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# *Embargo*

The information contained in this media guide is embargoed until 20:30 British Summer Time (GMT+1) 29 August 2012. During the Ceremony there are some things we'd like to keep secret for the audience until the moment they're revealed so please don't spoil the surprise.

**Ian McKellen**

Ian McKellen plays a Prospero-like character from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, who sends Miranda on her journey of discovery and then brings her back to the here and now, London 2012. He appears in the following segments:

**MIRANDA (page 14)**

*[in front of the Cauldron]*

"Miranda! Miranda!

Go out into the world!

Will you be, for all of us gathering here, our eyes, our ears and our hearts?

Will you shine your light on the beautiful diversity of humanity

Understand those rights that protect us

Will you look up, stretch your wings and fly

Take this journey for all of us and will you set us free?"

**BRAVE NEW WORLD (page 22)**

*[standing next to Miranda centre stage, after the umbrella lifts]*

"Miranda!

Books are the engines of change, windows on the world, lighthouses erected in the sea of time. They are companions, teachers, magicians, guardians of the treasures of the mind. Books are humanity in print."

**NAVIGATION (page 24)**

*[following Miranda's speech, as she boards the boat]*

"Miranda!

Follow the light!

Sail out and discover new worlds!"

**GRAVITY (page 26)**

*[from the 'protocol stage' during the maze construction]*

"Miranda!

Immerse yourself in these wonders of science and the stars!"

**EMPOWERMENT (page 30)**

*[on the 'book stage' at the end of 'I Am What I Am']*

"I am somebody, I am what I am".

**Brave New World (page 22 of the media guide)**

Stephen Hawking no longer delivers the following message: 'The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge'

**Principia (page 14 and 42 of the media guide)**

The lyrics to 'Principia' are as follows

Ah...Principia

Ah... Principia

Ah...

Newton said

Newton said

Hypotheses non fingo

Light

Einstein said

E=MC2

Higgs Boson is declared

Light

How we search... beyond the boundaries of time

We see ourselves

We are so afraid but so curious

Hawking said:

Look up at the stars, look up at the stars

Light

In our light

We shine the torch beyond this world

We shine across the boundaries of time

We are the citizens of hope

And every human has a right to life and light

And light

No-one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life of light

We hope that ignorance and fear has left us in the stratosphere of light

We're here

We shine the torch beyond this world

We shine

Beyond the boundaries of time

But will we leave behind which laws, discoveries, athletic feats

We'll leave behind our knowledge, our courage, our dignity

Ah...Principia

Ah



## *Her Majesty The Queen*

It is with tremendous pride that the people of London and the United Kingdom welcome the world to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The Games are returning to the country where they first began, more than 60 years ago.

We look forward to celebrating the uplifting spirit which distinguishes the Paralympic Games from other events, drawing on Britain's unique sporting heritage.

The athletes' endeavours and triumphs will excite and inspire people wherever they live. I look forward to memorable Games that leave a lasting legacy for London, the UK and the worldwide Paralympic Movement.



## Sebastian Coe

Chair, London 2012 Organising Committee

Welcome everyone to London and to the United Kingdom.

Welcome to a city and a country transformed and transfixed by the joy and greatness of sport, and welcome to a city ready to inspire the world at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The Agitos have replaced the Olympic Rings, and we're ready to experience the drama, excitement, unique emotion and inspiration of elite sport from Paralympic athletes who have brought the world together for tonight's Opening Ceremony.

We will provide a grand and global stage for the Paralympic Games in the days ahead, that will enable the athletes to inspire the world as they set new standards for sport, human achievement, daring and imagination.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games marks a unique milestone for British sport and society, heralding the homecoming of a global sporting phenomenon that began in 1948, with the vision of Dr Ludwig Guttmann to use sport to help the recovery of war-injured patients at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, just outside London. We're proud that this setting prompted a medical and social revolution through sport that has spread worldwide.

A new Games is about to begin, and new role models and stories of heroism and heartbreak will emerge, and inspire a generation. We want the athletes and everyone involved in these Games to inspire disabled and non-disabled young people from all backgrounds to have the same access and opportunities to fulfil their potential.

A journey like no other – that showcases sport, the human spirit and amazing human performances – is about to begin. Thank you for sharing this with us and the athletes.



## *Sir Philip Craven*

President, International Paralympic Committee

On behalf of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement, welcome to the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Tonight's Ceremony sees the Paralympic Games return to its spiritual home, the country where it all started just 64 years ago. Since then the Paralympic Movement and the Paralympic Games have grown exponentially into the second biggest multi-sport event in the world.

Tonight's theme, 'Enlightenment', will be a celebration of the Games returning home and will pay homage to the inspirational athletes who have done so much to challenge the perceptions of human possibility.

Central to it will be the Athletes' Parade featuring a record 4,200 athletes from 166 National Paralympic Committees – a far cry from the 16 injured servicemen who took part in the first 1948 Stoke Mandeville Games, which acted as the pioneer for what we will see tonight and over the coming days.

Each athlete has a different story to tell, each has dedicated years of their lives training to reach this point and each will act as an inspiration for billions of people around the world for years to come with their athletic performances.

Not only will we see the Paralympic Flame lit in the Olympic Stadium tonight, but we will see a greater source of energy created in the form of the Paralympic Spirit.



## *Rt Hon David Cameron MP*

Prime Minister

Sport is about challenge, effort and inspiration – and those values lie at the heart of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. I am proud that their spirit was born in this country just as I am proud that these Paralympic Games will be the most prominent ever.

They build on a tradition established in the United Kingdom in 1948, when on the opening day of the London Summer Olympics a small band of disabled World War II veterans first competed at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Planned and delivered as a central part of London 2012, these Games mark a major move forward in the status of Paralympic sport.

Yet from those pioneers to today's great global Paralympic Movement, one thing has remained unchanged: the powerful and impressive commitment of all those involved.

Competition reveals amazing possibilities and I know that the London 2012 Paralympic Games will thrill crowds, open minds and change lives. They will create new role models, they will change attitudes to disability and they will have a positive impact on society. But most of all they will be a fantastic showcase for top-class sport and I can't wait to watch.



## *Boris Johnson*

Mayor of London

Tonight we open a new chapter in London's rich sporting history.

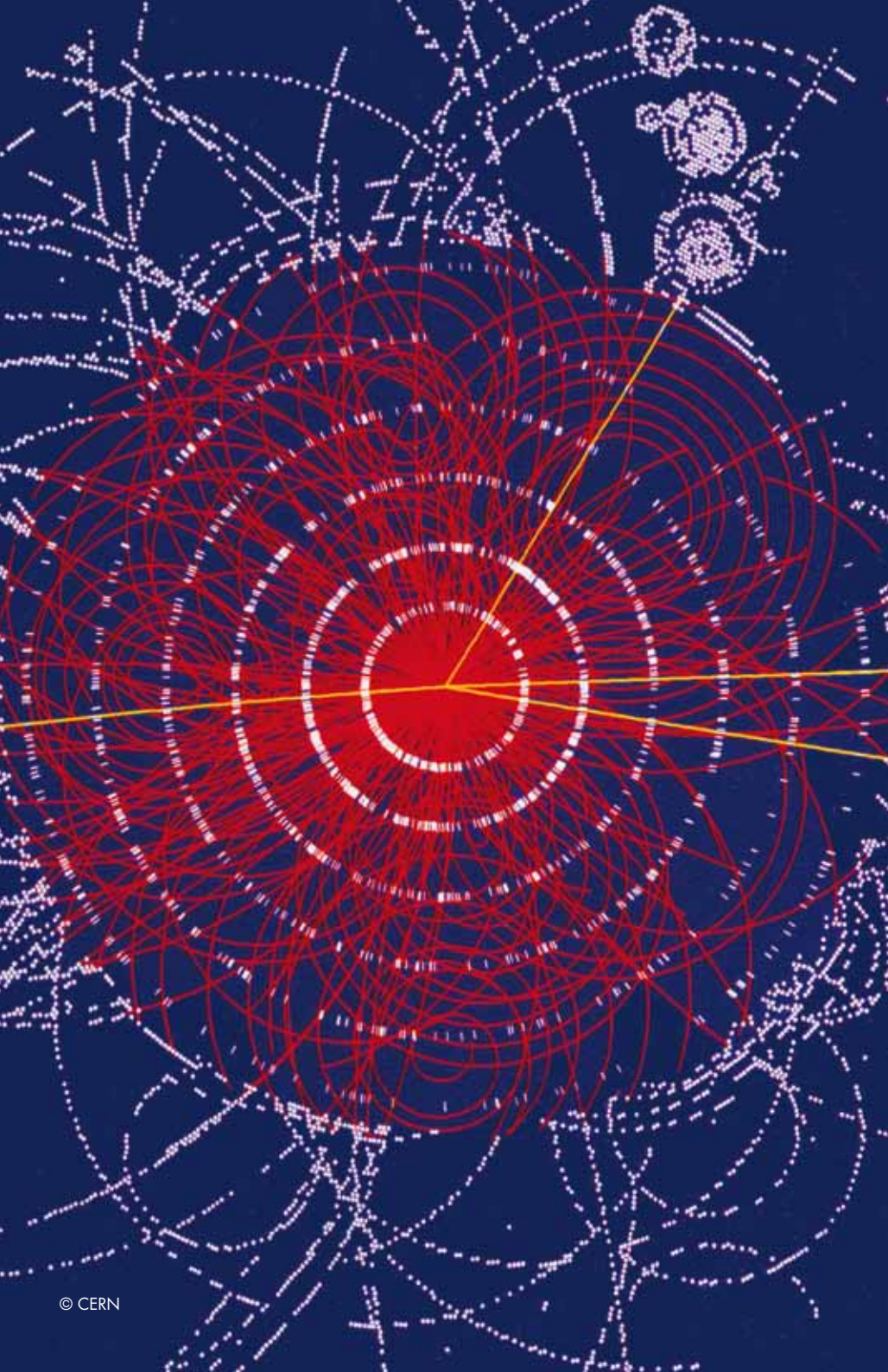
While our capital city has now hosted three Olympic Games, and while the Paralympic Movement was born only a few miles away, these Paralympic Games are London's first. I could not be more proud to welcome you on this momentous evening.

London has welcomed the world for centuries, as a global centre of culture and trade, absorbing the best talent and tradition from the four corners of the earth. London today is an urban United Nations of language and culture, its persistent strength drawn from its staggering diversity. What better host for an international celebration of disability sport and culture?

London never rests on its laurels, though. We promised to deliver highly accessible Games, with a world class welcome for disabled people. The facilities for these Games – including the magnificent Stadium in which we lucky few now sit – have been built to the highest standards of accessibility, comfortably accommodating all Paralympic athletes and disabled spectators. Elsewhere in London we've improved access across our public transport network, upgraded the walkways along the historic South Bank of the Thames and committed ourselves to giving disabled visitors the best possible information and customer service.

The Paralympic Games have inspired us to make London a more inclusive and welcoming city, to shift perceptions of disability and break down barriers in society. This evening, millions of people around the world are about to discover how the Paralympic Games will inspire them.





# Enlightenment

It is with great pride that we welcome you to the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Tonight the Paralympics return to Britain and this Opening Ceremony therefore marks an emotional homecoming. The original 1948 Stoke Mandeville Games was the creation of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, an extraordinary scientist who, during the Second World War, introduced a whole new approach to treating and empowering people with spinal cord injuries. Guttmann's science and humanity ignited the global Paralympic Movement, and in this same spirit we wanted to create a Ceremony celebrating the transformational possibilities of ideas, science and human endeavour.

Through our central character, Miranda, our point of consciousness is created and we follow her journey of discovery. She is guided by the world's most celebrated scientist, Professor Stephen Hawking, who reminds her to be curious and to look at the world as it really is if she is to understand it. Through Miranda's eyes we experience one of the world's most remarkable discoveries, gravity, as well as the Hadron Collider at CERN and its importance in transforming our perception of our place in the universe. We also look out into deepest space and pay homage to *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

We're working with an exceptional design and choreography team, and have identified leading artists to contribute to the uplifting theme of the show. We're also incredibly proud of our inspiring Arts Council England-funded training programme for our professional cast at Circus Space, which will also create a legacy long after the Ceremony.

On tonight's journey we hope that you will join with us in celebrating the empowering possibilities of ideas, science and creativity, through which we can realise our full potential: who we are and who we aspire to be.

***Bradley Hemmings & Jenny Sealey***

**Artistic Directors**

**London 2012 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony**

# Opening Ceremony overview

## Running order

Miranda  
Majesty  
Spirit in Motion  
Homecoming  
Brave New World  
Navigation  
Gravity  
Collision  
Empowerment  
Enlightenment  
I Am What I Am

## Key team

Artistic Directors: Bradley Hemmings & Jenny Sealey  
Designer: Jon Bausor  
Costume Designer: Moritz Junge  
Music Director/Composer: Martin Koch  
Choreographer/Director of Movement: Kevin Finnan

## Key points

Tonight we'll take you on a journey of discovery inspired by the wonder of science and its power to transform perceptions. Our guide will be the world's most celebrated scientist, Professor Stephen Hawking, with whom we'll be looking out into deepest space before encountering a Stadium-sized library, voyaging across a sea of ideas and pausing to reflect under the apple tree in Isaac Newton's garden, before finally ending up in the dynamic world of contemporary London.

The Ceremony explores the twin themes of reason and rights.

Spectators will be taken on a journey of discovery, inspired by the wonder of science and its power to transform perceptions, led by the character Miranda, as featured in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

The Ceremony features the use of umbrellas as a motif – the designer describes the umbrella as quintessentially British and full of comic potential.

The origins of the Paralympic Movement can be traced back to the 1948 Stoke Mandeville Games, in a small village in Buckinghamshire. So the Opening Ceremony also marks an emotional homecoming as the Paralympic Games return to Britain.

## The Age of Enlightenment

During the 18th century, an intellectual, philosophical, cultural and social movement took hold and the amount of new knowledge that emerged was phenomenal. The Age of Enlightenment saw a period of unprecedented independent thought, when the fields of mathematics, astronomy, physics, political theory, economics, philosophy and medicine all saw accepted orthodoxies challenged and overturned.

## London 2012 Paralympic Games

### Key performers

Key performers this evening include Ziya Azazi, Birdy, Flawless, Gandini Juggling, Graecae Theatre Company, Stephen Hawking, Heart n Soul, Beverley Knight, Denise Leigh, Ian McKellen, Nicola Miles-Wildin, Orbital, Caroline Parker, Spirit in Motion DJs Goldierocks, DJ Walde and DJ Excalibah, Elin Manahan Thomas and David Toole.

The professional cast includes 73 Deaf and disabled performers.

The volunteer cast of 3,250 hails from all over the world (every continent is represented). They range in age from 10 to 80 years old.

The 75 child volunteers were drawn from three schools in the six east London Host Boroughs.

As a child Roger Winfield, one of the volunteer marshalls, was a Flagbearer at the 1984 Summer Paralympic Games in Stoke Mandeville.

The audition process included skating, cycling and dancing.

The volunteers gave up their evenings and weekends to take part in a total of 106 rehearsals at two east London sites. On average, adult volunteers rehearsed for 85 hours each.

There are 68 disabled volunteers:

- 27 wheelchair users
- 9 visually impaired
- 27 hearing impaired
- 3 Downs Syndrome
- 1 amputee
- 1 autistic

11

competition days

503

medal events

20

sports

20

venues

20

venues

4,200

athletes

166

National Paralympic Committees

1,223

Games officials (technical officials and classifiers)

### Tickets

2.5 million tickets

More than **50 per cent of tickets** are **£10 or less**

Prices **start at just £5** for seniors and young people

## Other London 2012 Ceremonies

### *Olympic Opening Ceremony*

**Friday 27 July**

'This is for everyone' was the theme of the Opening Ceremony. The Ceremony captured the great revolutions in British society – the Industrial Revolution, the revolution of social attitudes that began in the 1960s and the digital revolution through which we're living now. Artistic Director Danny Boyle celebrated the achievements of key figures from British history and the creativity, exuberance and generosity of the British people. Performers included Rowan Atkinson in a comedy sequence with the London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of the World Wide Web), Sir Paul McCartney, Kenneth Branagh as Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and Her Majesty the Queen, as herself, in a scene with James Bond (Daniel Craig) shot at Buckingham Palace.

### *Olympic Closing Ceremony*

**Sunday 12 August**

A celebration of all that's good about London, British people, our music and culture, the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games captured the spirit that's inspired so much global creativity over the past 50 years. Artistic Director Kim Gavin called on some of the UK's most successful musicians – and a cast of more than 3,500 volunteers – to help celebrate the achievements of the 10,490 Olympic athletes. Performers included Beady Eye, Russell Brand, Darcey Bussell, Taio Cruz, Ray Davies, Elbow, Eric Idle, Jessie J, George Michael, Kate Moss, Muse, Queen, Timothy Spall, The Spice Girls, Take That, Tinie Tempah and The Who.

### *Paralympic Closing Ceremony*

**Sunday 9 September**

Artistic Director Kim Gavin's 'Festival of the Flame' will see Coldplay, one of the world's best-selling music acts, perform a live and one-off concert. They'll play a set of their most iconic music in celebration of Britain's rich culture of festivals – from the ancient to the modern day – alongside a cast of almost 2,000. The Ceremony will also celebrate the achievements of amazing Paralympian endeavour over the previous 11 days and mark the last night of the London 2012 Games.



# The Olympic Park

When Seb Coe, then Chair of the London 2012 Bid Committee, presented the bid in Singapore in 2005, he pledged to make London 2012 the most sustainable Games ever.

This meant the complete transformation of a former, under-developed part of the Lower Lea Valley here in east London; much of it was a large, polluted industrial wasteland, difficult to access and visually blighted with overhead power lines, derelict buildings and piles of rubbish.

In less than seven years, London 2012 has created the Olympic Park and venues, new infrastructure for transport, energy, water and telecoms, and established a blueprint for a sustainable new community in east London based on the principles of 'One Planet Living'. After the Games, it will become the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

All the sports venues and other buildings and infrastructure have been planned and designed with legacy in mind. If they had a potential future use they were built as permanent structures, but sized only according to their future requirements. All other structures – from additional seating stands to whole sports venues, and even parts of many of the bridges spanning the railways, roads, rivers and canals that pass through and around the site – have been installed on a temporary basis.

The Olympic Park has been the spark for wider regeneration in east London. New housing, businesses and amenities are already springing up in the areas around the Olympic Park.

The vision was also about inspiring change, having a lasting influence on the way people think and behave, and setting new sustainability standards for the event industry.

Far more than just a 'green Games', London 2012 has been the catalyst for demonstrating sustainability at an unprecedented scale.

## Facts and stats

2.5

square kilometres – the size of the Olympic Park– roughly 350 football pitches

52

pylons that dominated the Olympic Park landscape were removed and replaced underground in two 6km tunnels

102

hectares of parklands, including 45 hectares managed for nature conservation, has been created

5

– the number of days it took to transform the Athletes' Village for the Paralympic Games after the Olympic Games

4,000

smooth newts, 100 toads, 300 common lizards, as well as fish including pikes and eels, were relocated during construction to protect them

4,000

trees, 300,000 wetland plants and more than 150,000 perennial plants have been planted across the Olympic Park

30,000

tonnes of silt, gravel and rubble as well as tyres, shopping trolleys, timber and at least 1 motor car were removed during a multi-million pound dredging programme

1,800+

wheelchair users will stay in the Paralympic Village, as well as 22 assistance dogs

## *The Opening Ceremony scene-by-scene*

'Ever since the dawn of civilisation, people have craved for an understanding of the underlying order of the world. Why it is as it is, and why it exists at all. But, even if we do find a complete theory of everything, it is just a set of rules and equations. What is it that breathes fire into the equations, and makes a universe for them to describe.'

**Stephen Hawking**

# Miranda

**Duration: 00:14:45**

The Ceremony's opening section introduces us to our central character, Miranda who encourages us to look at the world with a sense of wonder and curiosity. Professor Stephen Hawking – perhaps the world's most brilliant physicist – appears on the 'moon stage' and speaks of the quest for understanding the origins of the universe.

A glowing, celestial sphere descends into the middle of a giant central umbrella structure, igniting the 'big bang', of which Hawking has written extensively. Some 600 volunteer performers surround the main umbrella, each one carrying an umbrella that lights up as they radiate out from the centre. Fireworks explode in a starry burst which, in turn, expands onto the pixel screen transporting us into deepest space.

We're then brought back to contemporary London, as shooting stars on the pixel screen transform into rain drops. The umbrellas become the focus for a street dance by Flawless, accompanied by sway pole and aerial choreography.

Miranda's eyes become our eyes as the cast reforms to create the image of a giant eye staring out of the Stadium. Stephen Hawking encourages her to be curious and she looks out to see mechanical objects entering the Stadium. She sees Newton's apple, a revolving book showing the text of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, both seemingly powered by wheelchairs, and a pulsating ball of energy representing the Higgs particle.

'We live in a universe governed by rational laws that we can discover and understand. Look up at the stars, and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.'

**Stephen Hawking**

## Cast and creatives

- Professor Stephen Hawking is a British theoretical physicist and author. Throughout his distinguished career he's carried out groundbreaking work in the fields of quantum gravity and general relativity. He was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease at the age of 21. See biography p36
- Discovered on the TV show, *Britain's Got Talent*, Flawless are one of the UK's top professional dance acts. See biography p36
- The cast includes 42 Deaf and disabled people who took part in an eight-week training programme at Circus Space in London, funded by Arts Council England. The performers, from all walks of life (including artists, sports people and ex-servicemen), learnt circus, aerial and other performance skills in preparation for the Ceremony. This investment also means that the legacy of tonight's Ceremony will live on into 2013 and beyond.
- 600 volunteer performers and a choir of 430 volunteer singers.
- Nicola Miles-Wildin, who plays 'Miranda' is a professional actress and Assistant Director of Graeae Theatre Company's power-wheelchair dancing troupe Rhinestone Rollers. See biography p37
- Grant Mouldey, founder member of Strange Fruit sway pole performance company, leads the choreography.

## Music

- Music Director Martin Koch – see biography p39
- The choral performance 'Principia' was specially composed by Greenwich-based Errollyn Wallen, who has been described by the *Observer* newspaper as a 'renaissance woman of contemporary British music'.
- 'Principia' is conducted by David Charles Abell whose repertoire encompasses symphonic music, opera and musical theatre.
- The choirs are made up of six London-based choirs – Hackney Singers, London Gay Men's Chorus, The London Chorus, Lewisham Choral Society, Barts' Choir and Hackney Empire Community Choir.

## Action

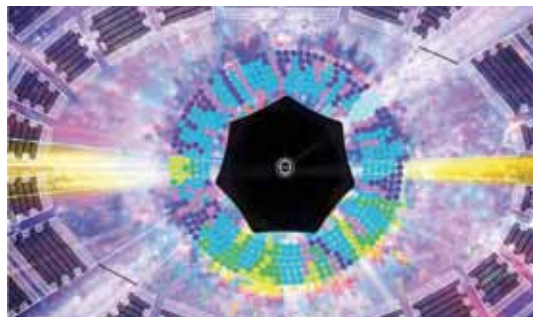
### The Big Bang

A glowing, celestial sphere descends into the middle of the central umbrella structure, igniting the 'big bang', which transforms the Stadium into a giant nebula in space. Flawless perform to the track 'Umbrella' by Rihanna – see p42 for lyrics.



### Miranda

The cast creates the image of a giant blinking eye, using their umbrellas to form the iris, while sway pole performers suggest eyelashes. Out of this blink we meet our central heroine, Miranda, who is encouraged by Professor Hawking to 'be curious'.



### Principia

As three mechanical objects enter the field of play a 430-strong choir performs 'Principia', a new choral piece by Errollyn Wallen that celebrates science and human endeavour. The silk covering on the central umbrella is whisked off to reveal the northern hemisphere with Miranda on top of the world.



## Facts and stats

23

sway poles used in the performance, the largest number ever used together in one performance

3

sets of shoes each swaypole performer has gone through during the rehearsal period, due to all the climbing

18,000

LED lights in the performers' hat brims

### Background notes

- Umbrellas are a motif running throughout the Ceremony. Designer Jon Bausor says, 'The umbrella, or broly, is a quintessentially British object that protects us from the rain. The steel-framed version was invented in 1852 by the British industrialist, Samuel Fox. It's a triumph of design and transformation and full of comic potential!'
- Sway poles appear for the first time in this segment. They're 4.5m high and provided by Strange Fruit, an Australia-based performing arts company.
- A nebula is an interstellar cloud of dust, hydrogen, helium and other ionized gases. Formations of gas, dust, and other materials clump together to form larger masses, which attract further matter, and eventually become big enough to form stars.
- The title of Errollyn Wallen's 'Principia' is taken from Sir Isaac Newton's mathematical treatise *Principia Mathematica*. The lyrics celebrate science and human endeavour referencing Newton, Hawking, Einstein, the recently discovered Higgs particle and the Paralympic Games. For lyrics see p42



# Majesty

**Duration: 00:01:00**

As the choral performance ends, the ensemble cast position themselves around the central umbrella and switch on their umbrella lights once more for the entrance of Her Majesty The Queen. This is the first time our monarch has officiated at the openings of both the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.

A fanfare is heard and Her Majesty is welcomed into the Presidential Box by Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee.

After The Queen is seated, nine servicemen and women from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are discovered holding the Union Flag. They process the Union Flag past the Queen to the accompaniment of William Walton's 'A Wartime Sketchbook'.

The flag is then raised to the accompaniment of Benjamin Britten's arrangement of the National Anthem, performed by the 430-strong choir. A section of the choir sings the first verse, quietly, and then the mass choir join in on the second verse. A 'signing choir' of 12 signs the lyrics and the words are displayed on the Stadium screens. During the National Anthem the cast switch on their lights to create a stylised representation of the Union Flag.

## Cast and creatives

- The team of Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel:

### Team Leader

Flight Lieutenant Marsden – RAF Halton

### Flag Bearers

Corporal of the Horse Brophy – The Household Cavalry Mounted Division; Lance Corporal Steane – Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards; Warrant Officer Vaughan – RM Poole; Chief Petty Officer Appleton – HMS Raleigh; Leading Hand Campbell – HMS Coniston; Warrant Officer Grundy – RAF Cranwell; Sergeant Hyde – RAF Valley; Lance Corporal O'Mahoney – The Household Cavalry Mounted Division

### Flag Raisers

Able Seaman Patel – HMS King Alfred; Corporal Penman – RAF Lossiemouth; Lance Corporal Peelo

## Music

- The signing choir is made up of Deaf people based in London and Liverpool.
- Eve Stephens, a member of the choir, now aged 77, attended every day of the athletics at Wembley at the 1948 Olympics.
- Benjamin Britten's arrangement of the National Anthem was written for the Leeds Festival in 1951 and set to two verses. It is an unusually majestic version and is sometimes performed at The Proms. The first verse is heard unaccompanied, before a crescendo and key change announce a triumphant second verse. This is the National Anthem as you've never heard it before – another way in which this Ceremony transforms perceptions.
- The music is recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO). The Orchestra was founded in 1904 and since 1982 has been based in the Barbican Centre in the City of London. They're widely regarded as one of the world's leading orchestras.

## Action

### The Union Flag

The Union Flag is processed past the Queen by servicemen and women from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. After the choral performance, the lights on the umbrellas create the Union Flag around the central umbrella during the National Anthem.



### Her Majesty The Queen

Her Majesty The Queen enters the Stadium and is met by the President of the International Paralympic Committee, Sir Philip Craven.



## Facts and stats

442

people in the singing  
and signing choir

### Background notes

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is celebrating her Diamond Jubilee this year, the 60th year of her reign. She's the second-longest serving monarch in British history. This is the first time our monarch has officiated at the openings of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Audio-description throughout the Ceremony is provided by Channel 4, who have worked closely with the audio-describers – William Elliot and Hannah McBride – and the Ceremony Artistic Directors.

# Spirit in Motion

**Duration: 01:15:00**

'Spirit in Motion' is the motto of the Paralympic Movement and as athletes from across the world enter the Stadium, they receive a suitably energising welcome with a global music mash-up created by three London DJs.

Teams from 166 nations, the largest ever number in the history of the Paralympic Games, enter the Stadium in alphabetical order – except for the host country, ParalympicsGB who, following tradition, enter last.

Each delegation is dressed in its official uniform and is preceded by a placard bearer announcing the country name in English. Once again, umbrellas feature – providing the placards and the deconstructed skirts echoing umbrella ribs. The costumes have been finished by aerosol artists, which gives an edgy, urban feel. The teams parade around the Stadium before moving to their designated seating areas.

## Cast and creatives

- Deaf actor Deepa Shastri was nominated for a Children's BAFTA for her work with Gamelab as a children's storyteller. She also works for Stagertext, campaigning for theatres to make their shows more accessible to Deaf and hard of hearing people.
- More than 650 volunteer performers.
- The dance performances in tonight's Ceremony have been facilitated by 10 dance captains. One of them, Laura Jones, has been a dancer with StopGAP Dance Company since 2001, she was the first wheelchair user to complete A-Level Dance. Mark Smith, another of the dance captains, is the founder and Artistic Director of Deaf Men Dancing.

## Music

- Music mixed and played by three local DJs – DJ Walde, DJ Excalibah and Goldierocks. See biography p38
- 'Spirit in Motion' is an original composition written by Errollyn Wallen, with orchestral accompaniment by the London Symphony Orchestra.
- Blind soprano Denise Leigh won Channel 4's *Operatunity*. Since her operatic debut in 2003 she's sung all over the world. See biography p37

## Action

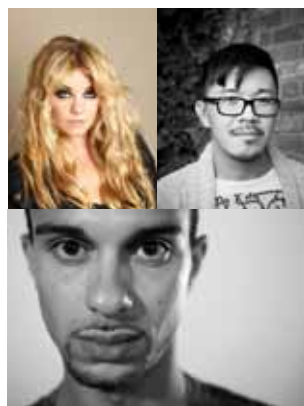
### Athletes' Parade

Athletes from across the world enter the Stadium. Each team is dressed in its official uniform and is preceded by a placard bearer announcing the country name, in its official language and English.



### Global mash-up

The athletes are welcomed by a global music mash-up created by local DJs Goldierocks, DJ Walde and DJ Excalibah.



### Spirit in Motion

When all the athletes are in place, soprano Denise Leigh sings the athlete tribute song, 'Spirit in Motion'. The words are signed by Deaf actor Deepa Shastri. See p43 for 'Spirit in Motion' lyrics.



## Facts and stats

4,200

athletes

500

marshals – including one who was a flagbearer at the 1984 Summer Paralympic Games at Stoke Mandeville

166

placards – all written using the London Underground Font, with special permission from Transport for London

### Background notes

- As part of the bid to host the 2012 Games in London, a UK-wide request was made for babies who were born on the 20th day of the 12th month of 2004 to be registered with 'The Children's Promise'. A pledge was made to involve these 20/12 babies in events surrounding the Games. Around 750 children were registered and now they're 7 years, 8 months and 10 days old. They've already played an important role in the Olympic Torch Relay, welcoming the Olympic Flame to their local evening celebrations. And tonight they are here in the audience and were introduced before the show.

# Homecoming

**Duration: 00:08:00**

The UK is the spiritual birthplace of the Paralympic Games and the official opening of the London 2012 Paralympic Games therefore represents a homecoming. The Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Lord Sebastian Coe, and the President of the International Paralympic Committee, Sir Philip Craven MBE, both make speeches.

At the end of Sir Philip Craven's speech, he invites Her Majesty The Queen to officially declare the Games open. She does so from the Presidential Box, accompanied by a film of Stoke Mandeville on the screens behind the lecterns.

An athlete, official and coach each pledge their commitment to the ideals of the Paralympic Movement, sportsmanship and impartiality.

## Cast and creatives

- The sculptures on the lecterns for tonight's speeches have been created by artist Tony Heaton, a former England Wheelchair Basketball player. Representing a stylised map of the British Isles, they're formed from the parts of sports wheelchairs and Paralympic runners' blades. They're mounted on lecterns created by Paralympic Opening Ceremony designer, Jon Bausor.
- Lou Birks is a writer/director, her film, *Paralympia*, was commissioned specially for the Ceremony. She founded the not-for-profit production company, Pie Films, in 2000.
- Eight members of the Great Britain U22 Wheelchair Basketball team carry the Paralympic Flag: Billy Bridge, Harry Brown, Emmanuel Filson, James MacSorley, Philip Pratt, Richard Sargent, Gregg Warburton and Joseph Williams.
- The team of Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel raise the Flag: Able Seaman Lismore, Lance Corporal Peelo, Corporal Penman.
- The Queen's words are sign-language interpreted by Zane Hema.
- The oath takers are: athlete Liz Johnson, 2008 Paralympic Swimming medallist; official Richard Allcroft, Wheelchair Rugby technical delegate and judge; and coach David Hunter, Paralympic equestrian coach.

## Music

- The Paralympic Flag is processed past the Presidential Box to music from Gustav Holst's 'The Planet' suite, Jupiter.
- The Paralympic Anthem, 'Hymn de l'Avenir' (Hymn to the Future), was composed by Thierry Darnis and is here heard in a new arrangement by Martin Koch recorded by the LSO.

## Action

### Speeches

Speeches are made by Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee, and Sir Philip Craven MBE, President of the International Paralympic Committee. Both speeches are sign-language interpreted.



### Raising the Paralympic Flag

Eight members of the Great Britain U22 Wheelchair Basketball team enter the Stadium carrying the Paralympic Flag. The Flag is raised by Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel.



### Paralympia

As the Paralympic Anthem is played *Paralympia*, a short film by Lou Birks, a disabled film-maker, is played on the Stadium screens.

## Background notes

- Sebastian Coe – Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee – won two gold and two silver medals over successive Olympic Games – 1980 and 1984. In 1979 he broke three different world records in 41 days and his rivalry with fellow middle-distance runner Steve Ovett is one of the great Olympic stories.
- Sir Philip Craven, MBE – President of the International Paralympic Committee – represented Great Britain at Wheelchair Basketball at five Games, 1972–88. Vastly experienced, both as an athlete and progressive administrator, he received a knighthood in 2005. This is his third Summer Games since becoming President of the IPC in 2001.
- The Paralympic Flag is created from three asymmetrical crescents (Agitos, meaning 'I move' in Latin). The crescents are red, green and blue – the most popular colours of nations' flags – and are arranged in a circular formation as a symbol of the IPC's role in bringing the athletes of the world together. The Paralympic Flag was first seen at Athens 2004.
- An athlete first swore an oath on behalf of his peers in 1964. An official has also taken an oath since 1980. These are the first Games at which a coach will join them in pledging their commitment to the ideals of the Paralympic Movement, sportsmanship and impartiality.

# Brave New World

**Duration: 00:05:35**

Miranda returns in a scene which starts in a Stadium-sized library as she investigates the twin themes of the Ceremony: reason and rights. They are brought together through images of learning and empowerment, alongside Paralympian aerial performances.

An explosion activates the central umbrella/northern hemisphere, which begins to lift and transform, while the celestial sphere becomes an overhead reading light. It reveals a large open book, displaying the text of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Miranda and the volunteer cast are reading books, while the Stadium screens show images of people engaged in reading in various locations across the UK.

Stephen Hawking reminds us of the importance of knowledge: 'The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.'

Soprano Elin Manahan Thomas performs Handel's 'Eternal Source of Light Divine'. As she sings, a Stadium-wide sunrise is created by the overhead hemisphere splitting into seven fragments, reflecting light across the seated athletes and audience.

Encapsulating the Enlightenment theme, six Paralympians fly towards the celestial sphere. They each represent their individual sports. Meanwhile, the pixel screen shows an expanding vision of sunlight. Seeing the Paralympians both above her and surrounding the field of play, Miranda recites the 'brave new world' speech from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, marvelling at 'how beauteous mankind is'.

'The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance,  
it is the illusion of knowledge.'

**Stephen Hawking**

## Cast and creatives

- The volunteer cast of 150 includes 46 children from three schools in the six east London Host Boroughs. One of these is Trinity School, the only special school in Barking and Dagenham, they serve the special educational needs of over 265 disabled children and young people aged 3-19.
- 74-year-old volunteer reader Maureen Ryan didn't have a television in 1948 but managed to watch the Olympics on film.
- Dee Wilson, a reader in this section, encouraged her daughter Kathryn Matthews and son William Wilson to audition for the Ceremony, all made it through and are performing tonight.

## Music

- 'Eternal Source of Light Divine', by George Frideric Handel, was written to commemorate the birthday of Queen Anne in 1713. It encapsulates the spirit of the Enlightenment and is performed here by Welsh soprano Elin Manahan Thomas with LSO trumpeter Phil Cobb. See p43 for lyrics.
- Handel was a German-born British Baroque composer, famous for his operas, oratorios, anthems and organ concertos. Born in 1685, he's regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time, with works such as 'Water Music', 'Music for the Royal Fireworks' and 'Messiah' remaining popular.



## Action

### Readers

The central umbrella lifts with papers and smoke bursting out, transforming into a reading light over an open 'book stage' that displays text from *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The screens show images of people reading in various locations across the UK.



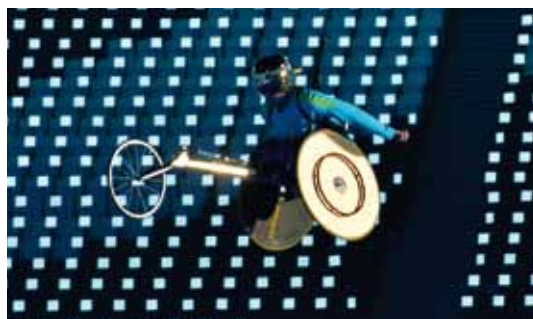
### Sunrise moment

During the soprano performance by Elin Manahan Thomas a Stadium-wide sunrise takes place as the overhead structure is split into seven fragments, each reflecting light across the Stadium. This is echoed on the audience pixel screen.



### Paralympians take flight

Six Paralympians, bathed in gold and each representing their individual sport, fly in above the seated athletes towards the celestial sphere. The Paralympians are: Robert Barrett – Athletics; Kay Forshaw – Wheelchair Tennis; Tanni Grey-Thompson – Athletics; Tony Griffin – Javelin; Ian Rose – Judo; Marc Woods – Swimming.



## Facts and stats

150

volunteer readers

10–80

the age range of volunteers  
in the Ceremony

### Background notes

- The most influential writer in English literature, William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. *The Tempest* was probably written in 1610–11, and is most likely the last play written entirely by Shakespeare.
- The main stage exactly represents the text of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, used here with kind permission of the United Nations.
- *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* is a milestone document in the history of human rights. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all people and all nations. It has been translated into more than 300 languages and dialects.
- Works scattered around the book stage include: Stephen Hawking's *The Grand Design*, *Broken Symmetries and the Mass of Gauge Vector Mesons* by British theoretical physicist Peter Higgs, *Dialogo di Galileo Galilei*, *Longitude*, an imaginary title by John Harrison (included as Harrison is a constant reference in this sequence), *Micrographia* by Robert Hooke and Newton's *Principia Mathematica*.



# Navigation

**Duration: 00:10:00**

Miranda boards an upturned umbrella boat and embarks on her voyage of discovery. As she departs, a page opens on the book stage propelling the little boat out to sea.

Stephen Hawking reminds Miranda that there are no boundaries to human endeavour and, as she sets sail, she encounters a whale, a flock of seagull books and an orrery (mechanical model of the solar system) to help her find her way.

She gets caught up in a 'storm of ideas', which are picked up and illustrated in the pixel screen as words and text from *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Ziya Azazi, a contemporary whirling dervish dancer, becomes the eye of the storm on top of the orrery. The choreography is echoed by the cast, who create a whirling storm of movement around the field of play in a giant geometric formation.

As the storm dies down, our attention is directed towards Birdy, a young and emerging singer-songwriter. She sings 'Bird Gerhl', written and composed by Antony Hegarty. Twenty sway pole performers sign the song. The song communicates a universal desire for flight and self-realisation that is echoed in live performance and screen imagery by Deaf and disabled professional aerial performers.

A solo dance performance by David Toole begins at ground level. An aerial ballet by 20 Deaf and disabled professional cast members, on four structures reminiscent of bird cages, takes place overhead. David takes flight across the Stadium and, as he reaches the south of the Stadium, Miranda also takes flight from the boat as she too becomes a bird, flying back to the central book stage.

The pixel screen projections in this sequence include references to Greenwich, and images from cartography and navigation at sea.

## Cast and creatives

- Ziya Azazi is a contemporary whirling dervish dancer. Dervish turning is a potent method for experiencing inner stillness and the opening of the heart. In the Middle Ages, Dervish communities served a central role in social, religious and political life throughout central Islamic lands. See biography p36
- David Toole is a leading disabled dancer and performer. He's appeared with companies such as Candoco, DV8, National Theatre of Wales and Graeae. See biography p38
- 370 volunteer performers. One of these is Sharon O'Callaghan-Evans, who lives and works a stone's throw from the Stadium. Having lost much of her sight in September last year she auditioned for the Ceremony and at every rehearsal felt an unbelievable sense of community and inclusion. She is extremely proud to be performing tonight.
- The orrery is driven by David Butler, who found an unexploded bomb when 11 years old and lost both legs and a hand. David is the only disabled driver worldwide to have qualified for both an international race and an International Rally Licence and has competed in over 600 motorsport events, including World Championship rallies. He's Chairman of the British Motor Sports Association for the Disabled.

## Music

- Known by her stage name 'Birdy', Jasmine van den Bogaerde is a 16-year-old emerging singer-songwriter. Last year she had a UK top 20 hit with her version of Bon Iver's 'Skinny Love'. See biography p36
- 'Bird Gerhl' was written by Antony Hegarty of Antony & The Johnsons. For 'Bird Gerhl' lyrics see p43

'There ought to be something very special about the boundary conditions of the universe, and what can be more special than that there is no boundary. And there should be no boundary to human endeavour.'

**Stephen Hawking**

## Action

### Upturned umbrella

An upturned umbrella boat, reminiscent of the one used by the famous children's book character Winnie-the-Pooh, takes Miranda on a voyage of discovery in which she encounters seagull books, a whale and an orrery (mechanical model of the solar system). As the boat departs, a page of the book stage unfolds in wave-like form.



### Storm/Whirlers

A storm of ideas develops with the pixel screen showing text from *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Contemporary whirling dervish, Ziya Azazi, becomes the eye of the storm as the cast and pyro effects accompany Ziya's performance to create a whirling storm.



### Birdy/David Toole

The whirling dancers lie down around the umbrella boat in a crescent formation as the storm calms. Birdy begins to sing 'Bird Gerhl', accompanied by a solo dance performance from David Toole, on the 'moon stage', and an aerial ballet presented on four bird cage structures with Deaf and disabled aerial performers appearing to activate the movement.



## Facts and stats

17m

the size of the giant inflatable whale

260

whirling dancers

50

the number of seagull books

## Background notes

- This segment takes various ideas from navigation, reminding us that for thousands of years scientists, mathematicians and astronomers have used their creativity and imagination to reach beyond the boundaries of the known world.
- The Prime Meridian of the world, or zero degrees of longitude, is located a few miles away in Greenwich. At the Royal Observatory it's possible to stand with a foot in both eastern and western hemispheres – everywhere on earth can be measured by its distance east or west of this line.
- An orrery is a mechanical device that illustrates the relative positions and motions of the planets and moons in the solar system.

# Gravity

**Duration: 00:07:15**

Miranda lands in the middle of a maze of books in a formal 17th-century garden and learns about British scientist and mathematician Sir Isaac Newton's discoveries concerning gravity and his three laws of motion. Performers enter dressed in stylised grassy costumes to create the garden and maze.

Miranda finds an apple in the maze and, when she bites into it, all 62,000 spectators do so with her – creating one enormous, simultaneous apple crunch.

A huge golden apple drops from above and we enter a world of gravitational choreography played out by dancers, jugglers, skaters, tandem riders and performers with wheelbarrows containing giant helium-filled apples that rise up to create an orbit of planetary objects. The riders on the back of each tandem are visually impaired volunteer performers.

There's a large Newton's cradle in which three disabled professional cast members perform, as well as a giant telescope connecting us to Newton's observation of the solar system. The telescope shines out as a revolving spotlight and we're transported into a contemporary urban environment in London.

'When Isaac Newton saw an apple fall to the ground, he suddenly realised that it must be the same force that holds together the beautiful system of the sun, the planets and the comets. This gravity is the same force that can draw us into a black hole, never to return!'

**Stephen Hawking**

## Cast and creatives

- Gandini Juggling combine virtuoso juggling and breathtaking choreography. See biography p36
- 375 volunteer performers.

## Music

- New music pieces 'Gravity' and 'Masque' (Koch/Gilpin) were recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra.

## Action

### Construction of the maze

The performers, in their stylised grassy costumes, create a maze which Miranda explores.



### Apple crunch

At the centre of the maze Miranda finds an apple. As she takes a bite, all 62,000 spectators do so with her, creating one enormous, simultaneous apple crunch.



### A huge golden apple

A huge golden apple drops and we enter a world of gravitational choreography. We see jugglers, skaters, tandem riders and performers with wheelbarrows containing giant helium-filled apples.



## Facts and stats

# 62,046

apples – **62,000** for audience members to crunch, **45** inflatable apples and **1** large golden apple

## Background notes

- Newton's law of universal gravitation was famously inspired by watching an apple dropping in his garden at Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire. Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727) was an English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist and theologian. His monograph *Principia Mathematica*, published in 1687, describes universal gravitation and the three laws of motion that dominated the scientific view of the physical universe for the next three centuries.
- A Newton's cradle – named after Sir Isaac Newton – consists of identical spheres hung in a frame whose motion demonstrates transferral of energy and the conservation of momentum.
- Miranda is wearing a shirt printed with words from *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

# Collision

**Duration: 00:03:30**

Ian McKellen looks up at the Celestial Sphere and speaks Prospero's words from *The Tempest*, 'I find my zenith doth depend on a most auspicious star.'

Up to this point, the Ceremony has focused on historic journeys of discovery. Now, Ian McKellen and Miranda walk together towards an exciting future and current scientific endeavours, such as the Large Hadron Collider.

We're back in 2012, and Stephen Hawking explains that British scientists have been transforming our perception of the universe through the experimental work taking place on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. He's joined by musicians Orbital.

A surge of red tents and protestors with loudhailers and protest banners enter, in anticipation of the next segment.

'The Large Hadron Collider at CERN is the largest most complex machine in the world, possibly the universe. By smashing particles together at enormous energies, it recreates the conditions of the Big Bang. The recent discovery of what looks like the "Higgs particle" is a triumph of human endeavour and international collaboration. It will change our perception of the world and has the potential to offer insights into a complete theory of everything.'

**Stephen Hawking**

## Cast and creatives

- Ian McKellen has acted on stage and screen for 50 years. See biography p37

## The greatest adventure...

**Ian McKellen:** I find my zenith doth depend on a most auspicious star.

Miranda! MIRANDA...

Without books, the development of civilisation would have been impossible. They are the engines of change, windows on the world, 'Lighthouses erected in the sea of time'.

They are companions, teachers, magicians, guardians of the treasures of the mind.

Books are humanity in print.

You open the book and it can be like opening the gates to an unknown city, or opening the lid of a treasure chest. You read the first word and you're off on a journey of exploration and discovery.

The greatest adventure is what lies ahead.

Today and tomorrow are yet to be said.

The chances, the changes, are all yours to make.

The mold of your life is in your hands to break.

The one who's a dreamer and never takes leave.

Who thinks of a world that is just make-believe.

Will never know passion, will never know pain.

Who sits by the window will one day see rain.

**Miranda:** The greatest adventure is what lies ahead.

Today and tomorrow are yet to be said.

The chances, the changes are all yours to make.

The mold of your life is in your hands to break.

**Ian McKellen:** The greatest adventure is what lies ahead.

## Action

### Ian McKellen

Ian McKellen in the role of a Prospero-like character from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, brings Miranda back to the here and now, London 2012.



### Large Hadron Collider

The Stadium is transformed into the Large Hadron Collider as choreography sees red illuminated tents colliding like atoms.



### The greatest adventure

Ian McKellen sees Miranda and they walk together towards the protesters. He tells her, 'The greatest adventure lies ahead.'



## Facts and stats

# 128

volunteers carrying the red pod tents, which collide like atoms

## Music

- The music for Collision is performed by Orbital. They are a British electronic duo, created by brothers Phil and Paul Hartnoll. See biography p37

## Background notes

- British scientists and engineers have made a leading contribution to the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator. It was built by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), with the aim of allowing physicists to test different high-energy theories, in particular the existence of the Higgs particle, named after the British physicist Peter Higgs. These tests and the results they obtain tell us about the fundamental structure of matter, the forces holding it together and the origins of the universe.



# Empowerment

**Duration: 00:03:35**

Miranda's journey of Enlightenment is nearing completion. She uses the lessons she's learned en route to become a human rights protestor.

Ian Dury's 'Spasticus Autisticus' is performed by Graeae Theatre Company, accompanied by energised protest-style mass choreography. It's followed by more music from Orbital.

This energy drives the emergence of a large-scale reproduction of Marc Quinn's celebrated sculpture, 'Alison Lapper Pregnant'.

Miranda rises up towards the celestial sphere with it in order to 'break her glass ceiling'. As she raises her walking stick, images of shattering glass appear on the pixel screen. She has reached her destination.

## Cast and creatives

- Graeae Theatre Company is the UK's flagship disabled-led theatre company. See biography p36
- 275 volunteer performers.

## Music

- 'Spasticus Autisticus' is a disability anthem written by the late Ian Dury and Chaz Jankal, and originally performed by Ian Dury and The Blockheads. It was written in 1981 for the International Year of Disabled People as a celebratory punk anthem and plea for understanding. The song also features in Graeae's production of *Reasons to be Cheerful*, which will be presented at the Southbank Centre during the Paralympic Games as part of 'Unlimited: the Revelation Starts Here', a national programme of artistic performances led by Deaf and disabled artists for the London 2012 Festival.
- The lead singer of the band singing 'Spasticus Autisticus' is John Kelly.

## Action

### 'Spasticus Autisticus'

Protest banners, mass choreography, sway pole choreography and musical performance by actors from Graeae Theatre Company creates a moment of celebratory protest in the Stadium.



### 'Alison Lapper Pregnant'

A large-scale reproduction of Marc Quinn's celebrated sculpture, 'Alison Lapper Pregnant', emerges from the book stage.



### Breaking the glass ceiling

Miranda 'breaks the glass ceiling' with her walking stick and we see shattering glass on the pixel screen around the Stadium.

## Facts and stats

106

protesters carrying loudhailers and banners

13m

the height of the Alison Lapper reproduction

### Background notes

- Marc Quinn's 3.5m-high marble sculpture of disabled artist Alison Lapper occupied the fourth plinth in London's Trafalgar Square, 2005–7. British artist Marc's work displays a preoccupation with the mutability of the body and the dualisms that define human life: spiritual and physical, surface and depth, cerebral and sexual.
- Alison Lapper MBE was born in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. She uses photography, digital imaging and painting to, as she says, question physical normality and beauty, using herself as a subject. She paints with her mouth.



# Enlightenment

**Duration: 00:08:15**

A short, emotionally charged film shows the journey of the Paralympic Torch to the Stadium.

Stephen Hawking sets the Paralympic Games in a wider context of human endeavour and achievement. And pyrotechnics in the colours of the Paralympic logo are set off around the Stadium roof.

At the end of the film, Royal Marine Commando Joe Townsend – an aspiring Paralympic triathlete – is revealed with the Torch at the top of the ArcelorMittal Orbit, just outside the Stadium, and descends on a zip wire onto the field of play.

Joe Townsend hands the Torch to David Clarke – a visually impaired athlete competing in the ParalympicsGB 5-a-side Football team – who takes the Flame towards the Cauldron. He passes it to the final Torchbearer, Margaret Maughan – Britain's first gold medallist at the first Paralympic Games at Rome 1960 – who lights a single tiny flame within one of the copper petals, triggering the ignition of all the other petals.

The elegant stems gently rise towards each other and converge to create one great Flame of unity. Meanwhile, golden dandelion seeds spread around the audience pixel screen, echoing the imagery from the natural world that inspired Thomas Heatherwick's Cauldron design.

## Cast and creatives

– The three Torchbearers:

Royal Marine Joe Townsend is a member of the British Paralympic Association's Paralympic Inspiration Programme for Rio 2016, the programme designed to help aspiring Paralympians understand the unique environment of a Games. Joe joined the Marines at 17 and was five months into his first tour of Afghanistan when he lost both his legs after treading on an IED. During his rehabilitation at Headley Court, he tried Triathlon and showed immense talent. He's now aiming for Rio 2016, where Triathlon will feature for the first time.

David Clarke is the longest-serving member of the of the visually impaired ParalympicsGB 5-a-side Football team and was part of the team that finished fifth at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

Margaret Maughan holds the distinction of being Britain's first gold medallist at the first Paralympic Games at Rome 1960. She won gold in women's Archery and also took part in 50m Backstroke Swimming.

'The Paralympic Games is about transforming our perception of the world. We are all different, there is no such thing as a standard or run-of-the-mill human being, but we share the same human spirit. What is important is that we have the ability to create. This creativity can take many forms, from physical achievement to theoretical physics. However difficult life may seem there is always something you can do, and succeed at.

'The Games provide an opportunity for athletes to excel, to stretch themselves and become outstanding in their field. So let us together celebrate excellence, friendship, and respect. Good luck to you all.'

**Stephen Hawking**

## Action

### Lighting the Cauldron

The Flame is passed from Joe Townsend (who's hoping to compete in the Rio 2016 Games) to David Clarke (who's competing this year) to Margaret Maughan (winner of a gold medal at Rome 1960), who lights the Cauldron.



## Background notes

- Last Wednesday, four Flames were lit at the summit of the highest peaks in the four UK nations – Scafell Pike (England), Slieve Donard (Northern Ireland), Ben Nevis (Scotland) and Snowdon/Yr Wyddfa (Wales). Yesterday, the Flames were united in Stoke Mandeville – spiritual birthplace of the Paralympic Movement – to create the London 2012 Paralympic Flame. As the Torch enters the Stadium this evening, it will carry the spirit of Paralympic Enlightenment and bring the nations of the world together.
- The Cauldron was created by Thomas Heatherwick, one of Britain's most creative designers. His work includes the internationally renowned UK Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, the Rolling Bridge in Paddington and London's new red double-decker bus. His studio's projects are characterised by a focus on innovative architectural solutions for cities and a dedication to craftsmanship and materials.
- The Cauldron is made up of more than 200 petals, 166 of which are inscribed with the names of competing nations. After the Games, each competing team will take home one of the petals that makes up the Cauldron, and the Cauldron will cease to exist. Like a flower that blooms for the duration of the competition, it's a temporary representation of the extraordinary transitory community that is the Paralympic Games.
- The ArcelorMittal Orbit is a 115m-high sculpture and observation tower in the Olympic Park. Designed by Anish Kapoor, it's Britain's largest piece of public art and is intended to be a permanent lasting legacy of London 2012.

# I Am What I Am

**Duration: 00:05:00**

The dandelion seeds shown on the audience pixel screen moving around the Stadium from the Cauldron create a transition into the final segment – a special performance of the inspirational song 'I Am What I Am'.

It's performed by Beverley Knight, Lizzie Emeh from Heart n Soul, song signing diva Caroline Parker, and six backing vocalists. Before the show, the audience was taught to sign, 'I am somebody, I am what I am'.

During the song, the entire cast form the shape of an Agitos (the crescent shape seen on the IPC flag) around the central stage.

In a triumphant finale, the audience and cast join in with the singing and signing learnt in the pre-show of 'I am somebody, I am what I am' as a pyrotechnic display erupts from the roof of the Stadium and across the Olympic Park.

## Action

### 'I Am What I Am'

Beverley Knight, Lizzie Emeh and Caroline Parker perform 'I Am What I Am'.  
See lyrics p43



## Cast and creatives

- All 3,250 volunteer performers take part in the finale.

## Music

- 'I Am What I Am' was written by Jerry Herman for the Tony Award-winning musical, *La Cage aux Folles*. The version performed tonight was arranged by Martin Koch, Nick Gilpin and Beverley Knight.
- Beverley Knight is a British singer, songwriter and record producer. She's sold more than a million albums and has been the UK's most consistently successful soul artist since her debut in 1995. See biography p37
- Lizzie Emeh, from leading creative arts company Heart n Soul, made history as the first solo artist with a learning disability to release an album for general sale. See biography p37
- Caroline Parker combines mime and dance skills with sign language. Her shows make music accessible to Deaf people and sign language accessible to hearing people. See biography p37

*Principal performers and  
production team*

## Principal performers

'I'm so proud and excited to be a part of the Paralympics, supporting the UK and welcoming such amazing athletes to London.'

**Birdy**

'I feel honoured to have been asked to take part in the Opening Ceremony of the Paralympic Games right here at home. These are for me the "Emotive Games", because the stories of each Paralympian is an inspiration. They speak of the triumph of will over seemingly insurmountable odds, real Super-men and women.'

**Beverley Knight**

In alphabetical order

### **Ziya Azazi**

International choreographer and dancer Ziya began studying the traditional dance of the Sufis (whirling dervishes) over 20 years ago. His numerous credits include solo pieces *Dervish in Progress* and *Azab*, collaborations with Kayhan Kalhor and Howard Moody, opening the International Baltic Ballet Festival, and performances at the Barbican, National Museum of Singapore and Volksoper, Vienna.

### **Birdy**

Young singer-songwriter Birdy's self-titled debut album, released in autumn 2011, has been certified gold in the UK and platinum in France. Recent work includes writing tracks for *The Hunger Games* and performing on the soundtrack of the new Disney Pixar film, *Brave*, with British folk band Mumford & Sons.

### **Flawless**

World dance champions Flawless wowed millions on *Britain's Got Talent* and have appeared at numerous high-profile events including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert. Other work includes a role in the hit movie *Street Dance 3D*, a collaboration with the English National Ballet and three UK tours.

### **Gandini Juggling**

Gandini Juggling combine virtuoso juggling and breathtaking choreography. Since the company's creation in 1992, they've performed more than 4,000 shows in 40 countries and are in constant demand worldwide. Recent work includes the hit show *Smashed*, which is currently touring Europe, and the 20-performer extravaganza, *Twenty Twenty*.

### **Graeae**

Graeae is a force for change in world-class theatre – breaking down barriers, challenging preconceptions and boldly placing Deaf and disabled artists centre stage. The company's signature characteristic is the compelling creative integration of sign language and audio description, which engages with both disabled and non-disabled audiences.

### **Stephen Hawking**

Stephen is Emeritus Lucasian Professor of Mathematics and founder of the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at Cambridge University. He's a prolific contributor to gravitational physics and is best known for his work on black holes, the origin of the universe and bestsellers *A Brief History of Time* and *The Grand Design*.

'I'm the least sporty person I know but thrilled to have a small part to play in the Paralympic Opening Ceremony in praise of endeavour and enlightenment. British theatre and British athletes shone at the Olympics. I'm hoping the same is true of the Paralympics.'

**Ian McKellen**

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### **Heart n Soul**

Heart n Soul is a leading creative arts company with learning disability culture at its heart. Their work is about offering people the opportunity to train and take part in the arts and develop their artistic talents. Key artists include award-winning singer Lizzie Emeh and south London band The Fish Police.

### **Beverley Knight**

Beverley has been one of the UK's most consistent artists over the past 15 years, with several top 10 gold and platinum selling albums. Her latest album, *Soul UK*, pays tribute to British soul artists who inspire her. She's won three MOBO Awards and has an MBE for services to British music and charity.

### **Denise Leigh**

Denise first came to public prominence as a winner of Channel 4's *Operatunity*, which won the *Prix Italia* in 2003. She's performed at the Royal Albert Hall, BBC Proms in the Park and as part of the 2008 Olympic celebrations in Beijing. She was also a cultural ambassador for the London 2012 bid.

### **Ian McKellen**

Recognised around the world for his role as Gandalf in the recent film adaptations of *The Lord of the Rings*, Ian is an English actor and leading equalities campaigner. His work spans genres from Shakespearean and modern theatre to popular fantasy and science fiction.

### **Nicola Miles-Wildin**

Nicola is an Associate Artist for Graeae and an Associate Director at Kazzum Theatre. As well as performing in varied theatre work, she was heard on Radio 4 dramas *Black Hearts* in Battersea and *Our Mutual Friend*, and can be spotted at festivals performing with wheelchair line-dancing troupe, The Rhinestone Rollers.

### **Orbital**

Undefeated champions of British electronic music Orbital, created by brothers Phil and Paul Hartnoll, have achieved worldwide success since forming in 1989. Work includes the hits 'Chime', 'Style', and 'Satan', and eight studio albums. Their most recent album, *Wonky*, was released earlier this year to critical acclaim.

### **Caroline Parker**

Caroline combines mime and dance skills with sign language to create an unusual sign song act, which she performs at festivals and on the cabaret circuit including Glastonbury, WOMAD and Cafe du Paris. Her shows, including *Signs of a Diva*, make music accessible to Deaf people and sign language accessible to hearing people.

### *Spirit in Motion DJs*

Spirit in Motion features three award-winning, international DJs: TV/radio broadcaster Sam Hall, aka Goldierocks, whose weekly radio show *The Selector* is broadcast in 38 countries to over four million listeners; classically trained musician Danilo 'DJ' Walde, Musical Director of ZooNation Dance Company and Choir Master for the Experimental Choir at the Roundhouse, and Matthew Xia, aka Excalibah – a director and composer, his credits include shows on Radio 1 and 1Xtra, playing at Ministry of Sound, Fabric, and festivals and clubs across Europe.

### *Elin Manahan Thomas*

Born in Swansea, Elin read Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Cambridge, before moving to the musical world and a career of performing, broadcasting and presenting. Her debut album, *Eternal Light*, entered the classical charts in 2007 at number two and her 2011 release *Ravish'd with Sacred Extasies* was awarded *Pizzicato* magazine's coveted Supersonic Award.

### *David Toole*

David began performing after attending a workshop with Candoco Dance Company in 1992. He's worked with various companies including Graeae, DV8, the Royal Shakespeare Company and Leeds-based SlungLow. He recently appeared in *In Water I'm Weightless* and will be performing in *The Impending Storm* as part of the London 2012 Festival.

## Artistic team

### Bradley Hemmings

#### Artistic Director

Bradley is Artistic Director of the award-winning Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (GDF), London's annual festival of free outdoor theatre and spectacle. Since establishing the Festival 16 years ago, he's steadily built its reputation for groundbreaking productions which have seen gravity-defying dancers on the fascia of Queen's House in Greenwich, a cast of characters walking on water in Docklands and crimson giraffes taking over the streets of Woolwich. He's also played a key national role in championing new outdoor performances by Deaf and disabled artists, and regularly showcases his work at GDF and the Liberty Festival.

### Jenny Sealey

#### Artistic Director

Jenny has been Artistic Director of Graeae, the UK's leading disabled-led theatre company, since 1997. Theatre credits include *The Changeling*, *Blasted*, *Diary of an Action Man*, *Peeling*, *Bent*, *Signs of a Diva*, *Flower Girls*, *Blood Wedding* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Outdoor work includes *The Iron Man* and *The Garden* (part of Unlimited 2012 Festival, the Cultural Olympiad programme celebrating disability arts). Her production of *Reasons to be Cheerful* (lyrics by Ian Dury, book by Paul Sirett) recently completed a successful UK tour. She was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Honours in 2009.

### Jon Bausor

#### Designer

Jon studied music at Oxford University and trained on the Motley Theatre Design Course. His design credits include National Theatre, Royal Opera House, Young Vic, Ballet Rambert, English National Ballet, Abbey Theatre Dublin, Finnish National Opera, Sydney Opera House and ShiberHur, Palestine. He is an Associate of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

### Moritz Junge

#### Costume Designer

Moritz completed an MA in set and costume design at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. He won the Linbury Prize for Stage Design in 2001. Recent productions include *Les Troyens* for the

Royal Opera House, *The Kitchen* at the National Theatre and *L'Anatomie de la Sensation* for the Paris Opera Ballet.

### Martin Koch

#### Music Director

Martin is a Grammy nominated and Tony and Drama Desk Award winner. Musical supervision includes *Les Miserables*, *Cats* and *Oliver!* He's recorded over 30 albums including *Mamma Mia!* and *Billy Elliot*, and numerous orchestrations including *Jerry Springer: The Opera*. Martin also runs a successful music production company and recording studio.

### Kevin Finnan

#### Choreographer/Director of Movement

Kevin is Artistic Director of Motionhouse, one of the UK's leading dance theatre companies. His production of *The Voyage* is part of the London 2012 Festival, next year *Scattered* tours the USA and *Traction* visits Marseille-Provence, Capital of Culture 2013. He's a Visiting Theatre Fellow at Warwick University, and Associate Artist of Greenwich+Docklands International Festival.

### Justine Catterall

#### Head of Audio Visual

Justine started out as a video and event producer in theatrical corporate shows. She then widened her horizons to the music industry. She's worked with some of the world's leading artists, on everything from concept and show design through to production of camera relay and content.

### Clare Amsel

#### Producer

Clare is a producer and director with international experience. She was Senior Coordinating Producer of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games Ceremonies, has held management and board roles in live event and cultural organisations in the UK, Belgium, Argentina and Greece, has advised at senior government level across two continents and speaks five languages.



## London 2012 Ceremonies executive team

### *Bill Morris*

#### **Director of Ceremonies, Education and Live Sites**

Bill joined London 2012 six years ago from the BBC where he started as a journalist, moved into radio and TV production and executive roles, before specialising in major events as Project Director Live Events. These included the BBC Music Live festival, the annual BBC Proms in the Park, the Olympic Torch Relay Concert in London's Mall, and the Queen's Concerts at Buckingham Palace (for which he was awarded the LVO in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List). He also coordinated broadcast live events across a number of BBC radio and television services, including Live 8 in 2005. Bill served on the Radio Academy's Council from the early 1990s, he was Chair 1998–2001, and was made a Fellow in 2001.

### *Martin Green*

#### **Head of Ceremonies**

Trained in writing and directing theatre, Martin spent five years as Head of Events for the Mayor of London where he was responsible for producing global events such as the London New Year's Eve fireworks, major music festivals and one-off events across the city. As Director of Events at the O2 he oversaw the reopening of this now hugely successful venue. He joined London 2012 in 2007 as Head of Ceremonies, where he has recruited and inspired a world class team to deliver the Torch Relays, Victory Ceremonies, Team Welcome Ceremonies, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### *Catherine Ugwu*

#### **Executive Producer, Production**

Catherine is a creative director, executive producer and consultant and has been involved in some of the world's largest and most prestigious public events. She was Executive Producer for the Glasgow Handover Ceremony of the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games; Senior Producer for the strategic phase of the Opening, Closing and Victory Ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics; she produced the Opening Ceremony for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar in 2006, the Closing Ceremony for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002 and a large-scale performance spectacle to mark the opening of the Millennium Dome, London in 2000.

### *Stephen Daldry*

#### **Executive Producer, Creative**

Stephen started his career at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre and directed extensively in Britain's regional theatres. In London he was Artistic Director of the Gate and Royal Court theatres; he's directed at the National Theatre, the Public Theatre in New York and transferred many productions to the West End and Broadway. His production of *Billy Elliot: The Musical* is currently playing in London and on tour in the USA. It recently won more Tony Awards (10) than any other British show in Broadway history. He's also made four films: *Billy Elliot*; *The Hours*; *The Reader*; and *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.

## Hamish Hamilton

### Executive Producer, Broadcast/TV

Hamish, from Blackpool, is a Grammy-nominated, multi-camera television and video director. He began his career as a trainee with BBC Scotland and as a TV director for the BBC Manchester Youth Programmes Unit. Pursuing his love of live music, he's directed the BRIT Awards, the MTV European Music Awards and the Victoria's Secret Fashion Shows for nine years. His credit appears on nearly 30 million live concert DVDs. His most recent work includes the Oscars, the MTV Video Music Awards and the Super Bowl halftime shows. He is also Creative Director of the television and event production company Done and Dusted.

## Mark Fisher

### Executive Producer, Design

Mark's show design credits include *The Wall* for Pink Floyd in 1980 and Roger Waters in 2010; every Rolling Stones show since 1989 and every U2 concert since 1992. His architecturally innovative outdoor stages have been constructed several thousand times in cities all over the world. His event design credits include the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. His theatre shows include *KÀ* and *Viva Elvis* for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas.

# Lyrics

## Umbrella - p14

You have my heart  
And we'll never be worlds apart  
Maybe in magazines  
But you'll still be my star

Baby 'cause in the dark  
You can't see shiny cars  
And that's when you need me there  
With you I'll always share because

When the sun shines, we'll shine together  
Told you I'll be here forever  
Said I'll always be a friend  
Took an oath, I'ma stick it out till the end

Now that it's raining more than ever  
Know that we'll still have each other  
You can stand under my umbrella  
You can stand under my umbrella

(Ella ella, eh eh eh)  
Under my umbrella [Repeated]

These fancy things, will never come in  
between  
You're part of my entity, here for infinity  
When the war has took it's part  
When the world has dealt it's cards  
If the hand is hard, together we'll mend  
your heart because

When the sun shines, we'll shine together  
Told you I'll be here forever  
Said I'll always be a friend  
Took an oath, I'ma stick it out till the end

Now that it's raining more than ever  
Know that we'll still have each other  
You can stand under my umbrella  
You can stand under my umbrella

(Ella ella, eh eh eh)  
Under my umbrella [Repeated]

You can run into my arms  
It's okay don't be alarmed  
Come here to me  
There's no distance in between our love

So go on and let the rain pour  
I'll be all you need and more because

When the sun shines, we'll shine together  
Told you I'll be here forever  
Said I'll always be a friend  
Took an oath, I'ma stick it out till the end

Now that it's raining more than ever  
Know that we'll still have each other  
You can stand under my umbrella  
You can stand under my umbrella

(Ella ella, eh eh eh)  
Under my umbrella [Repeated]

It's raining  
Ooh baby it's raining  
Baby come here to me  
Come here to me  
It's pouring rain  
Come here to me

## Principia - p14

Ah... Principia  
Ah... Principia  
Ah...

Newton said  
Newton said  
Hypotheses non fingo  
Light

Einstein said  
 $E=MC^2$   
Higgs Boson is declared  
Light

How we search... beyond the boundaries  
of time  
We see ourselves  
We are so afraid but so curious  
Hawking said:  
Look up at the stars, look up at the stars  
Light  
In our light

We shine the torch beyond this world  
We shine across the boundaries of time  
We are the citizens of hope  
And every human has a right to life and  
light  
And light  
No-one shall be arbitrarily deprived of  
life of light  
We hope that ignorance and fear has left

us in the stratosphere of light  
We're here

We shine the torch beyond this world  
We shine  
Beyond the boundaries of time  
But will we leave behind which laws,  
discoveries, athletic feats  
We'll leave behind our knowledge, our  
courage, our dignity  
Ah... Principia  
Ah

## *Spirit in Motion - p19*

Take my hand  
I will tell you  
How the spirit flies across the centuries  
Like a fireball in the sky

And we all are here  
All gathered home  
All nations now face the world  
We are the world

After the years and years of hope  
Aiming for the prize you hold supreme  
Beyond the boundaries you held your  
dream  
You were striving  
Now you're home and free

Free as a bird  
Free as a bird to fly and sing  
Free to be as you are

To fly as you are

Run like the wind  
Row like the wind  
Soar like the wind  
You are the wind

You hear the crowd calling your name  
This great city is at your side

The road was hard but the race is for  
winning

You take your marks  
We hold you to our hearts

We salute you  
We salute you

We salute you  
For your spirit and determination  
We salute you  
For the years of dedication

Take my hand

## *Eternal source of light divine - p22*

Eternal source of light divine  
With double warmth Thy beams display  
And with distinguished glory shine  
To add a lustre to this day

## *Bird Gerhl - p25*

I am bird gerhl  
I am bird gerhl  
I am bird gerhl  
I am bird gerhl now

And I've got my heart  
Here in my hands  
I've got my heart  
Here in my hands now

And I've been searching  
For my wings  
I've been searching  
For my wings some time

I'm gonna be born  
Gonna be born into soon the sky  
I'm gonna be born  
Into soon the sky  
To soon the sky  
To soon the sky  
'Cause I'm a bird gerhl  
And the bird gerhls go to heaven  
I'm a bird gerhl  
And the bird gerhls can fly  
Bird gerhls can fly  
Bird gerhls can fly  
Bird gerhls can fly  
Bird gerhls can fly

## *I Am What I Am - p34*

I am what I am  
I am my own special creation  
So come take a look  
Give me the hook or the ovation  
It's my world that I want to take a little  
pride in  
My world, and it's not a place I have to  
hide in  
Life's not worth a damn  
'Til you can say, I am, I am what I am  
I am what I am  
I don't want praise, I don't want pity  
I bang my own drum  
Some think it's noise, I think it's pretty  
And so what, if I love each feather and  
each spangle  
Why not try to see things from a  
different angle?  
Your life is a sham 'til you can shout out  
loud, I am what I am  
I am what I am  
And what I am needs no excuses  
I deal my own deck  
Sometimes the ace, sometimes the deuces  
There's one life, and there's no return  
and no deposit  
One life, so it's time to open up your  
closet  
Life's not worth a damn  
'Til you can say I am I am what I am

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