



Downe House

9 April 2019

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downe House crowned Senior Choir of the Year for the second year running

Not just one winning choir but two! The Downe House choir, Polyphonix won the national Barnardo's Choral Competition held at London's Royal Festival Hall making it the second year in a row that Downe House has won this prestigious national choral competition.

Following in the footsteps of Senior Choral who won the competition in 2018, this year it was the turn of Polyphonix, another of Downe House's six choirs, to take part and they were delighted to reach the finals of the competition. They took their place on stage as one of only eight choirs selected in the senior age category to sing their two chosen competition pieces. Following their performance, Polyphonix took part in a concert with the other 25 choirs taking part in the competition culminating in a massed choir item.

It was a fiercely-contested competition but Polyphonix gave a sublime performance of 'The Lord is My Shepherd' by the composer, Will Todd and 'On My Own' from Les Misérables and were crowned 'Barnardo's Senior Choir of the Year 2019'. This makes it a double celebration as Polyphonix, a non-auditioned choir open to all girls in the Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Sixth Form, is also celebrating its centenary this year having been established at Downe House School in 1919.

Director of Music, Dr Charlotte Exon said, "We couldn't be more thrilled and delighted that for two years in a row, our choirs have won the Barnardo's Choral Competition and been crowned 'Senior Choir of the Year 2019'. Music is integral to life at Downe House as is a love of singing - Polyphonix really did deliver a breathtakingly exceptional and professional performance on the day and we are all very proud of both of our winning choirs. We are also very pleased that our association with Barnardo's has proved such a fruitful one both in terms of our choirs and our success in raising over £5000 for the charity through a combination of fundraising events including the annual Gift Fair and collections at school concerts and carol services. Our girls are completely inspired to continue singing and fundraising!"

As the competition winner, Polyphonix will be invited to perform at the Barnardo's Young Supporters' Concert at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall later in the year. As the winning

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choir in 2018, Senior Choral performed at the Royal Albert Hall, a truly unique and unforgettable experience for all the girls in the choir.

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Note to editors:

About Downe House School: An independent full boarding school for girls aged 11-18 located in Cold Ash in Berkshire, Downe House is a traditional school with a focus on the future. We fuel aspiration and challenge girls as they grow into confident young women preparing to play their part in the world. We offer GCSE examinations and A levels and Downe House girls go on to study at universities all over the world.

About Barnardo's: Last year 301,100 children, young people, parents and carers were supported by Barnardo's through more than 1,000 services across the UK, such as young carers, care leavers, foster carers and adoptive parents, training and skills or parenting classes. The charity works to transform the lives of the UK's most vulnerable children and every year helps thousands of families to build a better future.

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