

Our composer and librettist

Sally Beamish is a composer whose music embraces many influences, especially Scottish traditional music, and jazz. Her works include a concerto for Scottish harp and fiddle; *Equal Voices*, to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War; *A Judas Passion*; three piano concertos; two ballets; and *A Shakespeare Masque* to texts by the then poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy. She has twice been the BBC Radio 3 Composer of the Week and has been the recipient of prestigious awards. She is a Quaker.

Peter Thomson is a writer, actor and director. His acting career includes West End, fringe, and repertory productions, and he has directed over thirty BBC radio plays and fifteen stage plays. His work as a director is extensive and he has taught creative writing and theatre studies in various universities. He has collaborated with Sally Beamish on two operas and a dance project, as well as on this community oratorio.

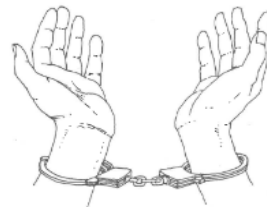
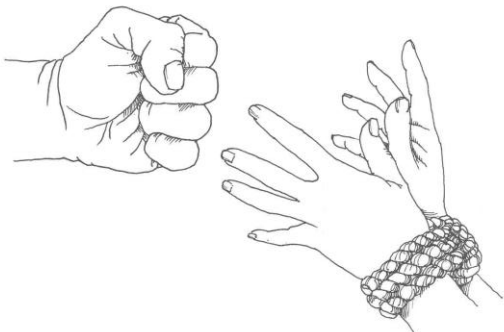


Important messages

Torture is illegal and immoral. It damages, physically, mentally and spiritually:

- the tortured and their families
- the torturers and others involved in the torture sessions, such as medical staff
- those who give the orders
- those higher up the chain who authorise it or collude in its use
- members of society in any country that condones its use.

Torture is always wrong. Information extracted under torture is inadmissible in British courts of law and in some other jurisdictions. It is unreliable and the majority of good intelligence is obtained by building up rapport with a suspect.



Singing against torture:
can you help us make an
impact?

A
KNOCK
ON THE
DOOR



A new work for amateur
choirs

by

Sally Beamish and
Peter Thomson

Commissioned by Quaker Concern
for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT)

Singing against Torture

Q-CAT is always looking for new ways to witness against torture on behalf of BYM and to involve people in supporting action against it.

What have we commissioned before?

Previous Q-CAT commissions have had a big impact on a wide range of people, not just Quakers, helping them to become aware of torture and its effects.

'World without Torture' garden in 2012 at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park.

The gold-medal winning garden was visited by about 9000 people. Part of it was then moved to Woodbrooke so is still seen by many.

'Feeding the Darkness: shining a light on state-sanctioned torture through story, poem and song'

This continues to raise interest and is being booked around the country. Lynn and Dave Morris have so far given over 30 performances and it has been seen by more than 1,000 people in meeting houses, schools, colleges and theatres, and at BYM.

What are we doing now?

We have commissioned a short choral work. It is about the shadow that torture casts over peoples' lives across the world. It starts when a person is detained and the libretto is formed of the thoughts and words of two people, a detainee and their interrogator. Each voice is sung by a section of the choir. This is a serious subject of course but presented in an engaging way.

Why singing?

It can be fun and energising. It brings people together. It reaches both the head and the heart. Working on learning the music is rewarding. Others might like to come and listen to it.

Who can sing it?

'A Knock on the Door' is written for anybody who wants to have a go. It could be an amateur choir, a local or area meetings, or other groups.

Can you help?

We plan that the premiere will be in 2022, probably in Birmingham during the Commonwealth Games. However we have considerable up-front costs, such as payment for the music, the libretto, the production of the scores and so on. Will you help us cover these? Donations will be very welcome. Thank you.

Website: www.q-cat.org.uk

How to donate

Donation by bank transfer is to Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture Registered Charity account at CAF Bank Ltd sort code 40-52-40, account number 00018313. Please indicate your name or other identification as payee. To obtain a receipt please email Q-CAT on mjhridrie@btinternet.com, indicating if you would like a digital or paper one.

Or send a cheque, made out to Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture, to Michael Hutchinson, Acting treasurer, Q-CAT, 32 Riddrie Knowes, Glasgow G33 2QH

MANY THANKS

Gift Aid

If you qualify you can boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid declaration

I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Name.....

Signature.....

Address.....

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