



The Coronation

Composer of the Week





The Coronation of
King Charles III will
take place at
Westminster
Abbey on
Saturday May 6th
2023.



Westminster Abbey is where Kings and Queens have been **crowned** ever since 1066 when the coronation of William the Conqueror took place on Christmas Day.

At the beginning of the service, and at many other times during the day, a **fanfare** will be played. A **fanfare** is played to alert everyone that something important is about to happen.

A **fanfare** is usually played by trumpets, sometimes with the addition of drums.

There are special Royal Trumpeters that play at important celebrations like the Coronation and often a new **fanfare** is composed for such occasions.



When King Charles arrives at the Abbey, his procession will follow a new Cross called the **Cross of Wales**.

Pope Francis has sent the new King a present of relics from the True Cross, which have been included in the design.




The Cross is inscribed in Welsh with the words of St David...

«Be happy»

«Keep the faith»

«Always do the little things»



Much of the music we will hear at the Coronation is traditional but there will also be some new compositions.

Since King Charles I's coronation in 1626, monarchs have entered the Abbey to words from Psalm 122: "I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord".

Sir Hubert Parry composed the music we hear today for the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.



There is one section towards the middle of this **anthem** that is only usually sung during a Coronation. The Choir of Westminster School traditionally sing this in Latin 'Vivat Regina Elizabetha' – Long live Queen Elizabeth.

Listen out for this during the Coronation Ceremony to see if you can spot the difference.



This section has to be rewritten for every coronation, because it uses the name of the King and Queen.





Queen Camilla
will also be
crowned at the
ceremony.

The official logo of the Coronation uses the emblems
of the UK nations.

Do you know what they are?



England

Rose

Scotland

Thistle

Wales

Daffodil

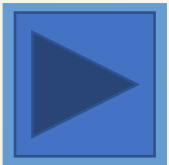
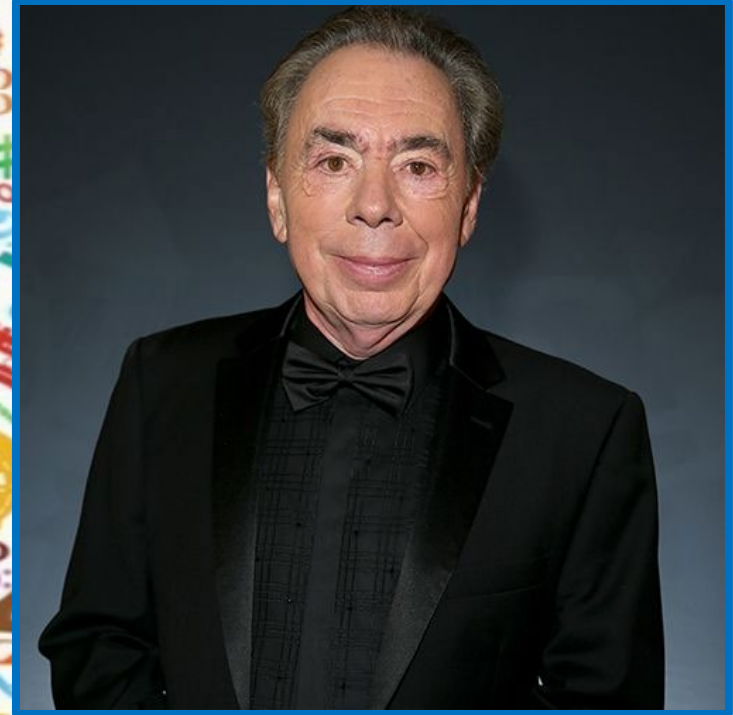
N. Ireland

Shamrock

For the first time ever, some of the Coronation ceremony will take place in Welsh. The Welsh Opera singer **Sir Bryn Terfel** will sing a new composition of the **Kyrie** (Lord Have Mercy) written in Welsh by the Welsh composer **Paul Mealor**, who says about the piece, *"It is a cry from the deep soul of the hills and valleys of Wales for hope, peace, love and friendship."*



The choir will sing an Anthem
(a religious choral work)
composed by the Musical
Theatre composer Sir Andrew
Lloyd-Webber. It is called
'Make a Joyful Noise'.





The Coronation Chair, also known as St Edward's Chair, has been used to crown monarchs since the coronation of King Edward II in 1308.

It is the oldest piece of furniture in the United Kingdom which is still used for its original purpose.



Notice that there is a space under the chair. This is to hold **The Stone of Destiny**. It is a Scottish symbol used originally by the Kings of Scotland.

It is travelling down from Edinburgh in Scotland to Westminster Abbey for the Coronation.

The King will sit in this chair
to be **anointed**.

This is when holy oils are put
on the King's hands, breast
and head.

The oil is made using,
among other things, olives
from the Mount of Olives in
Jerusalem.

The oil is stored in the
Ampulla and will be poured
into the **Coronation Spoon**
for the anointing.



In 1727 **George Frideric Handel** wrote a set of Coronation Anthems for King George II.

The most famous of these **Zadok the Priest**, has been performed at every Coronation since then.

It is traditionally sung at the anointing of the King.



A version of this piece is used as the Introduction music for the UEFA Champions League.



The King's Crown



This is called St Edward's Crown and the Coronation is the only time in his life that the King will wear it. It's probably just as well as the crown weighs over 2Kg. It was made in 1661.

The Queen's Crown



This is called Queen Mary's Crown.

It was made in 1911 for the Queen of King George V.

It only weighs 590g.

The crown is made of silver and is covered by 2,200 diamonds.

The Orb and Sceptre



The **Orb** is given to the King as a symbol of his moral and religious power. The **Sceptre** is a symbol of justice and mercy.



Sir William Walton
composed the March **Crown Imperial** for the
coronation of King
George VI in 1937 and
the March **Orb and
Sceptre** for the
coronation of his
daughter, Queen
Elizabeth in 1953.



This time, there will be a **Coronation March** composed by the Scottish composer, **Patrick Doyle** – who wrote the film music for **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**.



The service will be sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey and the Choir of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, together with girl choristers from the Chapel Choir of Methodist College, Belfast and from Truro Cathedral Choir.

The Ascension Choir, a handpicked gospel choir, will also perform as part of the service.



The conductor for the service will be **Andrew Nethsingha**, the Master of Choristers at Westminster Abbey.



The Coronation will end with everyone singing the
National Anthem.

God Save the King.

