

Embargoed until 00:01am Mon 7 Dec



**MORE NAMES ANNOUNCED FOR  
'THE STARS COME OUT TO SING AT CHRISTMAS'**

To support Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy

A VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH SONGS, CAROLS, READERS  
& FESTIVE GREETINGS

Hosted by **Nile Rodgers**

More artists announced:

**Sir Rod Stewart**

**Robbie Williams**

**Saving Grace**

**ft. Robert Plant and Suzi Dian**

**Alexis Ffrench**

**Mica Paris**

**Friederike Krum**

Plus readings from:

**Bill Nighy**

**Lily James**

**Kwame Kwei-Armah**

**Noma Dumezweni**

**OBE**

**Freddie Fox**

**Tuesday 15th December**

Streamed Globally at 7pm GMT

Watch online at [carols.nordoff-robbins.org.uk](https://carols.nordoff-robbins.org.uk)

Embargoed until 00:01am Mon 7 Dec

The **Nordoff Robbins** Christmas Concert gets even bigger and better, with more fantastic names announced for the charity's star-studded evening of Christmas carols, readings, festive messages and spectacular musical performances. Including performances from **Sir Rod Stewart, Robbie Williams, Saving Grace** featuring **Robert Plant** and **Suzi Dian, Alexis Ffrench, Mica Paris** and **Friederike Krum**, plus incredible readings by **Bill Nighy, Lily James, Noma Dumezweni, Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE** and **Freddie Fox**. 'The Stars Come Out To Sing At Christmas' is free to watch on **Tuesday 15th December**, via [carols.nordoff-robbins.org.uk](http://carols.nordoff-robbins.org.uk)

Now joining the already spectacular line-up is music giant **Sir Rod Stewart**, one of the best-selling artists of all time with ten Number 1 albums to his name, who will perform his version of 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas'; a classic song written in 1944 by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane and introduced by Judy Garland.

Also the record-breaking **Robbie Williams** - the 18-time BRIT Award winner with multiple hit albums and singles, who recently released the deluxe version of his Number 1 album *The Christmas Present*.

More artists announced today are **Saving Grace** featuring renowned musicians **Robert Plant** and **Suzi Dian**, Classical-Soul pioneer and pianist **Alexis Ffrench**, UK's Queen of Soul **Mica Paris** and award-winning Mezzo Soprano **Friederike Krum**.

Readings for 2020's virtual service include the illustrious **Bill Nighy**, BAFTA and Golden Globe winner known for his roles in *Love Actually*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Harry Potter*, as well as fellow A-list actor **Lily James**, star of *Cinderella*, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* and most recently, *Rebecca*. Also Olivier award-winning actress **Noma Dumezweni**, Artistic Director of London's Young Vic theatre and *Casualty* star **Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE** and thespian **Freddie Fox**, whose theatre credits include *The Judas Kiss* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Sir Rod Stewart** says: *"The power of music is limitless and I'm proud to be a part of this year's Carol Service. Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy's work has been life-changing for so many - people with life limiting illnesses, disabilities and those who are vulnerable and isolated. I'll be bringing holiday cheer on 15th December and if you can, give generously to ensure this important work continues."*

**Robbie Williams** adds: *"I'm so excited to be performing at the Nordoff Robbins Carol Service this year. Please join me on Tuesday 15th December for some Christmas cheer, and help to raise vital funds for Nordoff Robbins music therapy."*

Embargoed until 00:01am Mon 7 Dec

For the first time ever, the much-loved **Nordoff Robbins Carol Service** will be virtual, as they continue the legacy of this special event bringing family, friends and supporters together. Hosted by music's most loved legend, **Nile Rodgers**, this year's service will bring Christmas to you at home, with special appearances from a star-studded line-up across the world.

Artists already announced include **Sir Cliff Richard, Roger Daltrey of The Who, Florence Welch, Jack Savoretti, OneRepublic, Freya Ridings, Kaiser Chiefs**, James Dean Bradfield from **Manic Street Preachers, Simple Minds, Rebecca Ferguson**, and **The Script's** Danny O'Donoghue. It's an evening jam packed with special appearances, including festive messages and readings from many special names, more still to come.

This year has been a challenge for everybody and so a host of the biggest stars are coming together to spread much needed Christmas cheer and raise valuable funds for Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy, a charity that is important to every single artist involved. As they perform classic Christmas carols, share their holiday messages and bring some festive surprises along the way, viewers at home are encouraged to enjoy their own Christmas celebrations and most importantly, are invited to donate at any point during the virtual concert.

All proceeds will go to Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy, the **UK's largest independent music therapy charity**, who are dedicated to enriching the lives of people affected by life limiting illness, isolation or disability through music.

The appearances will come from across the globe - including the stars' homes, the famous **Abbey Road Studios** and in keeping with the traditional service from previous years, the choir will be filmed from **St Luke's Church** in Chelsea.

This year's incredible line up would not be possible without the hard work of the Hipgnosis Songs Fund and its CEO and Founder Merck Mercuriadis, who along with co-founder Nile Rodgers have worked tirelessly to rally many of the artists together for the special Christmas concert.

Sandra Schembri, CEO of Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy, said:

*"What a wonderful event this year's carol service is going to be. We are so thankful to everyone who is making this event reality – our funding partner, Hipgnosis Songs Fund, and partners LSEG, OpenExchange and SSE, as well as all the artists who are involved, you are helping to put on a magical evening of Christmas carols.*

Embargoed until 00:01am Mon 7 Dec

*This year Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy has been hit really hard. Our fundraising (pre-pandemic) has always been about bringing people together to celebrate the power of music. But we have simply not been able to do this in 2020.*

*Now we are expecting to lose around half of our income, contributing to a loss of income of £3.5million. This means we will be able to help less people with the power of music – even though our services are needed now more than ever.*

*However, it's events like this, with the support of our partners, artists and everyone watching at home, that will help us continue to meet the needs of people with music as and where we can - whether online or face to face.*

*I hope everyone joins in for a wonderful night and celebrates the power of music with us.”*

Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy is delighted to have SSE as partner for the event, as well as Scala Radio as their media partner for a second year running, Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited as a funding partner and Modern English Digital as digital partner.

The event will be available to watch on **Tuesday 15th December at 7pm GMT** via **[carols.nordoff-robbins.org.uk](https://carols.nordoff-robbins.org.uk)**

### **About Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy:**

Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy is the largest independent music therapy charity in the UK, dedicated to enriching the lives of people affected by life limiting illness, isolation or disability. We receive no direct government funding, which means we rely on the generosity of our supporters.

Our music therapists are expertly trained to tune into each movement, reaction and expression of the individuals they work with to discover how music can enrich their lives. This could be to unlock memories, to communicate where words have failed, to socially connect with family and friends, and to build confidence and self-esteem.

We provide a range of different sessions for children and adults of all ages in our centres in London, Manchester, Newcastle and Scotland - from specialised one-to-one music therapy to shared sessions for groups of different sizes and formats.

We also work in partnerships across the UK to bring music therapy to as many vulnerable people who could benefit from it as possible. These include schools, care homes, hospices, hospitals, mental health services, and brain injury units.

Find out more about Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy here: <https://www.nordoff-robbins.org.uk/>

### **About London Stock Exchange:**

London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) is a global financial markets infrastructure business. Its diversified global business provides valuable services for a wide range of customers focusing on Information Services, Post Trade and Capital Markets. The Group supports global financial stability and sustainable economic growth by enabling businesses and economies to fund innovation, manage risk and create jobs.

Issuer Services Spark (<https://www.lsegissuerservices.com/spark>) is a digital platform from London Stock Exchange which enables its clients and partners to distribute a range of digital and thought leadership content.

### **About OpenExchange:**

OpenExchange is a leading virtual conference and video streaming solution for financial institutions and Fortune 500 companies. OpenExchange specializes in transforming large-scale in-person events to virtual meetings by providing partners with advanced tools and services to meet all of their video streaming needs through its offerings – OE Connect, OE Stream, OE Conference and [Openexchange.tv](https://www.openexc.com/). Its team of video specialists craft bespoke virtual experiences for each event and handle granular logistics so executives can focus on their business agendas. To learn more about OpenExchange, visit <https://www.openexc.com/>.

London Stock Exchange and OpenExchange are proud to be supporting Nordoff Robbins in the digitisation of this year's Christmas concert.

### **About Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited:**

Hipgnosis Songs Fund, which was founded by Merck Mercuriadis, is a Guernsey registered investment company established to offer investors a pure-play exposure to songs and associated musical intellectual property rights. The Company has raised a total of over £1.05 billion (gross equity capital) through its Initial Public Offering on 11 July 2018, and subsequent issues in April 2019, August 2019, October 2019, July 2020 and September 2020. In September 2019, Hipgnosis transferred its entire issued share capital to the Premium listing segment of the Official List of the FCA and to the London Stock Exchange's Premium segment of the Main Market, and in March 2020, became a constituent of the FTSE 250 Index.

Embargoed until 00:01am Mon 7 Dec

**About SSE Energy Services Ltd:**

SSE Energy Services (SSE's GB domestic retail business, and formerly part of the SSE Group) became part of the OVO family in January 2020. The OVO family includes energy suppliers Boost, Spark Energy, and flagship brand OVO Energy, as well as home services brand CORGI HomePlan. OVO Energy is the UK's leading independent energy supplier, with a mission to bring clean, affordable energy to all.

Together SSE and OVO supply energy to almost five million households across the UK, as well as offering other home services including heating and boiler cover and phone and broadband. OVO (S) Electricity Limited is an official sponsor of The SSE Arena, Wembley and The SSE Hydro, Glasgow.

For press enquiries please contact The Outside Organisation:

[suzannah.fellows@outside-org.co.uk](mailto:suzannah.fellows@outside-org.co.uk)

[caitlin.buller@outside-org.co.uk](mailto:caitlin.buller@outside-org.co.uk)