They are boys, and they sing, but don’t call them choirboys. ‘Libera’ prefer to be called a vocal group – a real boy band, if you like. And from the first soaring atmospheric moments of this CD you know that they are unlike any vocal group – or choirboys – you’ve ever heard. With shimmering mystical chords and ecstatic harmonies, their voices provide a truly liberating and uplifting experience. At times chillingly plaintive, at others climactic and transcendent. This is truly music to lift the soul.

Although the vocal sounds have their roots in ancient music, ‘Libera’ is an entirely original concept. Boys’ voices have been featured on recordings from classical to rocked-up Gregorian chant – from cathedrals to samples on trance mixes – but here the voices are truly integrated into a music of their own. Special to ‘Libera’ are the innovative textures, and the expressive range of the vocals. Intimate and meditative soloists contrast with vibrant ecstatic chorus harmonies which stretch across the full range of the boys’ voices.

The young performers of ‘Libera’, who meet together at a church in South London, come from a wide range of backgrounds. But united as ‘Libera’ they represent a magical drawing together of vocal talent. They have been described as ‘normal’ and ‘ordinary’ but, as their recordings and performances demonstrate, the music they produce is truly extraordinary.
1. far away Solo: Michael Horncastle

2. sanctus (based on Canon by Pachelbel) Solo: Ed Day

3. ave maria Solo: Conor O’Donnell

4. going home – radio edit
   (based on the Largo from the Symphony No.9 ‘From the New World’ by Dvořák)
   Solo: Michael Horncastle with Tom Cully

5. be still my soul

6. salva me Solo: Tom Cully

7. i vow to thee, my country Solo: Michael Horncastle with Ed Day & Joshua Madine

8. voca me Solos: Joseph Platt, Christopher Robson and Anthony Chadney

9. always with you Solo: Tom Cully

10. we are the lost Solo: Michael Horncastle with Tom Cully

11. i am the day Solo: Ben Crawley

12. recordare Solos: Conor O’Donnell & Joseph Sanders-Wilde

13. abide with me Solo: James Vereycken

14. silent night Solo: Tom Cully with Ed Day

15. going home

All tracks performed by libera

Sam Abouelfaid · Jonathan Barrington · Tiarnán Branson · Thomas Cole
Oliver Cole · Liam Connery · Tom Cully · Edward Day · Jakob de Menezes-Wood
Michael Horncastle · Darnell Jones · Alex Leggett · Samuel Leggett · Zack Lockett
Joshua Madine · Conor O’Donnell · Callum Payne · Benedict Philipp · Ralph Skan
Joseph Snelling · Joseph Sanders-Wilde · James Threadgill · James Vereycken
Michael Vereycken
far away

Music by Takatsugu Muramatsu (NHK),
arranged by Robert Prizeman
Words by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)

Wherever I go
Far away and anywhere
Time after time you always shine
Through dark of night calling after me

And wherever I climb
Far away and anywhere
You raise me high beyond the sky
Through stormy night lifting me above

Venite Spiritu et emitte caelitus
Venite Spiritu et emitte caelitus
Venite Spiritu Venite Spiritus
Far away beyond the sky

Whenever I cry
Far away and anywhere
You hear me call when shadows fall
Your light of hope showing me the way

(With thanks to Toshiba/EMI & NHK TV)

sanctus

Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)
(based on Canon by Pachelbel)

Sanctus, Sanctus

Benedictus qui venit in Domine
Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
Pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria

Benedictus in nomine
Qui venit in nomine
ave maria

*Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)*

Ave Maria, gratia plena
Sancta Maria gratia
Ave Maria, mater Dei
Maria, ora pro nobis
Ora

going home

*Music by Antonin Dvořák, arranged by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)*
*(based on the Largo from the Symphony No.9 ‘From the New World’ by Dvořák)*
*Words by William Arms Fisher*

Going home, going home
I am going home
Quiet like, some still day
I am going home

It’s not far, just close by,
Through an open door
Work all done, care laid by
Never fear no more

Mother’s there expecting me
Father’s waiting too
Lots of faces gathered there
All the friends I knew

I’m just going home

No more stumbling by the way
No more longing for the day
Going to run no more

Morning star lights the way
Restless dreams all gone
Shadows gone, break of day
Real life has begun
There’s no break, there’s no end
Just a living on
Wide awake, with a smile
Going on and on

Going home, going home
I am going home
Shadows gone, break of day
Real life has begun

I’m just going home
be still my soul

Music by Jean Sibelius,
arranged by Robert Prizeman
Words by Katharina von Schlegel,
translated by Jane Laurie Borthwick

Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change he faithful will remain
Be still my soul, thy best thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still my soul, when dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears
Then shalt thou better know his love, his heart
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears
Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment – grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgot – love’s purest joys restored
Be still my soul – when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed – we shall meet at last.

salva me

Words & Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)

Domine deus miserere mei

Carry me away
From the dark I fear
When the storm is near
From the endless night
From my blinded sight
To a sky of light

Free me to fly away
Salva me

Carry me away
From the things that harm
On a sea of calm
From the endless night
From my blinded sight
To a sky of light
i vow to thee, my country

Music by Gustav Holst,
arranged by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)
Words by Cecil Spring-Rice

I vow to Thee, my country, all earthly things above
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice

And there’s another country I’ve heard of long ago
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them
That know

We may not count her armies, we may not see her King
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths
Are peace

voca me

Words & Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)

As secret as a dream you call
As silent as the night for all you cry
Lacrymosa

Lacrymosa dies illa
Dolorosa Domine
Voca
Voca me

You whisper in my silent sleep
You answer to my call when lost I cry
Lacrymosa
always with you

Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)
Words by Robert Prizeman (MCPS) & Ben Crawley

Do you know me, who I am?
I am always with you
I am near you every day
Always share what you do

Follow the path to anywhere
A stranger in the world without you
Forever I will be there
The shadow you always knew

If you think I’ve gone away
And am never with you
I am not so far away
Always shadowing you

Beati quorum via integra est

we are the lost

Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)
Words adapted from ‘In Flanders Fields’ by John McCrea and ‘O God our help in ages past’ by Isaac Watts

We are the lost who lived and loved
We felt the dawn saw sunset glow
For now we lie in row on row
In Flanders fields

O lux beata lumina

The larks fly high where guns destroyed
Now poppies grow and crosses show
Where now we lie in Flanders fields
In row on row

Time like an ever-rolling stream
Bears all its sons away
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the break of day

We shall not sleep who lived and loved
Who felt the dawn saw sunset glow
If you break faith with us who lie
In Flanders fields

From failing hands we throw the torch
Our light be yours to hold it high
For now we lie in Flanders fields
In row on row
i am the day

Words & Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)

I am the day, soon to be born
I am the light before the morning
I am the night, that will be dawn
I am the end and the beginning

I am the alpha and omega
The night and day, the first and last

Illuminosa, immortalis
Sancta gloria
In aeterna

I am the life, soon to begin
I am the new hope in the morning
I am the darkness, soon to be light
I am the rising and the falling

recordare

Music by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)

Miserere, recordare
Miserere nobis
Confutatis maledictis
Recordare, miserere
Dona eis aeternam requiem
Recordare, miserere
Deprecationem nostram

Salva, salva me
abide with me

Music by W H Monk,
arranged by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)
Words by H F Lyte

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

silent night

Music by Franz Gruber,
arranged by Robert Prizeman (MCPS)
Words by Josef Mohr

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night Holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, Holy night
Son of God Love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Adapted Latin words are drawn from the Mass, Requiem Mass, Stabat Mater, Compline and the Psalms. Chorus extract in ‘Voca Me’ based on ‘Stabat Mater’ by Pergolesi and a descant phrase from Hildegard von Bingen
Directed & conducted by Robert Prizeman
Produced by Robert Prizeman and Ian Tilley
Assisted by Sam Coates, Steven Geraghty and Ben Crawley

Violin: Fiona Pears
Cor anglais: John Anderson
Clarinet & recorder: Steven Geraghty
Percussion: Chris Dodd & Steven Geraghty
Keyboards, piano & organ: Robert Prizeman, Ian Tilley & Steven Geraghty

Recorded at Gateway Studios and the Music Place
Session contractors: Barbara Geraghty & Colin Sheen
Mastered at Metropolis by Tony Cousins

Photography by Gary Houlder
Design & Art Direction by Paul Mitchell for WLP Ltd

STEREO DDD

© 2006 The copyright in this sound recording is owned by Robert Prizeman under exclusive licence to EMI Records Ltd.
© 2006 EMI Records Ltd.

Management: The Music Partnership Ltd www.musicpartnership.co.uk

For more information about LIBERA visit
www.libera.org.uk
www.liberaangelvoices.com
www.emiclassics.com