



THE DECCA 90 GALA

**AN INCREDIBLE EVENING AT LONDON'S ROYAL
ALBERT HALL
TO CONTINUE DECCA'S TRIUMPHANT
90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**



Decca Artists Gareth Malone, Colin Thackery, Isata Kanneh-Mason, Benjamin Grosvenor

**GARETH MALONE ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM ON STAGE
BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT WINNER COLIN THACKERY MAKES
ROYAL ALBERT HALL DEBUT
DEBBIE WISEMAN PERFORMS WORLD PREMIERE OF
DECCA THEME COMPOSITION**

October 9, 2019

Last night, the iconic Royal Albert Hall welcomed a star-studded array of musicians from Decca Records to its stage, as part of Classic FM Live.

What continues to set Decca apart from the rest is its innate ability to cherry pick the finest talent from all ages and backgrounds, and yesterday's line up was a testament to this. From young pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, part of the incredibly gifted & hardworking Kanneh-Mason family to Britain's Got Talent winner **Colin Thackery**, who at 89 years young, is nearly as old as Decca itself!

Both epitomise the diversity of Decca, and produced incredible performances to a packed-out audience. This was Colin's debut at the Royal Albert Hall, but given the fervour for his rendition of "I Vow To Thee My Country", expect it to certainly not be the last. Isata similarly made her debut solo appearance at London's landmark venue, showcasing her prowess behind the piano as she reworked two pieces from Chopin.

Broadcaster and chart-topping choirmaster **Gareth Malone** OBE exclusively announced on stage the news of his forthcoming album, *Music For Healing*, which will see him return to his first instrument, the piano. He looked completely at ease behind the keys, performing the stunning album tracks "January" and "December".

Talented British pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** performed Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue", fusing jazz and classical music to conjure up images of 1920s Manhattan - conducted by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Stephen Barlow.

Composer **Debbie Wiseman** OBE offered a world premiere of the DECCA theme, with the song's melody built on the notes D, E, C, C, A, and featuring a Latin text inspired by the pioneering qualities of the label. It was a truly beautiful body of work from one of the UK's most successful female composers.

As the spectacular fireworks display closed the evening, it offered time to reflect on what has been an incredible year of celebrations for Decca's 90th birthday. The label has featured at iconic British institutions such as the V&A Museum, The British Library and now The Royal Albert Hall, published the lavish *The Supreme Record Company: The Story Of Decca Records 1929-2019* book, released the critically-acclaimed Ron Howard-directed Pavarotti feature film – and there is still even more to come, including an appearance at the Cheltenham International Book Festival this week.

Looking at tonight's superb performers and to the countless other current stars at Decca, the future of the label looks to be as exciting, exhilarating and unpredictable as its eminent past.

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