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Two standing ovations, three world premieres and 300 performers: Celebration in the City brings Liverpool Cathedral to its feet

Liverpool, 5 November 2026

More than **300 musicians and singers** came together at Liverpool Cathedral on 3 November for **Celebration in the City**, an unforgettable evening of music that received **two standing ovations**.

The landmark concert brought together performers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities from across the Liverpool City Region, filling one of the city's most iconic venues with a spectacular celebration of musical talent and collaboration.

Led by Maghull Wind Orchestra, the event featured St Helens Concert Band, St Helens Youth Brass Band, Red Rose Concert Band, Wirral Symphonic Wind Band and Choirs from Liverpool Cathedral, alongside special guest soloists. An ambitious programme included **three world premieres** and the magnificent sound of the **Liverpool Cathedral organ**, bringing wind, brass, voices and organ together in a memorable performance.

The programme offered a real mix of musical styles, from the spectacular musical dialogue between the Cathedral organ, played by **Julie Ann Carr**, and the massed wind bands in *Grand Chœur Dialogue*, to familiar favourites from *Annie* and *Oliver!* and the thunderous finale of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, complete with booming bass drums and tubular bells.

Original composition was a particular highlight, with the premiere of *All Sung* by Will Roberts, winner of MWO's Composition Competition. The concert also featured *Sometimes…*, written especially for the occasion by acclaimed composer Bill Connor. Exploring shared experiences, cultural understanding and the celebration of differences, the piece brought a particularly poignant message to an evening centred on bringing people together.

The programme also showcased the musical creativity within MWO, with arrangements by its own members, including Dave Matthews, Pauline Gordon and Chris Horswood.
The audience responded enthusiastically, with two standing ovations recognising an evening that demonstrated what can be achieved when musicians and ensembles from across the region work together.

Phil Shotton, Musical Director of Maghull Wind Orchestra, said:
“What an extraordinary evening. Bringing together so many musicians, three world premieres, the magnificent Cathedral organ and a range of ensembles was hugely ambitious, and I could not be prouder of what everyone achieved.

“The two standing ovations were incredibly special, but for me the real success was seeing musicians of different ages and backgrounds playing side by side and creating something none of us could have achieved alone.

“That is what community music should be about: great music, high standards, friendship and the sheer joy of performing together.”

Kate Warriner, Chair of Maghull Wind Orchestra, said:

“It is difficult to put into words just how special the evening was. What made me proudest was seeing different bands, generations and communities come together simply because they love making music.

“It showed what can happen when people collaborate, aim high and create something genuinely inclusive and open to everyone.

“A huge thank you to every musician, singer, conductor, volunteer and supporter who made it possible, to Lady Anne Dodd for her incredibly generous support, and to everyone who came and shared such a memorable evening with us.”

The event was generously supported by Lady Anne Dodd, enabling the concert to be offered free of charge to the local community. Donations were also collected to support future community music-making.

Neal Barnes, Canon at Liverpool Cathedral and flautist with Maghull Wind Orchestra, said:

“Liverpool Cathedral was delighted to host Celebration in the City. To see this extraordinary building filled with hundreds of musicians and singers, and an audience responding with such warmth and enthusiasm, was wonderful.

“The Cathedral has always been a place where people and communities can come together, and this evening captured that spirit beautifully. Music has an extraordinary ability to connect people, and Celebration in the City was a powerful demonstration of the talent, generosity and sense of community we have across our city and region.”

For Maghull Wind Orchestra, the concert continued an almost five-decade tradition of ambitious and inclusive community music-making.

The orchestra has performed at prestigious venues including Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Liverpool Cathedral, while maintaining a strong commitment to community and charitable causes. Over the past decade alone, it has helped raise more than **£20,000 for charity**.

Next up: The Snowman

Following Celebration in the City, Maghull Wind Orchestra returns to the Oak Theatre, in Scarisbrick, on **5 December** with festive favourite **The Snowman**.

Audiences can look forward to a magical musical experience celebrating one of the best-loved stories of Christmas. The concert promises to be a wonderful way for families to begin the festive season.

Tickets are available here:
https://oaktheatreandstudios.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173670982

Kate Warriner added:

“After such an incredible night at Celebration in the City, we would love people to come and see us again on 5 December for The Snowman.

“It is a completely different kind of concert, but every bit as special, and a lovely way for families to begin Christmas together. If you enjoyed Celebration in the City, come and join us for the next one.”

Celebration in the City was ultimately exactly that: **a celebration of music, the Liverpool City Region, collaboration and community, and the extraordinary things that can happen when people come together to make music.**

ENDS

Notes to editors

- Celebration in the City took place at Liverpool Cathedral on 3 November 2026 and brought together more than **300 musicians and singers**.
- Participating ensembles included Maghull Wind Orchestra, St Helens Concert Band, St Helens Youth Brass Band, Red Rose Concert Band, Wirral Symphonic Wind Band and Choirs from Liverpool Cathedral. - Maghull Wind Orchestra has been part of its community for almost five decades and has performed at venues including Liverpool on Philharmonic Hall and Liverpool Cathedral.
- The orchestra has helped to raise more than **£20,000 for charitable causes over the past ten years**. - Maghull Wind Orchestra's next event is **The Snowman on 5 December 2026**.
- Photographs from Celebration in the City are available on request.
- Media enquiries and ticket information: **[insert contact name, email address, telephone number and booking link]**