



## Your Love Lifts Me Up - A BSL Community Chorus With A Purpose For Birmingham 2022

### Project Bio/Press Release & Credits

(BSL = British Sign Language)

Birmingham's BSL Community Chorus project, 'Your Love Lifts Me Up', will be presented as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival, a six-month celebration of creativity which surrounds the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The BSL Community Chorus is a Creative City project generously funded by Birmingham City Council.

For the Birmingham 2022 Festival, local artist collective Friends Of Cedar Church have ambitiously orchestrated and provided an uplifting community song to celebrate BSL as a major language in Birmingham, a City of Languages, and across the world. Their Ugandan-born leader Andrew Kisumba, himself a child of the Commonwealth and former recipient of a Commonwealth Scholarship to study Architecture in the U.K., wrote "Your Love Lifts Me Up" in order to build new community bonds, empower the marginalised and infectiously uplift the voices of the unheard.

Over 150 different performers and personnel from different countries have been involved in this truly major creative collaborative effort. In organising and coordinating this, Andrew drew on the talents and expertise of the staff and children of Longwill School for Deaf Children, the musical heritage of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the enthusiasm of Watoto Children's Choir (Uganda), the Shireland Collegiate Academy (West Midlands) and the professional skills of Woodbury Studios. The final result is "Your Love Lifts Me Up", a joyous song of celebration, which fits perfectly with the Festival theme and games' ethos.

Also featured are prominent BSL artists Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford and Rebecca A. Withey. Rebecca wrote a brand-new verse in BSL which has been translated back into English, along with a new musical interpretation of her words through percussion and vocals in the middle section. By working with Head Teacher, Alison Carter, BSL interpreter Olivia Whitter and a team from Deaf Explorer, an additional tutorial video and an alphabet greeting song, "Hello BSL", will circulate throughout over 100 Birmingham schools via the Birmingham Music Service, who will oversee the learning of all vocal and orchestral parts enabling the entire city to learn how to sing and sign together as one mighty chorus.

Along with three versions of the finished recording, there is a joyous official song video featuring all of the artists and groups involved in the project to accompany the audio release. This will be released at the end of March 2022 to coincide with the start of the Cultural Festival in the lead up to the games and beyond.

There will also be a number of live performances of "Your Love Lifts Me Up" as part of the Festival programme which will include the song's featured BSL artists. These will be a 'surprise' flash mob performance at a prominent Birmingham city centre location, a Friends Of Cedar Church Singstanding Community Sing, plus three Birmingham Symphony Hall stagings for the Music Service Summer Series.

**Surprise Birmingham City Centre Flashmob** – TBC

**Singstanding Community Sing** – Sun 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Outside Cedar Church, Lambeth Road, Kingstanding B44 9NR

**Symphony Hall, Birmingham** – Mon 18<sup>th</sup>, Tues 19<sup>th</sup> & Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (Music Service Summer Series)



## Your Love Lifts Me Up - A BSL Community Chorus For Birmingham 2022 - Credits

Created for Birmingham 2022 | ©2001 Kisumba, A. S. (Admin. by Cedar Heart Songs)/PRS/CCLI | All Rights Reserved

Cedar Strings	
Andrew Kisumba	Songwriter, Project Director, Executive Producer & Lead Vocals
Caitlin Kisumba	Violin Solo, Violin & Introduction Arrangement
Sarah Kisumba	Project Administrator & Violin
Eryna Kisumba (& RBC)	Cello, Introduction Score & Arrangement
Jody Smith	Violin
Sam Greaves	Artwork
Dan James & Alli Bell (Cathedral House)	Original Orchestral Score
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC)	
Gabriella Liandu	Lead Vocals
Sean Morrison	Violin
Ricardo Brown Roger	Violin
Emily Dore	Viola
Lucy Samuels	Cello
Ben Markland	Double Bass
Maia Roberts	Flute
Anton Clarke Butler	Clarinet
Yousuf Al Naabi	Bassoon
Ben Hill	Saxophone
Rob Spalton	Trumpet
Richard Shrewsbury	Leap Ensemble Contractor, Conductor & Trombone
Alex Hocknull	French Horn
Archie McVicar	Tuba
Jeremy Clay	New Score Arranger & Piano
Niccoló Conti	Recording Engineer & Mastering Assistant
David Barbulescu	Engineering Assistant
Joe Ockford	Engineering Assistant
Woodbury Studios	
Ross Simpson	Producer, Arranger, Recording & Mixing Engineer
Graham Instrall	Drums & Percussion
Mike McGibney	Bass Guitar
Joe Hazell	Electric Guitars
Abbie Middleton	Backing Vocals
Summer Mawdaley	Backing Vocals & Ad-libs
Ruby Ball	Backing Vocals
Freya Mullings	Backing Vocals
Annabelle Duncan	Backing Vocals
Beatrice Cook	Backing Vocals
Jay Simpson	Backing Vocals
Watoto Children's Choir (Uganda, East Africa)	Chorus
Shireland Collegiate Academy (West Midlands)	Chorus
Longwill School For Deaf Children (Birmingham)	BSL Chorus
Rebecca A. Withey	BSL Lead & New BSL Verse 3 Writer
Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford	BSL Lead & Lead For BSL Song Tutorial & Hello BSL
Olivia Whitter	BSL Interpreter
Rachael Veazey	Deaf Explorer & BSL Song Tutorial Producer
Jay Langdell (JAM-AV Media Production)	Official Video & Documentary Film Production
Nigel Palmer (Lowland Masters)	Audio Mastering
Keith Dixon (Doxmedia)	Digital Platforms
Luke Jerram	Gaia Exhibition at Millennium Point