



Manchester Camerata premieres powerful short film about early onset dementia following the launch of its pioneering music café for people living with dementia and at-home carers



As part of its ongoing 'Untold' digital film series, Manchester Camerata today [21 September] release the second episode which explores early onset dementia inspired by the life of Keith, a Wigan-based man who the Orchestra met at one of its creative music-making sessions in 2018.

Previously a coach driver for football clubs across the northwest, a member of the grenadier guards and an avid music fan, the film tells of Keith's personal account of how dementia affects the everyday life of him and his wife Joan, as well as the transformative ways in which music helps him. The film offers a visual and musical response to early onset dementia, creating a narrative inspired by Keith's experience to raise awareness on World Alzheimer's Day.

In a script written by poet and playwright Amanda Dalton, the short film features actress Julie Hesmondhalgh as narrator with Neil Bell and Carla Henry portraying Keith and Joan. Manchester Camerata perform music by Mozart, Handel, Schubert and George Benson, chosen by Keith.

The film comes just weeks after the Orchestra launched its brand-new Music Café at the Monastery in Gorton, extending its ground-breaking community work to support those living with dementia and at-home carers. The Camerata continues its dementia research partnership with The University of Manchester which has proven first-hand how music empowers people living with dementia.

Keith said:

"I was blown away with the production. It brought me to tears. The way Neil Bell portrayed me was so true and lifelike. Neil's actions throughout the production were so lifelike, people in my bubble all said it was me to a tee. Also, the way Julie Hesmondhalgh did the voiceover was excellent.

Thank you again for all everyone's efforts in keeping me safe and comfortable throughout our time together. I don't say it often but thank you and love to everyone for helping me understand my

dementia. It was difficult to explain just how my brain works to people but you executed me perfectly.”

Directed by award winning Manchester-based filmmaker, **Paul Sapin**, each film in the ‘Untold’ series tells a different story with each one bound by the same goal – ‘to heal through music’ (Gábor Takács-Nagy, Music Director). The series addresses universal themes of identity, belonging, loss, love, community and inequality with music performed by Camerata musicians very much at the heart of each one.

The first episode in the series came out in October 2020 and featured Caroline Pether, Leader of the Manchester Camerata, who revealed her own journey to acceptance as a gay, Christian woman. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Untold marks a bold and creative departure for the orchestra fusing music, spoken word, film and multi camera work both for the first time. These films enable **Manchester Camerata** – an orchestra that puts community impact front and centre – to remain connected to the needs of its musicians, collaborators, audiences and the wider community.

The Music Café is held weekly in the stunning Great Nave at the Monastery in Gorton, East Manchester, where the orchestra is based. The cafe is run as a weekly music workshop to help support local residents who are living at home with dementia as well as providing much needed respite and support for their carers and family members. During these sessions participants are encouraged to share and reconnect with their love of music, no matter the genre: chatting about, creating, dancing and even performing their own songs with the full support of Manchester Camerata’s professional team of music therapists and specially trained musicians. These weekly events are also an opportunity for carers to understand how they can also use music to support their loved ones with dementia when they’re back at home. These bespoke two-hour sessions are free to all participants, and are fully accessible, held in Covid-safe conditions at The Monastery from 10.30am every Wednesday.

For preview access, images and press interviews please contact Premier Rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com | +44 (0) 7715 205 196

Notes to Editors

CAST, MUSICIANS AND PRODUCTION TEAM

MUSICIANS

Caroline Pether *director/violin*

Catherine Landen *violin*

Lucy Nolan *viola*

Peggy Nolan *cello*

Hannah Robert *cello*

Naomi Atherton *horn*

Graham South *trumpet*

Mark Addison *trumpet*

James Bulger *trumpet*

Peter Mainwaring *trumpet*

Tom Berry *trombone*

Chris Jones *trombone*

Elizabeth Bannan *trombone*

CAST AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Amanda Dalton *Writer*

Paul Sapin *Director*

Jackie Thompson [Stop Keep Doing That] *Producer*

Tony Coldwell *Director of Photography*

Ian Maclagan *Sound Recordist*

Ken Lowe *Lighting Gaffer*

Clive Hunte *2nd Camera*

Em Carroll *Assistant Producer*

Wayne Bennett *Quicksilver SFX*

Christian Palmer *Crew Assistant*

Julie Hesmondhalgh *Narrator*

Neil Bell *As Keith*

Carla Henry *As Joan*

Keith *As himself*

Lucy Dean *Make-Up*

Mark Elliot *Film Editor*

Kane Williams *Assistant Editor*

Paul Willis *Online Editor*

Jason Hall *Z-Arts Technician*

Andrew Croft *Projection Design*

Laura Jack *COVID Supervisor*

Heaton Park *Filmed on location at Heaton Park*

Z-Arts *Filmed on location at Z-Arts*

MANCHESTER CAMERATA

★★★★★ 'It doesn't get much better than this' (The Independent)

Manchester Camerata is a registered charity, working and performing in Manchester and worldwide since 1972.

With 5-star reviews from The Independent, and the accolade of 'Britain's most adventurous orchestra' (The Times), Camerata has a reputation for doing things differently - be that opening Glastonbury Festival with an orchestral rave, touring and recording Mozart or making profound impact for people living with dementia. Manchester Camerata believe in the transformative and connecting nature of music. That connection drives them, and they work with the best creative talent to make this happen.

Camerata's inspiration stems from the visionary mindset of Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy, who believes passionately that 'music is spiritual medicine'. His extraordinary musicianship drives the development of their craft and nurtures the artistic and human qualities of Manchester Camerata's musicians, which in turn gives the whole organisation courage to innovate beyond an orchestra's normal limits. It is these qualities combined which create powerful emotional connections, which makes life better. This approach has led them to collaborate with diverse international artists, from New Order to Martha Argerich to Aziz Ibrahim to Lewis Capaldi.

Empowering people to make positive change in their lives is the focus for Manchester Camerata's award-winning community programme. From a child or a teacher in school to a frontline care worker or a person living with dementia, it's about the difference they can make in society through music. All activity is informed by research and fully evaluated, so they can articulate their impact. A social impact plan for Greater Manchester will see the number and diversity of people we reach increase, and that work begins in their new home - The Monastery in Gorton.

Over the past 10 years, they have developed a music therapy programme for people with dementia and their carers in partnership with the University of Manchester, a leading global dementia research centre. University research shapes the development of Camerata's programme, which is now in demand across Asia and Europe, and has established us as a sector-leader in this field. As Manchester Camerata approach their 50th anniversary in 2022, they invite you to share these moments with them.

<https://manchestercamerata.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/MancCamerata>

<https://www.instagram.com/manchestercamerata/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterCamerata>

ABOUT UNTOLD

Commissioned, curated and launched by the orchestra during lockdown in October 2020, the **Untold** series tells the remarkable and intimate personal stories of real people in the community through film, storytelling, prose and of course stunning music performed from The Monastery in Gorton.

Directed by award-winning Northern filmmaker **Paul Sapin**, each film in the **Untold** series tells a different story – with each one bound by the same goal: 'to heal through music' (Gábor Takács-Nagy, Manchester Camerata's Music Director).

The series addresses universal themes of identity, belonging, loss, love, community and inequality with music performed by Camerata musicians very much at the heart of each one. **Untold** marks a bold and creative departure for the orchestra fusing music, spoken word, film and multi camera work both for the first time and at a time when live performance is heavily restricted but much needed. These films enable **Manchester Camerata** – an orchestra that puts community impact front and centre – to remain connected to the needs of its musicians, collaborators, audiences and the wider community.

ABOUT MUSIC IN MIND

There are currently around 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK. This is projected to rise to 1.6 million by 2040. Manchester Camerata's **Music in Mind** programme has been designed specifically to improve the lives of people living with dementia - using musical improvisation as a tool to help express themselves and communicate with others.

Since its inception in 2012, **Music In Mind** has already made a huge impact to thousands of individuals living with dementia in care homes across the North West and beyond. The organisation has worked with over 7,000 (more now?) people living with dementia and the organisation are now

world leaders in dementia outreach work due to this landmark programme, sharing best practice both nationally and internationally, as far afield and most recently as Japan and Taiwan.

During lockdown, when its musicians and therapists were unable to deliver their weekly sessions face to face, Manchester Camerata developed an online version of **Music In Mind: Remote** where its musicians and musical therapists ran online training sessions for care home staff, creating online resources to enable and encourage them to run their own weekly music led sessions for their residents. It also introduced local care homes and care home staff to each other to share experiences and ideas on how to make what was a very challenging period less so.