

## Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #45: 2020, A Year of Hope and Innovation

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### Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

When I think about this present year, I am struck by all the innovation that has occurred in every part of our world, from the business sector to nonprofits. Pacific Symphony has been among those arts organizations that have relied upon musicians and staff to keep moving forward, reinventing the wheel, so to speak, by creating virtual offerings for our listeners. In fact, the virtual world appears to be our new world!

Today, I wanted to share just two of my favorite innovative performances recorded in virtual formats by groups other than our beloved Symphony, along with one outstanding performance recorded in December of last year. The first is a piece by **For King and County** with special guest appearances by Kirk Franklin and Tori Kelly. It is definitely a song of hope and is titled, *Together*. It may even bring you to your feet to do a little dance of hope! For King and County is an alternative pop-rock group comprised of brothers, Joel and Luke Smallbone, and their band. The brothers were originally from Australia but have made their homes in Nashville, Tennessee for the past several years.

Listen to *Together*, here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR1Hk0FVi\\_k&list=PL4P8\\_Z4SzTx1hmfmxISQjKpgkp1xyClwX&index=14&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR1Hk0FVi_k&list=PL4P8_Z4SzTx1hmfmxISQjKpgkp1xyClwX&index=14&t=0s)

The second performance I'd like to share is a virtual performance by the **Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House**, London. They are performing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus in a virtual format. Now, THIS IS a song of hope! The Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House were founded in 1946 on the reopening of the Opera House after World War II. The Orchestra plays for nearly all performances given by The Royal Opera and The Royal Ballet on the Main Stage of the Royal Opera House. The Royal Opera Chorus, originally known then as the Covent Garden Opera Chorus, first appeared during December the same year in Purcell's *The Faery Queene*, staged with what is now called The Royal Ballet. Its first full-scale opera production was *Carmen* in January 1947.

Enjoy Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VX7L1WK3fg>

Lastly, to remind us all of what it will be like when we can "Together" enjoy live performances, once again, here is **Handel's Hallelujah Chorus live at the Sydney Opera House**, recorded on December 23, 2019.

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weFJHtcxJt0>



**For King and  
Country  
George Frideric Handel**

I hope you have a beautiful weekend! Until we see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much we miss you.

Warm regards,

Abby

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