

...this is the inspirational opening to a song, which 2,000 schools and community groups across the UK will sing, in one of the biggest events of its kind.

**Supporters of the event include:**

Classic FM  
BBC Singers  
The Duchess of Kent  
Arts Minister, Estelle Morris  
Lesley Garrett  
Youth Music  
National Association of Music Educators  
Federation of Music Services  
Music Business Forum  
Children's Music Workshop  
ENO Baylis  
Havering LEA Music Services

**The composer**

The ContinYou song has been specially composed by Alec Roth, well known for his work with author Vikram Seth in composing children's operas and music, drawing on a variety of international traditions.



**ContinYou**

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Design | Navigo | London

Each day  
we start a  
new life...

A song for 5 November





“As a music teacher in a primary school I support and admire the idea of the Big Sing. The whole concept brings together schools and clubs from all over the country singing an inspirational song. I hope countless people will take part in the whole experience. It sounds a very exciting day and I personally look forward to it very much.” Duchess of Kent

“Classic FM is delighted to support the Big Sing – part of a most welcome movement to bring more music into our schools and communities.” Roger Lewis, MD

Be one of 2,000 schools and community groups singing a specially commissioned song given free to all participants. Be amazed at the wonderful sound you can make.

The charity ContinYou is asking schools, clubs and community groups to promote musical activity through group singing. You don't need previous experience of teaching music or singing to take part – this is an event for everyone from serious choirs to scratch singing groups.

You can sing the song at any time of the day. It could be during a breakfast club, lunchtime, assembly, after school or in the evening. You might decide to make the song part of a fireworks celebration or a fundraising event, perhaps for Children in Need.

**Singing is not only enjoyable, it brings us together and it's good for health and positive thinking.**

Your club or school could perform on your own. You could invite parents and others from your local community to listen, or better still, join in. Perhaps you can link it to another local event, join

with other schools in a group workshop or arrange to perform at the local shopping centre or community centre.

The Big Sing will mark the first anniversary of ContinYou – the charity committed to building learning communities – so we hope that it will be an event that brings people together, across the UK, in a huge celebration of singing.

**Discover the joy of singing Each Day. Join us on 5 November.**

**Why join the event?**

This is a celebratory event. A chance for you to join with other groups, clubs, or parents. You will receive a completely free pack of materials, which will contain everything you need to join the event and get good publicity for your school, group or club.

You'll also have a chance to win some great prizes and, after the event, you will receive a certificate to thank you for joining in.

We will provide you with:

- a recording of the song in different styles

- score, lyrics and parts (you might like to involve an instrumental group)
- guidance on getting children and adults ready to sing
- advice on how to get the most out of teaching the song
- suggestions about ways of organising your own event
- ideas for publicity, including a draft press-release
- a chance to win great competition prizes.

We will also provide synchronised signing, with a video to enable you to sign along with the song.

Please help spread the word. Tell friends, colleagues, community groups, youth clubs, scouts and guides, parent and toddler groups, faith group choirs, hospitals, local fire brigades – everyone can take part.

**Why singing?**

Young people's interest in popular music is stronger than it has been for many decades. But, as teachers are the first to recognise, curriculum pressures can make it difficult to convey the richness and variety of music in our education and culture. The Big Sing is

one practical way of enabling teachers and tutors to set up a singing group. Because singing is such an inclusive activity, it is also a helpful tool for involving parents and community groups in the life of the school and the learning process.

The *Music Manifesto*, published in July by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education and Skills, commits the government and top music organisations to building:

“...pathways for progression in music so that all young people, whatever their background or abilities, have access to a rich and diverse range of musical experiences, within and outside school.”

ContinYou supports the *Music Manifesto* through the Big Sing.

ContinYou is delighted that the BBC Singers and regional orchestras will provide singing workshops in selected locations in the autumn term across the UK to prepare for the Big Sing. Places are free to Big Sing participants.

Please cut along dotted line  and return it completed to the address on the back cover

**So, send off for a pack today**

- To register for the event, you can:
- 1 complete this form and post it to us
  - 2 visit [www.continyou.org.uk](http://www.continyou.org.uk) and complete the form online
  - 3 photocopy the form and fax it to: 020 8709 9933 for the attention of Zoë Wharnsby
  - 4 Call Zoë on 020 8709 9918 or email [zoe.wharnsby@continyou.org.uk](mailto:zoe.wharnsby@continyou.org.uk)

Name:

Job title/role:

Have you previous experience of teaching singing? Yes  No

School or organisation:

Address:

Birmingham  Glasgow  
 Cardiff  London

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

Local authority:

If you plan to coordinate a number of singing groups, please indicate how many groups

Please give a rough indication of the total number of participants you hope to include in your event

Is your event  school or  community based

Do you hope to involve (please tick all which may apply):  
 boys  girls  adults  
 participants with a disability

Might you consider involving (please tick):  
 school staff  parents  governors  
 other community groups  
 other schools  
 completely new partners

Are you interested in attending a free BBC singing workshop in:  
 Birmingham  Glasgow  
 Cardiff  London

Finally, if requested, may we let other groups know that you are taking part in the event?  
 Yes  No

**Welcome to the Big Sing!**  
Your pack will be sent out early in September.