

British Singing Sensation Katherine Jenkins to Perform at Pioneer Day Commemoration Concert

Salt Lake City – 17 May 2012

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir announced today that renowned Welsh mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins will be the featured performer at this year's "Joy of Song" Pioneer Day Commemoration Concert on Friday, 20 July, and Saturday, 21 July, at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Center.

At the age of 31, Katherine Jenkins is already known for being one of the most prolific classical crossover artists in the world. She is recognized for her unique renditions of popular songs, operatic arias and hymns. She has released eight studio albums, won two Classical BRIT awards and sold in excess of seven million albums since launching her career in 2004. But U.S. audiences probably know her best as a top contender on ABC's 14th season of "Dancing with the Stars."

"I am looking forward to joining my voice with the 360 voices of this incredible choir" said Katherine Jenkins. "One of the joys I experience is bringing an awareness of the positive transformative power of music in the lives of all people, young and old."

Jenkins has learned firsthand the power of music through her long-standing work with the British Forces Foundation for which she is a trustee and has consequently made various trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to entertain the troops. This support for the troops has led her to being referred to as the Forces Sweetheart.

"We are absolutely delighted to have Katherine Jenkins lend her extraordinary talent to this concert which carries on a 170-year old tradition of the Church's dedication to the cultural arts" said Mac Christensen, president of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

That tradition started in 1839 in Nauvoo, Illinois when the Church organized a dramatic company, choir, band, singing school, and dancing school, and a university where music instruction was offered.

It was the hymns and songs the Mormon pioneers sang during their historic trek to Salt Lake City that helped bring courage, hope and joy to the thousands who made the journey.

Not surprisingly, just two weeks after the pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, a choir of Welsh and English singers formed the forerunner of today's world-renowned Tabernacle choir. Their first performance was in a crude, open-air bowery with a thatched branch-and-sagebrush roof, located on what is now Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

"The Pioneer Day Commemoration Concert is like Christmas in July" said Christensen. "We are privileged to host the highest caliber of performers in a multimedia

experienceto perform not only during the holiday season but during the summer as well in free concerts for the public.”

Free tickets for the concert are required. Tickets will be distributed through a random selection process.

Those interested in entering the random selection process for tickets may register on the Internet at www.lds.org/events beginning Saturday, May 18, 2012, at 12:01 a.m. The registration period will remain open through Monday, May 28, 2012, at 11:59 p.m.

Those without Internet access may register over the phone at (801)570-0080 (local) or at 1-866-537-8457 (toll free).

All registrations received during the registration period will have equal chances at receiving tickets in the random selection process.

Those without tickets may choose to stand by on the chance additional seating becomes available. The stand-by line forms at the north gate of the Conference Center approximately 90 minutes before the concert.

The concert will also be shown at various LDS stake centers over the Church satellite system on Saturday, July 21, 2012, with subsequent rebroadcasts to many areas of the world.

In addition, the performance will be rebroadcast in its entirety, July, 24th at p.m. on BYUtv and on July at 8:00 p.m. on KBYU, channel 11.

