



*London 2012 Olympic Games  
Opening Ceremony*

# *Media guide*



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# *Embargo*

The information contained in this media guide is embargoed until 21:00 British Summer Time (GMT+1) 27 July 2012. During the Ceremony there are some things we'd like to keep secret for the audience until the moment they're revealed so please don't spoil the surprise.



## *Her Majesty The Queen*

It is with tremendous pride that the people of London and the United Kingdom welcome the world to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

We look forward to celebrating the uplifting spirit which distinguishes the Olympic Games, drawing on Britain's unique sporting and Olympic heritage.

Athletes from every corner of the globe speak of their enormous desire to represent their country through sport. It is at the Olympic Games that their many years of dedication and commitment are truly realised. The athletes' endeavours and triumphs will excite and inspire people wherever they live.

I look forward to memorable Games that leave a lasting legacy for London, the UK and the worldwide Olympic Movement.



## Jacques Rogge

President of the International Olympic Committee

Tonight's Opening Ceremony marks the official beginning of the Games of the XXX Olympiad, the moment when people around the world come together for 16 days to celebrate sport and human excellence.

For the thousands of athletes participating at London 2012, the Games represent the culmination of years of dedication, sacrifice and training. Athletes are the true heart of the Olympic Games, and this is their time to shine, to put in the performances of their lives and to inspire a generation.

For many competitors, London 2012 will be the highlight of their sporting careers. Some will of course reach the podium and set records along the way. But win or lose, it will be those athletes who compete in a spirit of excellence, friendship and respect that will set an example for us all.

I have no doubt that London will offer them ideal conditions in which to achieve their personal bests. The local organisers have done a terrific job preparing for the Games and the athletes are eager to get started turning their Olympic dreams into reality.

Sixteen days of world-class athletic performances await us, and the hosts are ready to deliver an excellent Olympic Games that will leave a positive legacy for London, the United Kingdom and the Olympic Movement for many years to come.

Like the billions of Olympic fans in London and around the world, I too will be watching and willing on the athletes. I wish each one the best of luck and an excellent and memorable Games, and to everyone in attendance tonight an enjoyable evening.

Let the Games begin!



## Sebastian Coe

Chair, London 2012 Organising Committee

*Bienvenue à Londres. Welcome to London.*

On behalf of all our teams, I would like to welcome the media to the Opening Ceremony and Games of the XXX Olympiad. We have prepared for this moment for more than seven years, and are delighted you are here to share it with us because, through your eyes, we can share the Games with the world.

The journey to this Opening Ceremony has taken place against a backdrop of dramatic social and economic change, but support for these Games has never wavered, reflecting the deep commitment of the British people and the international community to London 2012 and the Olympic ideal. We are resilient and we are ready, and we turn to sport and to the athletes to connect the world in a global celebration of achievement and inspiration.

The Ceremony celebrates the spirit, themes and vision of London 2012, based on sport, youth, inspiration, inclusion, social change and urban transformation. We have worked hard through the worst global financial conditions in decades to honour our commitments to stage Games with a major focus on community legacy and youth.

As well as using the Games to revive some of London's poorest communities, we have reached out to the youth of the world through our International Inspiration programme, the first Olympic Host City global sports development programme, teaching sport, education and life skills to more than 12 million children and young people in 20 countries, from Azerbaijan to Zambia.

We want the Opening Ceremony and the Games to leave the world with moments and memories of joy, and of what's possible, as athletes from more than 200 nations – more than the United Nations – come together in the Olympic stadium to participate in the world's greatest peaceful gathering of nations, and inspire a generation.

An extraordinary journey is about to begin. Thank you for sharing this with us and the world.



## *Rt Hon David Cameron MP*

Prime Minister

After years of planning, months of build-up and weeks of fevered anticipation, this is it: the Olympic Games 2012 have arrived.

This is a great moment for London; a chance to show our bustling, dynamic capital city at its very best. And this is a great moment for the whole of the United Kingdom. Many thousands of people from all over our country have worked to make this happen, excavating tonnes of soil, planting countless trees, building huge new sports grounds. Now the stage is set – and the Games can begin.

We want these to be the most spectacular and enjoyable Olympics the world has ever seen. Above all, we want these Games to inspire people around the world. On a monument right in the heart of the Olympic Village, the words of the British poet Tennyson have been engraved: 'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.' It's that spirit – that relentless pursuit of glory and greatness – that makes the Olympic Games so special. And it is that spirit that will go out from London to inspire the world.

I want to warmly welcome you to the Olympic Games 2012 – and I hope you enjoy the greatest show on earth.



## *Boris Johnson*

Mayor of London

Today London becomes the first city in history to stage a third Summer Olympic Games. I am delighted to welcome you to tonight's event, where we gather to mark this thrilling and humbling moment in our city's history.

This evening's ceremony celebrates the best of London's past, present and future. After centuries as a global centre for culture and commerce, London enjoys a diversity unrivalled anywhere in the world. This diversity – of culture, language, cuisine, thought, belief and imagination – is now thoroughly twined into London's DNA, both cause and effect of its phenomenal success and much-envied reputation.

It also makes this year's Games unique, and uniquely enjoyable. Almost every team competing this year will find a ready-made home crowd to cheer them on. Meanwhile, for those athletes, officials and spectators who can tear themselves away from the sport for even a moment, London offers a mouth-watering selection of things to see and do – and we've pulled out all the stops to make this summer's menu even richer and spicier than usual.

But the Games are not just celebrating what London has to offer – they have helped to shape it. The Stadium in which you sit is at the centre of a transformational renaissance for east London, with investment in the Games providing much-needed homes, jobs and green space for Londoners and infrastructure that is already attracting investment to the area from all over the world.

I hope you will treasure your memories of tonight's celebration for as long as Londoners treasure their own Olympic legacy.





## *Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP*

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

This will be a summer like no other for the UK – a unique sporting and cultural celebration to which the whole world is invited. But it won't stop there.

From the start, London 2012 was designed as much around what will happen in the years after the Games as what happens in 2012 itself.

In east London, we're creating a brand-new quarter that will benefit local communities for decades to come, served by world-class transport links, facilities and services.

Across the UK, we're building on the excitement of the Torch Relay and the London 2012 Festival – not to mention the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – to bring people together and foster a new culture of volunteering.

For our economy, we're seizing the opportunity to fire up our businesses, showcase our incredible tourism offer, and attract new investment. And most importantly, we're using the power of London 2012 to reinvigorate our country's sporting culture and inspire more young people to choose sport for life.

This is a golden moment for the UK, and we are determined to make the most of it – so that the coming weeks leave not only lasting memories, but a lasting legacy in this country and beyond.



## *Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP*

Shadow Minister for London and the Olympics

Seven years ago, this Olympic Park was a derelict, contaminated wasteland, with old fridges and debris piled high where the Stadium and other venues now stand. Now it is the largest new urban park in Europe for 150 years – set to become a cultural, sporting and commercial centre. It is a legacy that will create opportunities for all the communities of the Olympic boroughs.

Those of us in Government and Mayor Ken Livingstone wanted 2012 to be the year that changed east London forever. And it has – with this park, new jobs, new infrastructure and a renewed sense of local pride. All that, and the greatest athletes in the world competing to the limits of possibility.

For young people watching them, it's a chance to see that ambition is worth having, that dreams are worth pursuing and that bars should be set high and leapt over.

I am so proud to have been a part of this for the last 10 years. Proud, too, that over those years we politicians have set London 2012 above party politics and acted together to bring it to fruition.

We are, all of us, proud to say to you: welcome to London.



## *Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell MP*

Liberal Democrat spokesman for London 2012 and former Olympian

## *Rt Hon Don Foster MP*

Liberal Democrat spokesman for London 2012

For many, London 2012 began back in 2005 when we won the bid to stage the Olympic Games.

Since then thousands have worked tirelessly, the length and breadth of the country, to prepare, not just in London but throughout the UK – from Weymouth and Portland to Hampden Park in Glasgow. The whole country has been involved in designing and constructing the Olympic Park and venues, and tonight we will see entertainment and talent drawn together from across the UK.

We will be transported, stewarded and protected by thousands of people, including volunteers who have given their time and service to deliver the Games.

London 2012 has already inspired many young people to take up sport, with some of the best performing at the Schools Games in this Stadium earlier this year.

And tonight we will see athletes from across the globe who themselves were schoolchildren only a few years ago.

The Games will inspire us to achieve our goals. Using true British style and humour, tonight will be a celebration of the Olympic ethos that combines values of friendship, excellence and respect.

We salute the athletes you will be privileged to see over the coming days for their dedication, determination and spirit.



## *Isles of Wonder*

Some countries have revolutions that change their whole nation. Britain had a revolution that changed the whole world. The Industrial Revolution rebooted human existence. Nothing would ever be the same again.

At the end of the 20th century, the British scientist Tim Berners-Lee gave the world a gift that would change things every bit as radically as the steam engine – the World Wide Web. This, he said, is for everyone.

'This is for everyone' is the theme of the Opening Ceremony – a celebration of the creativity, exuberance and, above all, the generosity of the British people.

There are no spectators. Everyone in the Stadium will be part of the magic. We're here to celebrate the achievements of the British people and to do that we've put as many British people as we possibly can into the show. The volunteer dancers in one of our most spectacular sequences have been recruited from the National Health Service.

The Ceremony will take us through great revolutions in British society – the Industrial Revolution, the revolution of social attitudes that began in the 1960s and the digital revolution through which we're living now.

Woven through it all, there runs a golden thread of purpose – the idea of Jerusalem – of a better world that can be built through the prosperity of industry, through the caring nation that built the welfare state, through the joyous energy of popular culture, through the dream of universal communication.

We can build Jerusalem. And it will be for everyone.

*Danny Boyle*

**Artistic Director**

**London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony**

# The history of Olympic Ceremonies

## *Background to Olympic Ceremonies*

In ancient Greece, the first day of Olympic competition opened with the competitors parading in chariots past the purple-robed judges, a herald and a trumpeter. The herald called out each competitor's name, the name of his father and his city, and then declared the Games officially open.

At the Opening Ceremony of the first modern Olympiad in Athens in 1896, athletes from 13 countries paraded into the stadium and a crowd of 70,000 watched as King George of Greece officially opened the Games.

Today, Greece still features prominently – their delegation leads the teams entering the Stadium for the Athletes' Parade at the Opening Ceremony, and the Greek flag is part of the formal handover from the current Host Nation to the next at the Closing Ceremony.

Ceremonies in the modern era balance the International Olympic Committee's protocol requirements – such as anthems, speeches and lighting the Cauldron – with spectacular music, dance and pageantry, reflecting the Host Nation's history and culture.

## *London's Olympic history*

London is the first city to host the Summer Olympic Games three times. The 1908 Games were originally awarded to Rome but, following the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906, London stepped in. A total of 22 nations sent 2,008 athletes (1,971 men and 37 women) who competed across 110 events. A pool, for swimming and diving, was in the centre of the track, together with platforms for wrestling and gymnastics.

The 1908 Games also featured innovations: athletes wearing uniforms paraded for the first time behind their country's flag at both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. And the Marathon was fixed at 26 miles and 385 yards – the distance from Windsor Castle to the Royal Box in White City Stadium.

The Opening Ceremony of the 1948 Games took place at Wembley Stadium. The following weeks saw 136 events contested by 4,104 athletes from 59 nations. Known as the 'austerity Games', due to post-war rationing and hardship, there were no new venues or athletes' accommodation. The Parade of Athletes had a special symbolism as it brought together many nations that had spent the previous years ravaged by war.

The London 1948 Olympic Games was the first live event filmed in the UK. It was shown on home televisions, though few British people actually owned a TV. Volunteers were used for the first time at these Games, so the volunteer programme is coming home to where it all began.

## Other London 2012 Ceremonies

### *Olympic Closing Ceremony*

**Sunday 12 August**

Music has been one of Britain's strongest cultural exports over the last 50 years. For 'A Symphony of British Music', Artistic Director Kim Gavin will bring together some of the country's most globally successful musicians, along with the stars of tomorrow. The Ceremony will feature more than 4,000 performers, including 3,500 adult volunteers and 380 schoolchildren from the six east London Host Boroughs.

### *Paralympic Opening Ceremony*

**Wednesday 29 August**

Co-Artistic Directors Bradley Hemmings and Jenny Sealey promise a spectacular celebration of the inspirational spirit of the Paralympic Games that challenges perceptions of human possibility. Groundbreaking in its inclusivity and innovative staging, 'Enlightenment' will showcase the excellence of deaf and disabled artists among the professional and volunteer cast.

### *Paralympic Closing Ceremony*

**Sunday 9 September**

Artistic Director Kim Gavin's 'Festival of the Flame' will see Coldplay, one of the world's best-selling music acts, perform a live and one-off concert. They'll play a set of their most iconic music in celebration of Britain's rich culture of festivals – from the ancient to the modern day – alongside a cast of almost 2,000. The Ceremony will also celebrate the achievements of amazing Paralympian endeavour over the previous 11 days and mark the last night of the London 2012 Games.

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### *Around the UK, Friday 27 July*

People all over the UK will be coming together to celebrate the opening of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Ceremony will be shown on big screens at 22 Games Live Sites and 47 big screens across the UK. Up and down the country, Local Leaders will be encouraging their communities to get in on the action by hosting 'Opening Night In' screenings and events. And thousands are gathering in London's Hyde Park for the BT London Live Opening Ceremony Celebration Concert featuring Snow Patrol, Stereophonics, Duran Duran and Paolo Nutini.

# Opening Ceremony overview

## Running order

Countdown  
Green and Pleasant Land  
Pandemonium  
Happy & Glorious  
Second to the right, and straight on till morning  
Interlude  
frankie & june say... Thanks Tim  
Abide With Me  
Welcome  
Bike a.m.  
Let the Games Begin  
There is a Light That Never Goes Out  
And in the end...

## Key points

'This is for everyone' is the theme of the Opening Ceremony. It celebrates the achievements of key figures from British history and the creativity, exuberance and generosity of the British people.

The Ceremony, and the Games, opens with the sound of the largest harmonically-tuned bell in the world. A quote from another inspiration behind the show, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, is inscribed on the bell: 'Be not afeard: the isle is full of noises.'

Spectacular sequence 'Second to the right, and straight on till morning' features 600 dancers, all of whom work for the National Health Service.

The core orchestral soundtrack was recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), widely regarded as one of the world's leading orchestras. Eighty young instrumentalists join the LSO tonight as part of LSO On Track, a major four-year music initiative led by the LSO.

## Key team

Artistic Director: Danny Boyle

Designers: Suttirat Anne Larlarb, Mark Tildesley

Music Director: Rick Smith for Underworld

Writer: Frank Cottrell Boyce

Associate Director: Paulette Randall

Movement Director: Toby Sedgwick

Choreographers: Temujin Gill, Kenrick H2O Sandy and Akram Khan

Co-choreographer: Sunanda Biswas

## Key performers

Principal performers this evening include Arctic Monkeys, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Kenneth Branagh, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Sir Paul McCartney, Mike Oldfield, Dizzee Rascal, Sir Simon Rattle, JK Rowling, Emeli Sandé and Alex Trimble.

The volunteer cast of 7,500 hails from all over the world (every continent is represented).

They gave up their evenings and weekends to take part in a total of 284 rehearsals at two east London rehearsal sites and at the Stadium. On average, adult volunteers rehearsed for 150 hours each.

The child volunteers were drawn from 25 schools in the six east London Host Boroughs. The 170 16–18 year olds, from six colleges in the Host Boroughs, speak more than 50 languages between them.

All of the volunteers went through at least two audition sessions, which included skating, cycling, dancing and drumming with buckets.

All the costumes were tested for their ability to withstand wet weather. The poor volunteers were drenched with water to make sure the costumes didn't become transparent in the rain.

## Technology

The London 2012 Opening Ceremony is a celebration of – and a showcase for – 21st-century technology. Among the most exciting new ideas are the 'audience pixels'. The pixel screen extends around the audience seating area and is made up of 70,799 small panels mounted between the seats. Each of these panels has nine LED pixels – there are nearly 640,000 in total – which are controlled by a central computer. At certain points, the audience will be asked to hold up the panels and amazingly complex images and beautiful effects will flood the Stadium via the 317km of cable that connects to the central control. It took a team of 40 almost two months to install the system. And three people spent 40 hours lining up the images to the irregular shape of the seating bowl.

## UK manufacturing

Some 737 suppliers have contributed to each of the four Ceremonies – Olympic Opening and Closing, and Paralympic Opening and Closing. Of these, 96 per cent are UK companies. This means that tens of thousands of British workers from all over the country have been involved in creating tonight's show.

## Facts and stats

**15,000**

square metres of staging – equivalent to **12** Olympic-sized swimming pools

**40,000**

recycled plastic water bottles and **10,000** recycled plastic bags are incorporated into the costumes

**4 billion**

– the estimated global audience that will watch the Ceremonies

**57,000**

separate garments have been used in the build-up to the show

**500**

speakers and **50** tonnes of sound equipment used in the million-watt PA system – double the amount of speakers on the main stage at the Glastonbury Festival

**25**

tonnes – the weight the flying system in the Stadium can lift – that's equal to five elephants

**7,500**

volunteer cast



# The Olympic Park

When Seb Coe, then Chair of the London 2012 Bid Committee, presented the bid in Singapore in 2005, he pledged to make London 2012 the most sustainable Games ever.

This meant the complete transformation of a former, under-developed part of the Lower Lea Valley here in east London; much of it was a large, polluted industrial wasteland, difficult to access and visually blighted with overhead power lines, derelict buildings and piles of rubbish.

In less than seven years, London 2012 has created the Olympic Park and venues, new infrastructure for transport, energy, water and telecoms, and established a blueprint for a sustainable new community in east London based on the principles of 'One Planet Living'. After the Games, it will become the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

All the sports venues and other buildings and infrastructure have been planned and designed with legacy in mind. If they had a potential future use they were built as permanent structures, but sized only according to their future requirements. All other structures – from additional seating stands to whole sports venues, and even parts of many of the bridges spanning the railways, roads, rivers and canals that pass through and around the site – have been installed on a temporary basis.

The Olympic Park has been the spark for wider regeneration in east London. New housing, businesses and amenities are already springing up in the areas around the Olympic Park.

The vision was also about inspiring change, having a lasting influence on the way people think and behave, and setting new sustainability standards for the event industry.

Far more than just a 'green Games', London 2012 has been the catalyst for demonstrating sustainability at an unprecedented scale.

## Facts and stats

**2.5**

square kilometres – the size of the Olympic Park – roughly **350** football pitches

**52**

pylons that dominated the Olympic Park landscape were removed and replaced underground in two 6km tunnels

**102**

hectares of parklands, including **45** hectares managed for nature conservation, has been created

**4,000**

smooth newts, **100** toads, **300** common lizards, as well as fish including pikes and eels, were relocated during construction to protect them

**4,000**

trees, **300,000** wetland plants and more than **150,000** perennial plants have been planted across the Olympic Park

**30,000**

tonnes of silt, gravel and rubble as well as tyres, shopping trolleys, timber and at least **1** motor car were removed during a multi-million pound dredging programme

*The Opening Ceremony  
scene-by-scene*

# Countdown

**Duration: 00:03:26**

The opening film follows London's iconic river – the Thames – from its source in the parish of Kemble in Gloucestershire, through the Cotswold Hills and into London itself.

On the way, we encounter: Ratty and Mole, from the classic children's book *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame; the Eton Boating Song, school song of Britain's elite school; great British Olympians of the past (June Carol, Margaret Wilding, Michael Howard, John Russell, David Hemery, Richard Meade, Ian Hallam, John Knoych and David Wilkie); the Oxford and Cambridge boat race; Battersea Power Station with Pink Floyd's flying pig; the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and the Rotherhithe Tunnel – until we reach the Olympic Stadium itself.

The countdown to the start of the Ceremony begins – 10, 9, 8... – with children popping balloons on each count. The five Olympic Rings are attached to four balloons, which will carry them to the stratosphere.

The countdown climaxes with the ringing of the Olympic Bell.

The Olympic Bell is the largest harmonically tuned bell in the world and was made by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, whose workshop is just a few miles from the Stadium. The Foundry also created the Liberty Bell (in 1752) and Big Ben (1858). The Olympic Bell will remain in the Park for 200 years, after which time it will be taken back to the Foundry to be retuned. It's already in their diary.

There are two 'mosh pits' in the Stadium, each filled with members of the communities of the six east London Host Boroughs.

## Cast and creatives

- More than 180 volunteer cast.

## Music

- Music in this segment: 'Surf Solar' (F Buttons), 'Eton Boating Song', 'Time' (Pink Floyd), theme to *The South Bank Show* (Paganini), 'God Save the Queen' (Sex Pistols), theme to *EastEnders*, 'Under the House' (PIL), 'London Calling' (The Clash), 'Pomp and Circumstance' (Edward Elgar), 'Smile' (Lily Allen), 'Map of the Problematique' (Muse).

## Action

### Journey along the Thames

The opening film features a journey along London's river to the Olympic Stadium. On the way we glimpse the city's landmarks, including the Thames Barrier and London Eye, as well as a host of characters, both fictional and real – including British Olympians.



### Rings in space

The five Olympic Rings are launched into space carried by four balloons. By the end of the Ceremony, the Rings will have reached the stratosphere.



### Olympic Bell

The bell will be rung at the end of the countdown.



## Facts and stats

**34km**

– the height the five Olympic Rings will be carried to

**23**

tonnes – the weight of the **2m x 3m** Olympic Bell

**96**

children hold the balloons, which will be popped in groups of **10** during the countdown

**1m**

– the diameter of the special white latex balloons carrying the Olympic Rings, which will expand to almost **10m** as the air pressure drops

**1570**

– the year the Whitechapel Bell Foundry was founded, making it the oldest manufacturing company in the world

## Background notes

- Bells are a crucial part of London's geography: the definition of a 'cockney' is someone born within the sound of Bow Bells; the bell on the Houses of Parliament – Big Ben – announces the New Year and the evening news on TV. Historically, church bells are rung across the country to announce the coming of danger or the arrival of freedom. At the end of war, or at a coronation, we're all united by the peal of bells.
- A blue box attached to the Olympic Rings contains a camera, which relays video of the journey to the Stadium screens, and a spot tracker will transmit their position to a satellite every 10 minutes.
- Testing on the 'Rings in space' project began in winter 2011, when the team were thrilled to capture dazzling footage of a snow-covered England.

# Green and Pleasant Land

**Duration: 00:04:24**

This is the countryside we all believe existed once. It's where children danced around the maypole and summer was always sunny. This is the Britain of *The Wind in the Willows* and *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

Four films from around the UK bring some of our pride-in-place – demonstrated by the journey of the Olympic Torch over the past 70 days – into the Stadium. Choirs from each nation perform in a place as powerfully symbolic as the song itself – 'Jerusalem' will be sung here in the Stadium; 'Londonderry Air' comes from the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland; 'Flower of Scotland' from Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, and 'Bread of Heaven' from Rhossili Beach, Wales.

The beautiful lines from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* ('Be not afeard: the isle is full of noises') are spoken by Kenneth Branagh in the character of the great British engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Suddenly the scene is disrupted by drumming and the ripping open of the ground.

## Cast and creatives

- More than 500 volunteer performers, including 34 animal handlers.
- Opening Ceremony films *Isles of Wonder* and *Happy & Glorious* were produced by the BBC.

## Music

- The traditional songs representing the four home nations are 'Jerusalem' from England sung by Dockhead Choir; 'Londonderry Air' from Northern Ireland sung by the Belfast Philharmonic and Phil Kids Choir; 'Flower of Scotland' from Scotland sung by The Big Project Choir; and 'Bread of Heaven' from Wales sung by Only Kids Allowed, Only Vale Kids Allowed and the Welsh National Orchestra Singing Club.
- Edward Elgar's 'Nimrod' underscores the speech from *The Tempest*. The music has become associated with the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, commemorating the contribution of servicemen and women in two World Wars and later conflicts.
- Eighty musicians aged 7–17 join 20 members of the London Symphony Orchestra for 'Nimrod'. The young musicians are part of LSO On Track, a major project of the award-winning LSO Discovery education and community programme launched in 2008.
- The words to the song 'Jerusalem' come from William Blake's poem of 1804, *Milton*. The poem is the source of the phrase 'chariots of fire', the title of one of the films to best capture the Olympic spirit.

## Action

### British meadow

The scene is of a British meadow, with people following traditional country pursuits – farmers tilling the soil, sport being played on the village green and families enjoying picnics.



### Four Nations

The four nations that make up the United Kingdom are represented by their traditional songs including 'Jerusalem', performed in the Stadium by Dockhead Choir.



### Arrival of the Brunels

Caliban's speech from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is spoken by the character of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Britain's most revered engineer, played by Kenneth Branagh. Then 50 'Brunels' representing the technological genius of the Industrial Revolution enter.



## Facts and stats

40

sheep, 12 horses, 3 cows, 2 goats, 10 chickens, 10 ducks, 9 geese and 3 sheep dogs are involved in the scene – looked after by 34 animal handlers

4

maypoles

7,346

square metres of real turf, including crops

## Background notes

- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame was first published in 1908 and features the lovable characters Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad. *Winnie-the-Pooh*, published in 1926, is another classic of British children's literature and features AA Milne's fictional bear and friends.
- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) was consulted extensively about the welfare of the animals. This is the first time the RSPCA has been involved in a Ceremony on this scale.
- During rehearsals each field was named after a UK county, to help volunteers and cast find their way about. The area with the sheep is called Essex and the water wheel is in Gloucestershire.
- Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–59) was a British engineer who built steamships, bridges, tunnels and who revolutionised public transport by creating the world's first major railway. He embodies the inventiveness and entrepreneurial spirit of Britain.

# Pandemonium

**Duration: 00:15:09**

This segment celebrates Britain's role as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution – the workshop of the world.

The Industrial Revolution was a time of tremendous excitement, but also of fear and hardship. The living standards of ordinary people rose for the first time in history. But their lives were also radically disrupted. Families were split as the young went in search of work in cities that were overcrowded and overrun with disease. Everyone, even children, worked punishing hours. Expansion led to war as well as prosperity.

Suddenly everything stops. A hush falls and all eyes turn to the poppy field where our soldiers stand in silence. We join them in remembering the dead of all wars, past and present. To represent the dead, we see the names of some of the 'Accrington Pals' on the screens. In World War I 'pals battalions' were made of men who had enlisted together. Of the 700 'pals' from Accrington, over 500 were casualties in the first minutes of their first battle – the Somme.

Through trade unionism and protest, working people were able to solve many of these problems. Political upheavals are represented in a parade of Pearly Kings and Queens, Chelsea Pensioners, immigrants of the 'Windrush generation' – people who arrived in Britain from the Caribbean after World War II – representations of The Beatles, and the Suffragettes who fought for women's rights.

In the Stadium today we have some campaigners' descendants, including Helen and Laura Pankhurst of the great Suffragette family, and Lizi Gray, a descendant of one of the original Jarrow hunger marchers – who walked to London from Jarrow, County Durham, in 1936 to protest against unemployment.

This segment ends with a giant ring being forged from metal which, joined together with four more, creates the Olympic Rings rising high above the field of play.

## Cast and creatives

- Kenneth Branagh is well-known for starring in and directing several film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays and has received five Oscar nominations for his work. See biography p40
- The drumming is led by Dame Evelyn Glennie. Profoundly deaf since childhood, she often plays barefoot in order to feel the music more accurately. See biography p41
- More than 2,500 volunteer cast.

## Music

- The music throughout the Ceremony is directed and composed by Rick Smith, of the innovative British electronic duo Underworld. Rick Smith and Karl Hyde have worked together for over 20 years. Previous collaborations with artistic director Danny Boyle include the films *Trainspotting* and *Sunshine*, and stage production *Frankenstein*. See biography p43
- Underworld's 'And I Will Kiss' accompanies this section.

## Action

### The Age of Industry

This startling sequence, featuring chimneys rising from the ground, represents the rapid industrialisation of the United Kingdom in the 19th century.



### Remembrance

We take time here to remember the fallen of two world wars and many other conflicts. This is a moment of remembrance for all people in all countries.



### The parade

The parade includes trade unionists who strived for workers' rights, Suffragettes who fought for votes for women, traditional Pearly Kings and Queens and The Beatles, representing the cultural changes of the 1960s.



## Facts and stats

4

months – the time it took to 'break down' the costumes, until they looked worn and realistic

965

drummers, the majority of whom are volunteers

34,570

buttons on the costumes

7

chimneys, 5 beam engines, 6 looms, 1 crucible and 1 water wheel

5

carnival performers, 10 people on a 1970s DJ float, 12 newspaper boys, 20 Jarrow marchers, 24 Chelsea pensioners, 39 members of the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, 43 Pearly Kings and Queens, a Beatles float with 48 people, 50 Suffragettes, 52 members of the Nostalgia Steel Band, and 72 Windrush passengers and porters feature in the parade

## Background notes

- This segment is called 'Pandemonium', a word that was invented by the 17th-century English poet John Milton as the name for the capital city of Hell in his epic poem *Paradise Lost*.
- The significance of the poppy as a symbol to the fallen was expressed in John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields* (1915): 'In Flanders Fields the poppies blow/ Between the crosses, row on row.'
- Historians generally agree that the Age of Industry began in September 1708 when the English Quaker, Abraham Darby, was the first man to use coke, rather than wood, to smelt metal. He achieved this in a small blast furnace near Coalbrookdale in Shropshire.
- In 1918 the Suffragette movement in the UK won the right for women over the age of 30 to vote.



# Happy & Glorious

**Duration: 00:08:17**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of State, accompanied by her husband the Duke of Edinburgh, enters the Stadium with Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee.

The Union Flag is carried into the Stadium and raised by representatives of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.



**The details will only be revealed on the night. Please look out for the Opening Ceremony update, which contains all the information you will need.**

## Cast and creatives

- The team of Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel is led by Squadron Leader Lambert, Royal Air Force, RAF Brize Norton. The flag is carried by Gunner Bateman, Army, Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery; Flight Lieutenant Cadman, Royal Air Force, RAF Cranwell; Marine Edwards, Royal Navy, Commando Logistic Regiment; Colour Sergeant Hiscock, Royal Navy, 10 Training Squadron RM Poole; Corporal of the Horse Puddifoot, Army, Household Calvary Mounted Regiment; Sergeant Raval, Royal Air Force, RAF Halton; Corporal Robins, Army, 20 Transport Squadron RLC, and Lieutenant Weller, Royal Navy, DES Abbeywood. The flag is raised by Corporal Adam, Royal Air Force, RAF Leuchars; Able Seaman Class 2 Fasuba, Royal Navy, HMS Drake, and Sergeant Reains, Army, Irish Guards.
- 80 volunteer cast.

## Music

- The British National Anthem was first performed publicly in London in 1745, though the words and tune are anonymous and may date back to the 17th century. In total, around 140 composers – including Beethoven and Brahms – have used the tune in their compositions.
- The National Anthem is sung here by The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children – an award-winning integrated project for children aged 4–18. They're the only integrated deaf and hearing children's choir in the UK. See biography p41
- Other music in this section: 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba' (Handel), 'Music for the Royal Fireworks IV: La Rejouissance' (Handel), and 'Sundowner' (Blanck Mass).

# Happy & Glorious

In a film shot in Buckingham Palace itself, we see Daniel Craig as James Bond and Her Majesty The Queen playing herself, in her first acting role. She leaves with 007 in a helicopter, which swoops over the capital to scenes of great rejoicing on the journey to the Olympic Stadium.

The distant sound of an AgustaWestland AW139 helicopter becomes louder and louder until the audience see it hovering above the Stadium. As the helicopter steadies, James Bond slides open the door and the 'Queen' parachutes out, followed by Bond. The familiar 007 theme tune resounds around the Stadium and the Union Flag opens up in front of the Royal Box to reveal Her Majesty.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of State, accompanied by her husband the Duke of Edinburgh, enters the Stadium with Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee.

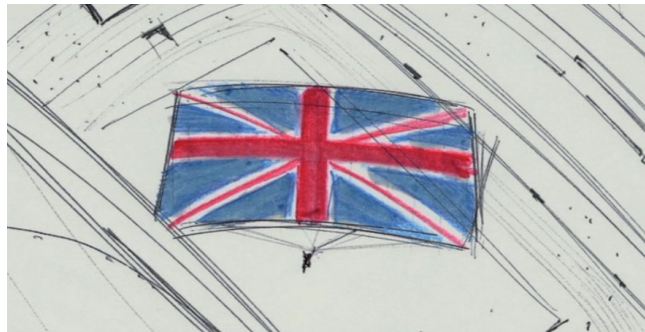
The Union Flag is carried into the Stadium and raised by representatives of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

## Action



### Bond film

Daniel Craig as James Bond and Her Majesty The Queen as Her Majesty The Queen star in a short film shot in Buckingham Palace itself. It's believed this is the first time Her Majesty has acted on film.



### Parachutists

We see the 'Queen' and '007' parachuting into the Olympic Park.

## Cast and creatives

- Daniel Craig – see biography p40
- The two parachutists are Gary Connery (The Queen) and Mark Sutton (James Bond). Gary is a professional stuntman and base jumper who's leapt from a helicopter at 2,400ft wearing a wing suit, and landing in a pile of boxes. Mark started skydiving in 1992 while serving as an Officer in the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

## Music

- The James Bond theme, written by Monty Norman, was first recorded in 1962 for *Dr No*, and has been used in 21 Bond films since then.

## Background notes

- The scene was shot in Buckingham Palace and shows the Royal corgis – Monty, Willow and Holly – the Queen's personal footman, Paul, and Her Majesty herself. 'The Queen made herself more accessible than ever before,' says Danny Boyle.

## Action



### The audience pixel screen

During this scene the audience pixel screen flashes red, white and blue before the Union Flag is unravelled.



## Background notes

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is celebrating her Diamond Jubilee this year, the 60th year of her reign. She's the second-longest serving monarch in British history. She's a living link to our shared history – to the Second World War in which she served as a driver and mechanic, to the creation of the Commonwealth of which she is the head, and to other Olympic Games – the Montreal Games of 1976, which she also opened, and the London Games of 1948 opened by her father, George VI.
- Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) competed as a yachtsman over three Olympics – 1968, 1972 and 1976. This is his final Games as President of the IOC, a position he's held since 2001.
- The London 2012 Opening Ceremony is a celebration of and a showcase for 21st-century technology. Among the most exciting new ideas are the 'audience pixels' – which appear in this segment.  
See Technology p15

# Second to the right, and straight on till morning

**Duration: 00:11:26**

This segment honours two of Britain's greatest achievements: its amazing body of children's literature and its National Health Service (the NHS). *Peter Pan* and *Captain Hook*, *Mary Poppins*, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Cruella de Vil*, the *Queen of Hearts* and *Harry Potter* were all created by British writers.

Almost all the volunteer dancers in this segment work for the NHS. The NHS is the institution which more than any other unites our nation. It was founded just after World War II on Aneurin Bevan's famous principle, 'No society can legitimately call itself civilised if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means.'

One of its most-loved hospitals is Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, to which JM Barrie bequeathed all the royalties from his masterpiece, *Peter Pan*.

As Mike Oldfield plays 'Tubular Bells', one little girl reads beneath the sheets. Soon her imagination conjours nightmarish villains from British children's literature – Voldemort, *Cruella de Vil*, *Captain Hook* and the *Queen of Hearts*. After a terrifying chase, the villains are vanquished by *Mary Poppins*.

The presence of writer JK Rowling in this section celebrates our ability to communicate with each other in complex and pleasurable ways – something unique in nature. She reads from *Peter Pan*.

## Cast and creatives

- As the creator of *Harry Potter*, JK Rowling is arguably the most successful writer in history. She's sold 400 million books. She's an inspiring and exemplary figure – not only a great writer, but also a great philanthropist who has been recently praised by the British government as a 'tax angel' – one of the few who willingly pays her entire tax bill. See biography p42
- More than 1,200 volunteer cast. They've been recruited from a range of hospitals all over the country, including the famous children's hospital at Great Ormond Street here in London.

## Music

- Mike Oldfield performs two tracks – 'In Dulci Jubilo' and his massive and innovative hit record 'Tubular Bells'. Bells and their connection to freedom and celebration are a theme in this Ceremony. When Oldfield tried to sell his long, instrumental piece (on which he played most of the instruments himself) nearly every record label turned him down apart from Richard Branson's Virgin, who issued it as their first album. See biography p41

## Action

### GOSH and NHS

The dancers spell out the initials GOSH – Great Ormond Street Hospital (London’s most-loved children’s hospital) and NHS – the UK’s beloved and iconic National Health Service.



### JK Rowling

On a rare public appearance, the most successful author in history – JK Rowling, creator of Harry Potter – reads from the opening paragraph of JM Barrie’s classic *Peter Pan*.



### Children’s literature

Some of the great villains of British literature appear as puppets, including Captin Hook from *Peter Pan*, Cruella de Vil from *101 Dalmatians*, Voldemort from *Harry Potter* and – perhaps most terrible of all – the Childcatcher from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. But the nightmares are banished by Britain’s best-loved nanny, Mary Poppins.



## Facts and stats

600

dancers, all of whom are NHS staff

32

carpet bags

320

beds

32

umbrellas

279

– the number of weeks Mike Oldfield’s ‘Tubular Bells’ stayed in the UK charts

17 million

– the number of copies sold of ‘Tubular Bells’

## Background notes

- The National Health Service (NHS), founded in 1948, provides medicine and treatment to UK residents – the vast majority of which is free at the point of use.
- Nanny Mary Poppins was created by author PL Travers in 1934. Her books were adapted for a Walt Disney film starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke in 1964.
- The pixel screen extends around the audience seating area and is made up of 70,799 small panels, mounted between the seats, to produce amazingly complex images and beautiful visual effects.
- Images we see on the screens include an ultrasound scan of a baby in the womb. The technique of using ultrasound in ante-natal care was developed by, among others, Professor Ian McDonald and Dr Stuart Campbell, both from Scotland.

# Interlude

**Duration: 00:05:03**

From Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel to James Bond and Harry Potter, British cinema has produced more than its fair share of great names. Throughout this evening you'll glimpse moments from some of the best-loved British movies, including *A Matter of Life and Death*, *Gregory's Girl*, *Kes*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Mr Bean's Holiday*.

To celebrate Britain's cinematic tradition, however, this segment honours the film most associated with the Olympics: *Chariots of Fire*.

The theme from the film is performed here by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. Written by Vangelis, it's a truly inspirational piece of music indelibly associated with athletics.

The audience discover Rowan Atkinson sitting with the orchestra. As the music rises, we see that he's daydreaming and the focus shifts to the screens, where Atkinson is seen on a beach. This new sequence was inspired by the famous scene from the film of athletes in training, and was shot at the original location – West Sands in St Andrews, Scotland.

**Note to media – we would like to keep Rowan Atkinson's performance a surprise, so please don't reveal his name before his appearance.**

## Cast and creatives

- Sir Simon Rattle was born in Liverpool and is one of the great conductors of the world. In the 1980s he made the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra into a world class orchestra before going on to become principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic. See biography p42
- Rowan Atkinson has twice achieved worldwide recognition, as the dastardly TV character Blackadder and the hapless Mr Bean. See biography p40

## Music

- The music, by Vangelis, is from the iconic soundtrack he wrote for the 1981 British film, *Chariots of Fire*.
- The London Symphony Orchestra is one of the great orchestras of the world. Its previous conductors include Andre Previn and Sir Edward Elgar.

## Action

### London Symphony Orchestra

Based nearby at London's Barbican arts venue, the prestigious LSO has a long association with film having played on the soundtracks to *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*, as well as on The Beatles' album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. They're conducted here by Britain's most distinguished living conductor, Sir Simon Rattle.



### Rowan Atkinson

A surprise appearance by the hugely versatile comic actor, celebrated the world over as silent character Mr Bean.



### Chariots of Fire

A new version of the iconic scene from the classic British movie *Chariots of Fire* as Rowan Atkinson joins Eric Liddle training on the beach. The sequence was filmed on location in St Andrews, Scotland.



## Facts and stats

4

– the number of Academy Awards won by *Chariots of Fire*

### Background notes

- *Chariots of Fire*, directed by Hugh Hudson, tells the stories of two very different athletes – Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, and the great Jewish sprinter, Harold Abrahams, who uses his prowess to confront prejudice.
- The film's success at the Academy Awards prompted its writer, Colin Welland, to say in his acceptance speech, 'The British are coming!'
- Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's wartime romance *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946) is regularly voted one of the greatest British films ever made. Director Bill Forsyth's teen comedy *Gregory's Girl* (1981) is fondly remembered, especially by boys growing up in the early 1980s. *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (1994) was a worldwide success and cemented the reputation of writer Richard Curtis, as well as its star Hugh Grant. It also featured Rowan Atkinson, one of the principal performers in this Ceremony, and the lead in international hit *Mr Bean's Holiday* (2007).

# frankie & june say... Thanks Tim

**Duration: 00:20:57**

The story starts in an ordinary house – the kind of house in which most British people live. Our fictional family – played by non-professional volunteers, chosen from among our volunteers – is ready for Saturday night.

Mum and Dad will stay home and watch TV, teenage son will play video games but the teenage girl – June – is getting ready to go out dancing. On the tube she glimpses a young man. It's love at first sight. But he's on a different train!

She drops her phone! He picks it up. He chases her through a series of nightclubs that play music from the 1960s, '70s, '90s and today... but can he catch her? Will true love triumph?

## Cast and creatives

- Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Dizzee Rascal – see biographies from p40
- 1,427 volunteer cast – roughly 350 in each of four music sequences representing the 1960s, '70s, '90s and today.
- The fictional family are all volunteer performers. Our heroes for the night are Frankie and June. Frankie is played by 19-year-old Henrique Costa and June is played by 18-year-old Jasmine Breinburg. June's joined by her 'sister' Nathalie Miller (17). In real life neither of these girls has a brother or sister, so they've really enjoyed having pretend siblings during the last three months of rehearsals. Their other brothers and sisters tonight are played by Alex Jarrat (11), Maxwell Grappy (8) and Laura Eagland (27). Mum and Dad are played by Carly Enstone and Sebastian Wilson.

## Music

- The song 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles' debuted on Broadway in 1918. In England it has become linked with fans of West Ham United Football Club, based in east London.
- 'Bonkers' was the first single from Dizzee Rascal's fourth album, *Tongue n' Cheek*. It went straight to number one in the UK charts on release in May 2009. Dizzee is a local boy, born and brought up in east London.
- Other music includes a selection of hits through the decades: The Who's 'My Generation', 'Pretty Vacant' by the Sex Pistols, 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen, The Prodigy's 'Firestarter', Sugababes' 'Push the Button' and 'Pass Out' – Tinie Tempah. There's also a cheeky reference to Underworld's 'Born Slippy N.U.X.X.', which featured in Danny Boyle's 1996 film, *Trainspotting*.



## Action

### The family

This scene is based around one Saturday night in the life of an ordinary family. A lost phone leads to budding romance at the nightclub for one of the sisters.



### The night out

The love story unfolds through a series of clubs, depicting music through the decades, ending with a social media invite back to the family house.



### Tim Berners-Lee

British scientist and Londoner Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web. His innovative thinking has changed the way we communicate for ever, and is reflected in our use of social media to arrange a Saturday night out.



## Facts and stats

1

Mini Cooper car

600

bubble guns

### Background notes

- The house is a full-size replica of a modern British house. It's made of extremely light-weight material so that it can be flown into place in two pieces.
- In the centre of the performance area is a virtual version of the same house – an inflatable multi-sided screen that is approximately three times the size of our 'real house'.
- Giant glowsticks depict the London Underground as the sisters travel from club to club.
- Kenrick H2O Sandy choreographed a huge group of teenagers and early 20 year olds in the love story. They were given the chance to be seen doing something they loved, and they have responded with astounding dedication across many rainy nights dancing their hearts out and being truly awe-inspiring. 'We set out to inspire them, but they inspired us,' says Danny Boyle.

# Abide With Me

**Duration: 00:05:51**

The beautiful hymn 'Abide With Me' was written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847 on his deathbed. He passed away three weeks after finishing it. Its honest expression of the fear of approaching death has made it popular with people of all religions and none.

## Action

### Memorial Wall

Spectators have been invited to present images of loved ones who couldn't be with us tonight. In a moving moment, those who are absent from us are digitally present.



### Akram Khan and Emeli Sandé

Emeli Sandé sings 'Abide With Me'. Fifty dancers, including the choreographer Akram Khan, dramatise the struggle between life and death using such powerful images of mortality as dust and the setting sun.



## Cast and creatives

- The dance sequence is choreographed and led by Akram Khan. Born in London to Bangladeshi parents, Akram has successfully combined classical European and Indian forms of dance in his work. In a dazzlingly distinguished career he's worked with a range of people, from Anish Kapoor – who designed the Orbit, the giant sculpture which overlooks the stadium – to Kylie Minogue. See biography p41
- Emeli Sandé is a Scottish singer whose family roots are in Zambia. She studied medicine at the University of Glasgow, wrote her first song for a talent show at primary school and went on to write for singers as diverse as Susan Boyle and Professor Green. Her first solo single, 'Heaven', was a global hit in 2011. See biography p42

## Music

- 'Abide With Me' was Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymn and was played by the band on the Titanic when it sank.
- The hymn has an indelible association with sport. It has been sung by tens of thousands of spectators at every FA Cup Final (football) since 1927 and every Rugby League Challenge Cup Final since 1929.

# Welcome

**Duration: 01:29:00**

At every Games, the Athletes' Parade is led by Greece to honour the birthplace of the Olympics. They're followed by teams from the rest of the world in alphabetical order, with the exception of the Host Nation who conclude the Parade. So this evening, that's Team GB.

The first ever Parade of Athletes was here in London at the 1908 Games. Back then there were 2,000 athletes from 22 countries. Today there are 10,490 athletes from more than 200 National Olympic Committees. This is the moment when the years of training are behind them and the excitement of 302 medal events lies ahead.

## Action

### Teams

Each team is led into the Stadium by a placard bearer wearing a dress which includes a photograph of Londoners who auditioned for the Ceremony. The front of the dress shows their faces and the back their backs.

### Flitter drop

A Westland helicopter drops seven billion tiny pieces of paper on the Stadium – one for each person on the planet. The athletes are here to represent each nation but we remember, too, the whole family of humanity.



## Facts and stats

**204**

– number of National Olympic Committees at the Games

**19**

days of competition, including the Football

**10,490**

athletes will compete in the London 2012 Olympic Games, though not all of them take part in the Athletes' Parade

**120**

– the number of beats per minute the music is played to encourage the athletes to walk just that little bit faster!

**26**

sports and **39** disciplines in the Games

**34**

venues feature in London 2012 across the UK, including Hampden Park, Glasgow (Football), Weymouth & Portland (Sailing) and, of course, the Olympic Stadium (Athletics)

**7 billion**

pieces of paper dropped – one for each person on the planet

## Music

- Songs featured in the Athletes' Parade include: Adele's 'Rolling In The Deep', 'Stayin' Alive' by the Bee Gees, Pet Shop Boys' 'West End Girls' and 'Heroes' by David Bowie.

## Bike a.m.

**Duration: 00:03:01**

This segment celebrates the bicycle – not just its part in the Games, but its role in ordinary life.

The 75 symbolic 'dove bikes' represent the traditional doves which, from ancient times, were released at the Games to signal peace. These magical bike-bird hybrids were inspired by a saying of the naturalist Louis Helle, 'Bicycling is the nearest approximation I know to the flight of birds. The airplane simply carries a man on its back like an obedient Pegasus; it gives him no wings of his own.'

Since long before ancient times – since a dove returned to Noah's Ark carrying an olive twig as proof that land was nearby – doves have been associated with peace. The story of mass communication that brought us to the internet and the mobile phone, and which includes the postman and the paperboy on their bicycles, begins on the wings of a dove.

### Action

#### Dove bikes

The traditional doves of peace are here represented by the beautiful 'dove bikes' fitted with wings. One of them actually flies away. We've lost a few in rehearsals, so if you see one on the way home, please let us know!

#### Arctic Monkeys

The Sheffield band play 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor' and 'Come Together'.



### Cast and creatives

- 70 volunteer performers.

### Music

- Arctic Monkeys perform two songs. Their debut single, 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor', went straight to number one in the UK in 2005. It was followed by four albums that also reached number one. Their second song tonight is Lennon and McCartney's 'Come Together'. See biography p40

### Background notes

- Britain has a long and proud association with cycling. The modern bicycle was invented in Scotland by a blacksmith named Kirkpatrick Macmillan, using iron wheels and wooden frame. Macmillan was the first cyclist to be prosecuted for a traffic offence, after he ran down a pedestrian in Glasgow in 1842. A plaque on the smithy wall reads, 'He builded better than he knew.'
- More recently, last weekend Bradley Wiggins became the first Briton to win the gruelling Tour de France cycle race.
- Real birds haven't been used in the Olympic Opening Ceremony since Barcelona 1992.
- In ancient Greece, each team competing in the Olympics brought with them a homing dove. These were released at the end of the Games so they could fly back to the athletes' respective cities, with messages tied to the birds' legs telling families to prepare a victor's welcome. Or not.

# Let the Games Begin

**Duration: 00:12:24**

This segment marks the official opening of the Games and includes traditional elements common to all Opening Ceremonies: speeches by the Chair of the Organising Committee and President of the IOC; raising the Olympic Flag; singing the Olympic Anthem, and Oath taking. It culminates with Her Majesty The Queen officially declaring the Games open.

## Speeches

Seb Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), is an authentic Olympic giant. He won two gold and two silver medals over successive Games – 1980 and 1984. In 1979 he broke three different world records in 41 days and his rivalry with fellow middle-distance runner Steve Ovett is one of the great Olympic stories.

Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, competed as a yachtsman over three Olympics – 1968, 1972 and 1976. This is his final Games as President of the IOC, a position he's held since 2001.



**The names of the Oath Takers and Flag Bearers, are only revealed on the night. Please look out for the Opening Ceremony update, which contains these details.**

## Background notes

- **Olympic Flag** – The Olympic Flag was first flown at the Antwerp Games in 1920. The five interlocking rings – designed by Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games – represent the bringing together of the world's five inhabited continents.
- **Olympic Anthem** – The Olympic Anthem was written for the first modern Games in 1896 by composer Spirou Samara and poet Kostis Palamas. It's been the official anthem since 1958 and included in every Opening Ceremony since 1960.
- **Olympic Oath** – An athlete first swore an Olympic Oath on behalf of his peers in 1920, promising to respect and abide by the rules and spirit of the Olympics 'for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams'. Since 1972, an official has also taken an oath, promising complete impartiality in the true spirit of sportsmanship. And in 2010 the tradition of a coach from the Host Nation taking an oath was introduced. So now there are three.
- **Olympic Truce** – In Ancient Greece, the Olympic Truce traditionally lasted up to three months, before and during the Games, allowing warring city states to set aside conflict, celebrate togetherness and experience peace inspired by sport. In 1999, the International Olympic Truce Foundation was set up to offer an opportunity for dialogue, encouraging and inspiring mankind to imagine peace. Its symbols are a dove of peace, representing the IOC's ambition to build a peaceful and better world through sport, and a flame, signifying warm friendship and global togetherness. In 2011, the UK's Truce Resolution was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly. It referred to the main themes of the London 2012 Games – including helping to promote more inclusive and peaceful communities, urban regeneration, changing attitudes to disability and inspiring young people – and received an unprecedented show of support from all 193 member states.
- The flags you see waving in the 'mosh pit' were created by children in the UK whose schools are part of the London 2012 education programme, Get Set, which encourages learning about the more than 200 nations taking part in the Games. The flags are designed to express the Olympic ideals of peace and friendship and to welcome the world's athletes to this global city.

## Let the Games Begin

The five Rings of the Olympic Flag represent the five inhabited continents of the world. A single flag for all humanity, it is a banner for the Olympic quest – to be faster, higher, stronger. ('Citius, Altius, Fortius' is the Olympic Motto.)

### Flagbearers

The nine Flagbearers, representing our common aspiration to be the best that we can be, are:

**Daniel Barenboim** is one of the world's most revered musicians and co-founder of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which brings together Arab and Israeli musicians. He believes in the possibility of harmony in place of conflict.

Known as the 'Angel of Mostar', **Sally Becker** risked death working under fire to deliver aid and evacuate children during the Balkan war. She is the Goodwill Ambassador for Children of Peace, a charity aimed at building trust and reconciliation between Israeli and Palestinian children. We salute her courage and compassion.

**Shami Chakrabati CBE**, the director of Liberty (the National Council for Liberties, founded in 1934 at a meeting in St Martin in the Fields church in Trafalgar Square, London), is an eloquent voice raised for human rights and freedom, recognised for her integrity.

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, **Leymah Gbowee** united women from all sides to bring an end to the long and bloody civil war in Liberia. She is a great peace maker.

Perhaps the greatest distance runner of all time, Ethiopia's **Haile Gebrselassie** is an Ambassador for the London 2012 International Inspiration programme,

which aims to improve the lives of young people around the world through the Games. He has also placed his sporting prowess in the service of the UN's millennium goals and is an inspirational beacon of hope.

London's own, **Doreen Lawrence OBE** founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust in memory of her murdered son. The Trust was set up in 1998 to help provide young people with opportunities denied to Stephen. A passionate campaigner for reform, we salute her tireless thirst for justice.

Secretary-General of the United Nations **Ban Ki-moon's** work expresses his conviction that the solutions to the world's problems lie in humanity's hands. He is a powerful advocate of cooperation, a builder of bridges.

In the face of political opposition and the murder of her colleague Chico Mendes, **Marina Silva** has dedicated her life to fighting against the destruction of the Brazilian rainforest. She is a passionate defender of our fragile earth.

The discipline of a great athlete creates its own code. It demands respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, generosity and spiritual strength. These virtues are represented here for us tonight by boxer **Muhammad Ali**. Nicknamed 'The Greatest', he was the heavyweight champion of the world three times between 1964 and 1979. Now aged 70, his charity work includes raising money for the Muhammad Ali Center, Arizona, which was established in 1997.

### Oath Takers

#### **Sarah Stevenson Athlete**

Sarah is the most successful Taekwondo athlete in British history. She became Britain's first-ever world champion in 2001 and won the nation's maiden Taekwondo Olympic medal at the Beijing 2008 Games. She had already competed at Sydney 2000, finishing fourth, and Athens 2004.

#### **Mik Basi Official**

Mik was born in the Olympic Host Borough of Newham, where he spent the first 25 years of his life. He went to school and college there, and boxed for Fairbairn Amateur Boxing Club. Today he is an outstanding official on the home and international boxing scene.

#### **Eric Farrell Coach**

Eric has been involved in canoeing since he took up the sport in 1969. Since retiring from competition, he's become a successful coach. He steered Tim Brabants to Team GB's first-ever Sprint Canoe Olympic medal at the Sydney 2000 Games, and ultimately to the Sprint Canoe team's first Olympic gold, when Tim won at Beijing 2008.

### The Olympic Anthem

The Olympic Anthem is performed by:

**London Symphony Orchestra** – arranged by Kirsty Whalley and Guy Barker; orchestrated and conducted by Geoffrey Alexander – and **The Grimethorpe Colliery Band** – orchestrated and conducted by Sandy Smith.

# There is a Light That Never Goes Out

**Duration: 00:07:07**

Kindled from the rays of the sun at the Temple of Hera in Olympia, the Olympic Torch has spent 70 days travelling around the UK, carried by 8,000 inspirational Torchbearers chosen by their own communities for the light that they bring to the lives of others.

The journey ends this evening as the final Torchbearer lights the Cauldron, marking the official start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

During the ancient Olympic Games in Greece, a fire was kept burning to symbolise and remind people of the Olympic Truce. The Torch is therefore a living, vulnerable reminder that the true ambition of the Olympics is not victory but peace.

The first Torchbearer was Prometheus, who stole fire from Mount Olympus and gave it as a gift to mankind.



**These details will only be revealed on the night. Please look out for the Opening Ceremony update, which contains all the information you will need.**

## Cast and creatives

- Cauldron Designer Thomas Heatherwick is one of Britain's most creative thinkers. His work includes the internationally renowned UK Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, the Rolling Bridge in Paddington and London's new red double-decker bus.
- Thomas's studio's projects are characterised by a focus on innovative architectural solutions for cities and a dedication to craftsmanship and materials.
- His favourite Olympic moment is the archer Antonio Rebollo lighting the Olympic Cauldron, Barcelona 1992.

## Music

- 'Caliban's Dream', by Underworld, features performances by the Dockhead Choir, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Only Men Aloud male voice choir, soprano Elizabeth Roberts, Esme Smith – who co-wrote the soprano and choral score – and Alex Trimble (lead singer and guitarist of Two Door Cinema Club). See biographies from p40

## *There is a Light That Never Goes Out*

### *Journey of the Olympic Flame*

Today is the 70th and final day of the Torch Relay, which has seen the Olympic Flame travel within an hour of 95 per cent of people in the UK, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey, carried by 8,000 inspirational Torchbearers.

This morning, the Torch left Hampton Court Palace on the banks of the Thames and travelled up river to City Hall, where it remained under the guardianship of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

During the Athletes' Parade, we see on screens the bridges and landmarks of the Thames light up one after another as the Flame passes. At Tower Bridge we see a speedboat piloted by football legend David Beckham, who played an important role seven years ago in bringing the Games to London. Carrying the Torch on the boat is Jade Bailey, a young footballer tipped to become one of the sporting stars of the future.

At Limehouse Cut, the oldest canal in London, David's boat turns off the Thames, heading east through the Olympic Park. Jade passes the Torch to one of the very greatest Olympians – Sir Steve Redgrave, who carries the Flame into the Stadium.

### *The Flame arrives in the Stadium*

At the Stadium, Sir Steve carries the Flame through an honour guard of 500 construction workers – some of the men and women who created the biggest new park in Europe from a derelict industrial site.

Emerging onto the field of play, Sir Steve passes the Flame to a young athlete who is joined by six others who represent Great Britain's hopes for the next Olympics and beyond. They form a peloton of potential, running together around the track, passing the Torch from one to another, until they come to rest before the giant Bell.

They're joined by seven British Olympic heroes – Lynn Davies (Long Jump), Duncan Goodhew (Swimming), Dame Kelly Holmes (800m and 1500m), Dame Mary Peters (Pentathlon), Shirley Robertson (Sailing), Daley Thompson (Decathlon) and Sir Steve Redgrave (Rowing).

The Olympians pass each of the young athletes a Torch and they head off towards the London 2012 athletes who have gathered on the field of play.

We're also delighted to welcome 260 of Britain's greatest Olympians – medal winners at Summer and Winter Olympic Games – to share the Cauldron lighting moment, including Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, Matthew Pinsent, Jonathan Edwards, David Hemery, Denise Lewis, Tessa Sanderson, David Wilkie, and six medal winners from the London 1948 Games.

### *Lighting the Cauldron*

Thomas Heatherwick's design of the Olympic Cauldron has been one of the most closely guarded secrets of the whole Ceremony.

When the competing delegations arrived in London, they each received a copper petal – inscribed with the name of their country and the words 'XXX Olympiad London 2012'. They carried these petals during the Athletes' Parade before laying them down.

The seven young Torchbearers move towards the centre of the field of play and ignite a single tiny flame within one of the copper petals on the ground, triggering the ignition of more than 200 petals. The Cauldron's long, elegant stems gently rise towards each other and converge to form one great Flame of unity – a symbol of the peaceful coming together of nations that is the Olympic Games.

The Cauldron will be moved to take pride of place in the Olympic Stadium within the eyesight of competing athletes – echoes of its location at Wembley for the London 1948 Games.

At the end of the Games, each team will take their petal home and the London 2012 Cauldron will cease to exist. Like a flower that only blooms for the duration of the competition, it's a temporary representation of the extraordinary transitory community that is the Olympic Games.



## There is a Light... continued

Each Torchbearer and Ambassador nominated a talented young athlete to take part.

### Olympic Ambassadors

#### David Beckham

Born in east London, David has played football for Manchester United, Real Madrid and LA Galaxy, winning a number of titles, and had a key role in securing the Olympic Games for his home city.

#### Jade Bailey

Footballer Jade joined Arsenal Ladies aged 11 and is currently training with their first team.

### Olympic Torchbearers

#### Lynn Davies

As an athlete, Lynn captained Team GB at Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984, and has been President of UK Athletics since 2003.

#### Duncan Goodhew MBE

Duncan won gold at Moscow 1980 in the 100m Breaststroke and continues to promote swimming as a way to better health and wellbeing.

#### Dame Kelly Holmes DBE MBE (Mil)

Dame Kelly is an Ambassador for London 2012 and won 10 Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth medals before becoming double-Olympic champion at Athens 2004.

#### Dame Mary Peters DBE

Dame Mary won the gold medal in the women's Pentathlon at the Munich 1972 Olympic Games and represented Northern Ireland at every Commonwealth Games between 1958 and 1974, competing in the Pentathlon and the Shot Put.

#### Sir Steve Redgrave CBE

Sir Steve is one of only five athletes to have won five gold medals at consecutive Olympic Games, starting with gold in the Coxed Fours at Los Angeles 1984.

#### Shirley Robertson

Shirley won gold in the women's Sailing Singlehanded class at Sydney 2000 and four years later led a crew – known as 'three blondes in a boat' – to victory in Athens, becoming the first British female Olympian in any sport to win Olympic gold in consecutive Games.

#### Daley Thompson

Daley was Olympic Decathlon champion in 1980 and 1984, world champion in 1983, European champion in 1982 and 1986, and Commonwealth champion in 1978, 1982 and 1986, and was the first person to hold the world, Olympic, Commonwealth and European titles at the same time, as well as the world record.

### Young Torchbearers

#### Callum Airlie, 17

(nominated by Shirley Robertson)

Callum has been sailing since the age of four and is a two-time Optimist UK national champion who aims to be entered into the 2013 ISAF Open.

#### Jordan Duckitt, 18

(nominated by Duncan Goodhew)

Jordan has been Chairman of the London 2012 Young Ambassador Steering Group for two years and hopes to read medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

#### Desirée Henry, 16

(nominated by Daley Thompson)

In 2011, aged 15, Desirée was the youngest member of the Great Britain Youth team to gain a world 200m title at the IAAF World Youth Championships, competing this year in the World Junior Championships in Barcelona.

#### Katie Kirk, 18

(nominated by Dame Mary Peters)

In 2010, at the age of 16, Katie was selected to run at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India, in the 400m and 4 x 400m Relay. One year later she was part of a gold medal-winning team in the 4 x 400m Relay at the European Junior championships in Tallinn, Estonia.

#### Cameron MacRitchie, 19

(nominated by Sir Steve Redgrave)

At the 2012 GB Rowing Team Under 23 Trials in April, Cameron finished fifth with his partner James Edwards in the men's pair (M2-) and was selected in the men's eight to race at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships in Lithuania in July.

#### Aidan Reynolds, 18

(nominated by Lynn Davies)

Aidan gave up a promising basketball career to focus on the javelin, winning three silver medals at national level at the English Schools, UK School Games and English Championships.

#### Adelle Tracey, 19

(nominated by Dame Kelly Holmes)

Adelle has collected county, regional and national junior and senior titles in 400m and 800m, and has been in the top five UK rankings for the last six years. She won 800m silver for Great Britain in the European Youth Olympic Festival in Tampere, Finland. Adelle's dream, inspired by Dame Kelly Holmes, is to compete in the Olympic Games.

## And in the end...

**Duration: 00:02:30**

An impressive pyrotechnic display in the Stadium and around the Olympic Park will bring the Opening Ceremony to a close. Having sat in darkness all evening, the 115m-high ArcelorMittal Orbit will be bathed in light before one of Britain's greatest musical icons takes to the stage under the Olympic Bell.

Sir Paul McCartney is described in the *Guinness Book of Records* as 'the most successful songwriter in British history'. Tonight he performs two songs, 'The End' and 'Hey Jude'. Nearly four of 'Hey Jude's' seven minutes are composed of the famous, ecstatic 'na na na na' sing-along chorus.

As the crowd sings 'na na na na' tonight, somewhere beneath their feet thousands of costumes are being hung up, electricians are preparing to turn off the lights, the sound and the screens – and someone's going to have to tidy up more than 6,500 props.

Let the Games begin.

### Action

#### Rings in space

As the Ceremony ends, we connect once again with the Olympic Rings that we saw ascend by balloon at the beginning. They're now in the mid-stratosphere, from where the curvature of the earth and the essential unity of our fragile blue planet are clearly visible.



### Cast and creatives

- Sir Paul McCartney wrote his first song at the age of 14. In the 1960s he changed the world of music with The Beatles. Over the last 40 years he's continued to push boundaries as a solo artist, as a classical composer and one of the world's greatest live performers. See biography p41

### Music

- 'The End' (McCartney)
- 'Hey Jude' was first recorded at Abbey Road Studios, here in London in July 1968. It is one of the most successful pop singles of all time.
- 'Hey Jude' sold eight million copies and spent nine weeks at number one in the US charts – the longest stay at the top spot of any Beatles single. At seven minutes, it's also one of the longest records ever to make it to number one.

### Background notes

- The 115m ArcelorMittal Orbit sits between the Olympic Stadium and the Aquatics Centre, and allows visitors to view the whole Olympic Park from two observation platforms. It is intended to be a permanent, lasting legacy of London's hosting of the 2012 Games and is Britain's largest piece of public art.
- It was designed by Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond. They called it 'Orbit' to symbolise a continuous journey, a creative representation of the 'extraordinary physical and emotional effort' that Olympians undertake in their continuous drive to do better.



*Principal performers and  
production team*

## Principal performers

'The Opening Ceremony is a fantastic show, a tribute to the athletes who have worked so hard to get here. It is a great honour to be involved with it. Every Olympic Games is very special event, but this one particularly for me being in the city in which I grew up.'

**Sir Tim Berners-Lee**

'I'm extremely proud and humbled to be part of this amazing Ceremony, which will allow the world to see some of the best up-and-coming and established talent the UK has produced.'

**Emile Sandé**

In alphabetical order

### **Arctic Monkeys**

Since releasing their number one debut single 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor' in 2005, Arctic Monkeys have released four consecutive number one albums, including their debut *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*. The Sheffield four-piece, Alex Turner, Matt Helders, Jamie Cook and Nick O'Malley, will soon start work on their next studio album.

### **Rowan Atkinson**

Rowan is one of the best-known British comic talents of his generation. With his friend Richard Curtis, he created two memorable television characters, Mr Bean and Blackadder, and has appeared in many successful West End stage productions and feature films.

### **Sir Tim Berners-Lee**

In 1989 Tim invented the World Wide Web while at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics. A graduate of Oxford University, he is a Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Director of the World Wide Web Consortium and the Web Foundation. In 2004 he was knighted and in 2007 he was awarded the Order of Merit.

### **Kenneth Branagh**

Kenneth is best known for directing and starring in several film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays. He's also directed and acted in a number of other films and TV series, most recently *My Week with Marilyn*, *Thor*, *Wallander* and *Valkyrie*. He's received five Oscar nominations in five different categories.

### **Daniel Craig**

Daniel is renowned as one of the finest actors of his generation on stage, screen and TV. He made his debut as James Bond in *Casino Royale*, followed by *Quantum of Solace* and the forthcoming *Skyfall*. Other recent credits include the film *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *A Steady Rain on Broadway*.

### **Dockhead Choir**

The choir of 7–17 year olds are drawn from Christian faith communities in Southwark, south London. They've all been singing in church from a very young age and include many brothers and sisters whose family roots are ethnically diverse.

'I am immensely proud to be involved with this momentous event and in helping to bring Danny Boyle's vision to reality. The Opening Ceremony will see the London 2012 Olympic Games off to a spectacular, flying start.'

**Mike Oldfield**

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'I am both honoured and humbled to have the opportunity to participate in showcasing the best of this wonderful and unique group of Isles. I am proud to be among my fellow compatriots who have volunteered and worked long hours to create a truly world class programme. For me the London 2012 Games demonstrate the very fabric of our British competitive spirit and hopes.'

**Dame Evelyn Glennie**

### ***Dame Evelyn Glennie***

Dame Evelyn Glennie is the first person to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist. Through overcoming the adversity of profound deafness she has become one of the world's most innovative musicians. As an international motivational speaker Evelyn draws on her experiences to captivate and enthral audiences.

### ***The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children***

The award-winning choir of 4–18 year old deaf and hearing children incorporate singing and British Sign Language interpretation into their performances. They've performed for Princess Anne, won the North London Festival Choir Competition three times and featured on BBC TV and radio. Their global patron is Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

### ***Akram Khan***

The British-born choreographer is celebrated globally for the vitality he brings to cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary expression. Akram's dance language, rooted in classical Kathak and modern dance training, continually evolves to communicate ideas that are intelligent, courageous and new. He performs his own solos and collaborative works with other artists, and presents ensemble works through Akram Khan Company.

### ***Sir Paul McCartney***

Since writing his first song at the age of 14, Paul has dreamed and dared to be different. In the '60s he changed the world of music with The Beatles. Over the last 40 years he's continued to push the boundaries as a solo artist, with Wings, as part of The Fireman, as a classical composer and one of the world's greatest live performers.

### ***Mike Oldfield***

Mike made his name with the groundbreaking 1973 musical suite *Tubular Bells* and his subsequent 24 albums all take a similar, singular, innovative path. A gifted composer, guitarist and multi-instrumentalist, he returns to the UK after years in semi-retirement, living, in his own words, a 'Robinson Crusoe-like' life in the Bahamas.

'The Olympic Games come to London once in a generation, and I am excited to be taking part in the Opening celebrations with a great British team, the London Symphony Orchestra!'

**Sir Simon Rattle**

'It's exciting to be part of the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, it's a good time for the UK and I'm glad they asked me to perform one of my biggest tracks to represent the country. Huge respect to all the athletes who are taking part and let's get the party started!'

**Dizzee Rascal**

### ***Dizzee Rascal***

During a career spanning almost a decade, Dizzee has released four hit albums including *Boy In Da Corner* and the platinum *Tongue n' Cheek*, which produced five UK number one singles. Accolades and awards include the coveted Mercury Music Prize, an Ivor Novello Award and a BRIT Award.

### ***Sir Simon Rattle***

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of Berliner Philharmoniker and former Music Director of City of Birmingham Symphony, Simon conducts leading ensembles and soloists worldwide. His long relationship with EMI has produced many distinguished recordings and his dedication to working with young people has been recognised with numerous international awards.

### ***Elizabeth Roberts***

Born in Bethnal Green, east London, Elizabeth is an accomplished performer in oratorio, opera and recital. She's appeared on two recordings with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and has performed throughout the UK, Europe and in Beijing. Operatic roles include Mimi (*La bohème*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Salome (*Hérodiade*) and Tosca (*Tosca*).

Elizabeth is joined by Junior Guildhall School of Music student Esme Smith, who co-wrote the soprano and choral score for 'Caliban's Dream'.

### ***JK Rowling***

JK Rowling is the author of the bestselling Harry Potter books. The series has sold more than 450 million copies worldwide, been distributed in over 200 countries and translated into 70-plus languages, as well as being turned into blockbuster films. She has an OBE for services to children's literature.

### ***Emeli Sandé***

BRIT Awards Critics' Choice winner Emeli has written songs for some of the biggest names in pop. Revered by her peers and championed by artists like Alicia Keys and Coldplay's Chris Martin, she released her debut album *Our Version of Events* in 2012 which reached number one in the charts.

### ***Alex Trimble***

Alex is the lead singer of Northern Irish band Two Door Cinema Club. Their debut album, *Tourist History*, was released in 2010 and has sold over one million copies. Their follow-up, *Beacon*, will be released in September 2012.

## Artistic team

'We have stars from every corner of the United Kingdom: Kenneth Branagh and Alex from Two Door Cinema Club from Northern Ireland; Evelyn Glennie from Scotland; Rick Smith (Underworld) from Wales, and Akram Khan and Dizzee Rascal from around the corner.'

Danny Boyle

### Danny Boyle

#### Artistic Director

Danny is a filmmaker whose work includes *Shallow Grave*, *Trainspotting*, *A Life Less Ordinary*, *The Beach*, *28 Days Later*, *Sunshine*, *127 Hours*, *Millions* and *Slumdog Millionaire*, which won eight Academy Awards. He has also directed work on stage at the Royal Court, Royal Shakespeare Company and, most recently, *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre. His first Olympic memory is Bob Beamon jumping out of the pit in Mexico 1968.

### Mark Tildesley

#### Designer

Mark co-founded the Catch 22 Theatre Company, for whom he directed, designed and performed. He continued designing for the stage, including the Young Vic, Royal Opera House, and most recently *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre. Films with Danny Boyle include *28 Days Later* and *Sunshine*. Other films include *24 Hour Party People*, *The Constant Gardener* and *Happy-Go-Lucky*. His favourite Olympic moment is John Currie winning gold in figure skating, Innsbruck 1976.

### Suttirat Anne Larlarb

#### Designer

Suttirat Anne Larlarb has been part of Danny Boyle's creative team for seven years. She has been designing internationally for theatre and film since receiving her MFA at the Yale School of Drama in 1997. Credits include the films *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours*, and *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre. Her favourite Olympic moment is Mary Lou Retton winning gold for the USA in gymnastics, Los Angeles 1984.

### Rick Smith for Underworld

#### Music Directors

Underworld are Rick Smith and Karl Hyde – artists, composers, musicians and creative partners of 30 years standing. The duo first worked with Danny Boyle on *Trainspotting*, and most recently *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre. They are also two of the original founders of art and design collective, Tomato. Rick's favourite Olympic moment is Abebe Bikila running the marathon barefoot and winning gold, Rome 1960.

### Frank Cottrell Boyce

#### Writer

Frank is a children's writer and screenwriter. His Carnegie Medal-winning book, *Millions*, was filmed by Danny Boyle. His most recent book is the first official sequel to Ian Fleming's *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. As a teenager, his emotional life was dominated by the rivalry between two great Olympians – Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe.

### Paulette Randall

#### Associate Director

Paulette is a freelance theatre director, television producer and writer. Credits include *Desmond's* (Channel 4), *The Real McCoy* (BBC2) and *Kerching!* (CBBC). She has directed five of August Wilson's plays, which celebrate the African American experience, at the Tricycle Theatre and is a former Artistic Director of Talawa Theatre Company. Her favourite Olympic moment is Tommie Smith and John Carlos' Black Power salute, Mexico City 1968.



## Sascha Dhillon

### Video Editor

Sascha has edited and assisted on a variety of film and television programmes over the past 15 years, including *The Big Breakfast*, *Mike Bassett: England Manager*, *Big Brother*, *Fame Academy*, *Five Children and It*, *The History Boys*, *Good and Mamma Mia!* His favourite Olympic moment is Daley Thompson whistling the National Anthem, Los Angeles 1984.

## Adam Gascoyne

### Visual Effects Supervisor

Adam is a co-founder of Union Visual Effects, London. His extensive career has covered all aspects of film production and post-production, including collaborations with Danny Boyle on *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours*. His favourite Olympic moment is Eric Moussambani swimming the 100m freestyle, Sydney 2000.

## Tracey Seaward

### Producer

Tracey most recently co-produced Steven Spielberg's Oscar nominated *War Horse*. She has a long standing collaboration with Stephen Frears producing, among other films, *The Queen*, for which she received the BAFTA Award for Best Film and an Academy Award nomination. Other credits include Fernando Meirelles' *The Constant Gardener*, David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* and Danny Boyle's *Millions*. Her favourite Olympic moment is Allan Wells' wife Margot cheering her husband to gold in the 100m final, Moscow 1980.

## Toby Sedgwick

### Movement Director

Toby was an actor for more than 30 years with extensive theatre credits. He appeared in Danny Boyle's film *28 Days Later* and was movement director on *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre. Choreography credits include *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang*, *The 39 Steps* and *War Horse*, for which he won an Olivier Award for Best Theatre Choreographer. His favourite Olympic moment is Richard Fosbury debuting the Fosbury Flop, Mexico City 1968.

## Temujin Gill

### Choreographer

Temujin is an Associate Artist at Greenwich Dance, ex-Jiving Lindy Hopper and founder of Temujin Dance. Credits include collaborations at the Young Vic, Half Moon Theatre and National Maritime Museum, presenting work at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sadler's Wells and the Lindy Hop extravaganza for Ray Davies' Meltdown Festival 2011, and working with Daniel Radcliffe. His favourite Olympic moment is Muhammad Ali winning the light heavyweight gold, Rome 1960.

## Sunanda Biswas

### Co-Choreographer

Sunanda is one of the UK's foremost B-Girls and founder of Flowzaic, the UK's first all-female breaking crew. A founding member of Temujin Dance, she choreographed the BAFTA Award winning *Fishtank* and has worked with Mel B, Gabrielle and Take That. Other credits include Nike Dance Clash, Breaking Convention and B-Supreme Women in Hip-Hop Festival. Her favourite Olympic moment is the USA gymnastics team winning gold, Atlanta 1996.

## Kenrick H2O Sandy

### Choreographer

Kenrick is a choreographer, performer, teacher and Co-Founder/Artistic Director of Olivier Awarded and Barbican Associate Artist Boy Blue Entertainment. Credits include *StreetDance 3D*, *Tour De France 2007*, BRIT Awards, National Movie Awards, BAFTA Awards, Alesha's *Street Dance Stars*, Peter Andre, Plan B, Victoria Beckham and *The Saturdays*. His favourite Olympic moment is Usain Bolt celebrating his record-breaking win with the famous archer pose, Beijing 2008.

## Thomas Heatherwick

### Cauldron Designer

Thomas is one of Britain's most creative thinkers. His work includes the internationally renowned UK Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, the Rolling Bridge in Paddington and London's new red double-decker bus. His studio's projects are characterised by a focus on innovative architectural solutions for cities and a dedication to craftsmanship and materials. His favourite Olympic moment is the archer Antonio Rebollo lighting the Olympic flame, Barcelona 1992.

## London 2012 Ceremonies executive team

### *Bill Morris*

#### **Director of Ceremonies, Education and Live Sites**

Bill joined London 2012 six years ago from the BBC where he started as a journalist, moved into radio and TV production and executive roles, before specialising in major events as Project Director Live Events. These included the BBC Music Live festival, the annual BBC Proms in the Park, the Olympic Torch Relay Concert in London's Mall, and the Queen's Concerts at Buckingham Palace (for which he was awarded the LVO in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List). He also coordinated broadcast live events across a number of BBC radio and television services, including Live 8 in 2005. Bill served on the Radio Academy's Council from the early 1990s, he was Chair 1998-2001, and was made a Fellow in 2001.

### *Martin Green*

#### **Head of Ceremonies**

Trained in writing and directing theatre, Martin spent five years as Head of Events for the Mayor of London where he was responsible for producing global events such as the London New Year's Eve fireworks, major music festivals and one-off events across the city. As Director of Events at the O2 he oversaw the reopening of this now hugely successful venue. He joined London 2012 in 2007 as Head of Ceremonies, where he has recruited and inspired a world class team to deliver the Torch Relays, Victory Ceremonies, Team Welcome Ceremonies, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### *Catherine Ugwu*

#### **Executive Producer, Production**

Catherine is a creative director, executive producer and consultant and has been involved in some of the world's largest and most prestigious public events. She was Executive Producer for the Glasgow Handover Ceremony of the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games; Senior Producer for the strategic phase of the Opening, Closing and Victory Ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics; she produced the Opening Ceremony for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar in 2006, the Closing Ceremony for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002 and a large-scale performance spectacle to mark the opening of the Millennium Dome, London in 2000.

### *Stephen Daldry*

#### **Executive Producer, Creative**

Stephen started his career at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre and directed extensively in Britain's regional theatres. In London he was Artistic Director of the Gate and Royal Court theatres; he's directed at the National Theatre, the Public Theatre in New York and transferred many productions to the West End and Broadway. His production of *Billy Elliot: The Musical* is currently playing in London and on tour in the USA. It recently won more Tony Awards (10) than any other British show in Broadway history. He's also made four films: *Billy Elliot*; *The Hours*; *The Reader*; and *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.

## *Hamish Hamilton*

### **Executive Producer, Broadcast/TV**

Hamish, from Blackpool, is a Grammy-nominated, multi-camera television and video director. He began his career as a trainee with BBC Scotland and as a TV director for the BBC Manchester Youth Programmes Unit. Pursuing his love of live music, he's directed the BRIT Awards, the MTV European Music Awards and the Victoria's Secret Fashion Shows for nine years. His credit appears on nearly 30 million live concert DVDs. His most recent work includes the Oscars, the MTV Video Music Awards and the Super Bowl halftime shows. He is also Creative Director of the television and event production company Done and Dusted.

## *Mark Fisher*

### **Executive Producer**

Mark has been an adviser to London 2012 Ceremonies since 2007. A world-renowned designer and architect, his credits include *The Wall* for Pink Floyd in 1980 and Roger Waters in 2010; every Rolling Stones show since 1989 and every U2 concert since 1992; the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. His theatre shows include *KÀ* and *Viva Elvis* for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas.

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## **Media Update 21:00hrs BST**

**Embargoed until each element appears in the show**

### **Update to p18 of media guide 'Countdown'**

The giant bell, which starts the show, will be rung by cyclist Bradley Wiggins.

Bradley Wiggins is coming into the London 2012 Olympic Games on a high, after becoming the first British rider to win the Tour de France.

Wiggins has had remarkable success in both Road and Track Cycling disciplines, and has competed at three Olympic Games. His medal wins in the Individual Pursuit (gold), Team Pursuit (silver) and Madison (bronze) at Athens 2004 marked the first time in 40 years that a British athlete had won three medals at a single Games. The 32-year-old also took home two Track Cycling gold medals from Beijing 2008, as well as a bronze at Sydney 2000. His attention is now focused on Road events at London 2012, with Individual Time Trial and Road Race medals in his sights.

### **Update to p33 of the media guide: 'Welcome'**

When the competing delegations arrived in London, they each received a copper petal – inscribed with the name of their country and the words 'XXX Olympiad London 2012'. The children parading with the flag bearers are carrying those petals, which will feature in a sequence later in the Ceremony.

### **Update to p35 of media guide: 'Let the Games Begin'**

Additional information for Haile Gebrselassie biography:

Also a UN Goodwill Ambassador since 1998, he works with them on their Development Programme with the mission to eradicate poverty, fight HIV/Aids and promote democracy. Haile is also heavily involved in the UN World Food Programme.