

**PRESS RELEASE: 1 December 2012**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

## **HEADING FOR NUMBER ONE THIS CHRISTMAS - THE BRITISH PARAORCHESTRA**

### **The British Paraorchestra 'True Colors'**

featuring ParalympicsGB athletes & The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children

After inspiring millions of viewers around the world with a thrilling performance at the Closing Ceremony of the Paralympic Games, the British Paraorchestra, the world's first ensemble of professional disabled musicians, is aiming to top the charts this Christmas with its heart-warming version of 'True Colors'.

The single will be released on Monday 3 December 2012 – the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities – and features The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children and the voices of ParalympicsGB.

The solo voice heard at the beginning and end of the track belongs to Lyn Levett, from the Paraorchestra. Lyn has cerebral palsy and cannot speak. With state-of-the-art technology she sings through her computer in True Colors, for the very first time.

Founded by British conductor Charles Hazlewood, the British Paraorchestra is pioneering a global movement to recognise and showcase disabled musicians with extraordinary abilities. Its mission is to end the limitations placed on them, not by their physical ability but by lack of opportunity.

It's been an incredible six months for the British Paraorchestra. They made their official debut at Orchestra in a Field, Glastonbury, in July. This was followed by headline performances at the Unlimited Festival, Southbank Centre, as part of the London 2012 Festival, and at the prestigious Snape Proms in Aldeburgh. The Paraorchestra composed and recorded the theme music for Jon Snow's Paralympic Show on Channel Four, and also performed live at the official team launch of ParalympicsGB.

Channel Four's 'Great British Paraorchestra' documentary, screened just before the Paralympics Closing Ceremony, followed the remarkable story of some of the musicians as they prepared for their debut.

### **Charles Hazlewood, the British Paraorchestra's Artistic & Music Director said:**

*Each of us wants to be seen for who we are as individuals. No-one of us want to be judged by our looks, our weight, our gender or our colour. This summer the Paralympics revealed the extra-ordinary individuals that make up the ParalympicsGB team to rapturous applause by audiences from all over the world. We want to do the same for disabled musicians and indeed all talented disabled people. The song 'True Colors' played by disabled musicians,*

*sung by deaf and hearing children and supported by Paralympians captures the longing and the joy of being seen for who you truly are. I'm crossing everything in hope that the great British public will get behind the single, as they did with ParalympicsGB and support the mission. What better way to celebrate Christmas!*

The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children is an award-winning, integrated project that brings together children and young people aged 4 to 18, of all abilities and backgrounds. Since the choir began in 2005, they have performed for Princess Anne, and have been featured on BBC2's See Hear and BBC Radio 3's The Choir. Their crowning moment came in July this year when they sang and signed the National Anthem at the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, followed by a performance on the Eurostar platform to welcome Paralympians from the French and Belgian teams, and at St. Paul's Cathedral at the Opening Service for the London 2012 Paralympics.

**Suzy Davies, Music Director, The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf and Hearing Children said:** *'Inclusion has always been at the heart of what we do. We believe that there are no limits to what anyone can achieve, both as an individual and especially as part of a team with a common goal. This wonderful collaboration has only reinforced this for us. It's been a joy and a privilege from the start and we're incredibly excited about what the future may hold.'*

**Tim Hollingsworth, CEO of the BPA said:** *'One of our ambitions for London was to change the way disabled people are perceived. Through the extraordinary performances of our athletes we achieved just that with the nation focussing on what people can do, rather than what they can't. This single is another demonstration of that – it is a joyful collaboration of talent from the world of music and sport. Through their support of the Paralympics, Britain showed the world what kind of nation we are – we hope that the country gets behind this single in the same way'.*

Proceeds from sales of the British Paraorchestra's 'True Colors' will go towards supporting the ParalympicsGB team at the Sochi 2014 Winter Games, to enable The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children set up a new Saturday Signing Choir and to fund their next signed song DVD and for the future growth and development of The British Paraorchestra.

**For viewing and download:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bupIH3UkPnU>

<https://itunes.apple.com/album/true-colors-feat.-paralympicsgb/id583318024?ls=1>

**This press release is available in alternative formats on request.**

**True Colors** by Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly  
Arrangement © Charles Hazlewood & The British Paraorchestra  
Choral arrangement Suzy Davies & The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children

Recorded at Sphere Studios, London, England  
Recorded & Mixed by Andy Rose  
Produced by Charles Hazlewood  
Mastered by Simon Heyworth from Super Audio Mastering  
For the British Paraorchestra: Producers: Sarah Hickson & Emma Richards

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **For press and media enquiries:**

Linda Valentine 07949 174811

[linda.valentine@sky.com](mailto:linda.valentine@sky.com)

#### **The British Paraorchestra**

[www.paraorchestra.com](http://www.paraorchestra.com)

Sarah Hickson: [sarahhickson@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahhickson@btinternet.com)

Emma Richards: [erichards54@btinternet.com](mailto:erichards54@btinternet.com)

#### **Charles Hazlewood**

[www.charleshazlewood.com](http://www.charleshazlewood.com)

Annie Michie: [annie@charleshazlewood.com](mailto:annie@charleshazlewood.com)

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

[www.thekaos.org](http://www.thekaos.org)

Suzy Davies: [music@thekaos.org](mailto:music@thekaos.org)

#### **ParalympicsGB**

[www.paralympics.org.uk](http://www.paralympics.org.uk)

Tash Carpenter: [tash.carpenter@paralympics.org.uk](mailto:tash.carpenter@paralympics.org.uk)

#### **Notes for editors**

We would like to thank our partners who have contributed in so many ways to making this recording a reality:

Knickerbockerglory TV  
International Paralympic Committee  
The Sun Newspaper Group  
Sphere Studios, Battersea  
Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington  
Ableton Software  
Radio Taxis Group  
HCT  
Eve & Green  
Al Desco  
Bell Percussion Ltd  
St. Luke's Church, West Holloway

**About ParalympicsGB**

ParalympicsGB is the name for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Paralympic Team that competes at the summer and winter Paralympic Games. The Team is selected and managed by the British Paralympic Association, in conjunction with the national governing bodies, and is made up of the best sportsmen and women who compete in the 20 summer and 4 winter sports on the Paralympic Programme. There is only one Paralympic team from Great Britain and Northern Ireland; ParalympicsGB. There is not a Paralympic swimming team or Paralympic tennis team. The individual sports join to become ParalympicsGB, the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Paralympic Team.