

PRESS RELEASE: Messiah 4 Grenfell raises nearly £6K

Entrepreneurial professional musician David Meacock is celebrating the success of his *Messiah 4 Grenfell* having exceeded all expectations, and doubling his previous best for similar events, by raising nearly £6,000 - £5,753 to be precise – to help survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire get back on their feet via the *Family Action* Charity. The benefit concert took place in Holy Trinity Church, known as the Promers' church as it's just opposite the Royal Albert Hall which hosts the BBC Promenade Concerts.

To paraphrase Churchill, David was the Chairman of the event's Organising Committee consisting of two with one sending permanent apologies! As well as conducting the 260 strong choir and nearly 30 piece orchestra, he relinquished the podium to Malcolm Hicks, who for many years played the organ for the Last Night of the Proms, to also sing the tenor solos. The soprano solos were sung by Wigmore Hall cloakroom girl Milly Forrest, who in the Summer made national media headlines after taking over at short notice to sing there to rave reviews and is currently a postgraduate at the Royal College of Music.

David said afterwards: "With such a massive chorus gathered together, it was a great privilege to have the reliability and comradery of such an enthusiastic orchestra, continuo team, soloists and conducting help from Malcolm. We had a tremendous range of dynamic ranging from the more thoughtful introvert movements to the thunderously exhilarating *Halleluiah Chorus* which must have been heard at South Kensington tube station!!!"

David Holmes CBE, Family Action's Chief Executive said

"We would like to say a huge thank you to David Meacock for choosing Family Action to distribute the money he has raised. These funds will allow us to continue to help people through our Grenfell Tower Grants Service. To date we have given 246 grants totalling £318,000 to families and individuals affected by the terrible fire in June. Those grants have met a wide range of needs from replacing items destroyed by the fire such as toys, clothes, furniture and IT equipment to specialist items to enable people to go back to work or to continue their studies. We have also given money to help cover additional travel and childcare costs or to help with large phone bills so that people can keep in touch with relatives. We have also given grants to people who really need a short break away from the area. We will ensure that all of the money raised by David will go to people affected by the fire."

ENDS.

Notes for editors.

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Family Action

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About Family Action

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people.

We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children's Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training and consultancy.

Registered Charity Number: 264 713

Website: www.family-action.org.uk

Twitter: @family_action

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Justgiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/familyaction/grenfell>