative ideas of residents/patients and the people caring for them (staff/families) so a new piece of music could be written together. Activities included singing familiar songs together, creating new songs, exploring and creating poetry, responding to multi-sensory stimuli (tactile objects) and having creative conversations. Four RNCM Students elected to participate in the project as part of their accredited programmes of study. Two guest artists also worked alongside Holly, learning about music in dementia care.

#### The final piece and performance

Working together, poetic and musical ideas were generated which Holly is weaving into an extended piece of music. This accessible piece will be learned by local community singing groups, choirs, choral societies and professional singers and instrumentalists. Holly will provide scores as well as audio of parts for people to help them to learn the music.

There will be a rehearsal at the RNCM for participant singers on **Sunday 2 April 2017 between 2pm and 5pm in the Lecture Theatre and break-out rooms**. Sasha Johnson Manning, an eminent singer, composer and choir leader will be taking the rehearsal as well as conducting the final performance.

On **Thursday 6 April** there will be a full rehearsal in the nave at Manchester Cathedral between **2pm and 4pm**. There may also be sectionals in the Cathedral refectory between **4.30pm and 5.30pm** and refreshments for the singers will be available from **5.30pm onwards**. The event will be dementia friendly and accessible to a broad audience including people in the early stages of dementia and their families.

There will be an exhibition of information stands from different dementia care agencies at this event and the opportunity for informal networking and discussion. The event is likely to attract media interest and should generate positive public interest in the work of participant settings.

#### Register as a participant

To register your interest in taking part as a performer in this event please contact Holly at [hollymarlandmusic@gmail.com](mailto:hollymarlandmusic@gmail.com) or phone 07811 352 102. Please note that Holly may not be able to respond immediately but will endeavour to answer queries and register singers as soon as she can. Participants do not have to buy a ticket to take part! Also, if you are unable to attend rehearsal on the day and can attend Sunday rehearsal that will be fine. If you can't make either rehearsal, get in touch anyway.

#### Booking tickets for friends/family

Tickets for the performance are available at [www.adages.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.adages.eventbrite.co.uk) and are priced at £8 with concessions available at £6 for students, under 16s, those on disability and unemployment benefits, people over 60 or retired, carers and care staff. It is advisable to book ahead in order to guarantee a seat.