



## **Student Stars of BBC's *Last Choir Standing* join Royal Tattoo Guildford based ACM Gospel Choir to perform in front of Her Majesty The Queen**

Students from the ACM (Academy of Contemporary Music) Gospel Choir will perform in the private grounds of Windsor Castle, in front of Her Majesty The Queen at The Royal Tattoo (13-16th May) next week.

Semi-finalists of the BBC Series *Last Choir Standing*, the Choir - made up of 28 students from The ACM - will provide contemporary musical accompaniment to the military spectacular, which comprises different military acts from The Army, Navy and RAF, in support of today's servicemen and women.

The talented Choir formed just over three years ago by ACM vocal coach Mark DeLisser and before long reached the semi-finals of the BBC Show. Following their TV success, the Choir then toured with Classical Supremo Russell Watson and became the first act to sign to the Mail on Sunday's new record label, MOSS.

With an album already under their belt, the students are mostly in their teens and early twenties and perform in the Choir as an extra-curricular activity at The ACM. Musical Director Mark arranges their songs to give them a modern, pop feel, bringing a new flavour to Gospel.

Royal Tattoo Event Director, Simon Brooks-Ward said: "The ACM Gospel Choir is a perfect fit for the Tattoo. As well as the event's traditional musical military connections, it has a far more modern edge, showcasing battle re-enactments and different types of music from across the world. The Choir will certainly add a current flavour to all the dramatics and I can't wait to hear the sound they produce live at the event."

Musical Director Mark DeLisser added: "It will be an honour for myself and the students to take part in the Tattoo for such a worthwhile cause. As well as performing in front of The Queen, it will be a privilege to lend our support to active servicemen and women up and down the country. It will also be fantastic for the students to work with so many different, experienced military bands."

Following the Choir's performance at the Tattoo, the students will be working hard on a new album of original music, termed 'accessible Gospel' by Mark. With Russell Watson calling

them 'Absolute choral magic' and many other accolades raining down on them, the Choir are destined to be a huge hit at the Tattoo.

In only its second year, the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo, a not-for-profit event supporting the Royal British Legion, is shaping to be one of the highlights of the International Tattoo calendar. With support from all three services, the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo is there to serve and celebrate the extraordinary endeavours of our soldiers, sailors and airmen.

**Ticket Information:**

Tickets for the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo 2009 are on sale now priced at £15, £25, £35, £45 and £60. They can be purchased by telephoning the box office on 0871 230 5570, or booked online via the website at [www.windsortattoo.com](http://www.windsortattoo.com). Tickets can also be purchased through Windsor Information Centre with discounts available for Advantage Card Holders. Please contact the centre on 01753 743907 for full details.

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About the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo:

The Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo is supported by BAE Systems, Compass and Land Rover.

This not-for-profit event launched in May 2008 and was devised with the aim of raising public awareness of the wide contribution to security that the Armed Forces deliver and the value and standards that it maintains. It also raises funds to support individual soldiers, and their dependants, who have served and are serving on demanding current operations, such as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last year's Tattoo attracted over 18,000 spectators and this year's event will cater for nearly 30,000 visitors in total. The Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo includes ceremonial displays and bands, but also demonstrates the reality of modern day soldiering through arena action displays. The Tattoo was broadcasted in 2008 by the BBC.

About The Royal British Legion:

The Royal British Legion provides financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants. Currently, nearly 10.5 million people are eligible for our support and we receive thousands of calls for help every year.

The Legion was founded in 1921 as a voice for the ex-Service community and over 380,000 members continue to ensure that this voice does not go unheard. Although the needs of ex-Service people have changed over the years, we are still there to safeguard their welfare, interests and memory. British service people are in action around the world every day of the year. They know that if they need our support - now or in the future - the Legion is always on active duty for them.

About the Organisers:

The HPower Group produce, manage and promote large scale public events worldwide specialising in equestrian competitions, ceremonial events and public entertainment.

The HPower Group is the organiser of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, Olympia, The London International Horse Show and the FEI European Jumping and Dressage Championships 2009. The HPower Group has previously produced and directed All The Queen's Horses, Army 2002, and the World War 2 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Simon Brooks-Ward, managing director, was also Event Director for the Territorial Army's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Pageant on Horse Guards.

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