



**CHRISTMAS / HOLIDAY GAIETY**  
A POLYARTS x PEACHOUT PRODUCTIONS PROJECT

# CHRISTMAS IS A LITTLE QUEER THIS YEAR...

Alongside drag sensation **Peaches Christ**, conductor **Edwin Outwater** co-hosts, conducts, and co-emcees this camp Christmas party, bringing an orchestra and special guest stars together at the world's best and most forward-thinking venues.

Holiday Gaiety was first presented by the **San Francisco Symphony Orchestra** in 2018, and has been a staple of the city's Christmas celebrations ever since. In 2022, Edwin and Peaches brought the show to London's prestigious **Royal Albert Hall**, with further international dates planned for the upcoming seasons.



# CHRISTMAS IS A LITTLE QUEER THIS YEAR...



Previous guests have included acclaimed **drag superstars** such as Miss Coco Peru, Thorgy Thor, Bob the Drag Queen, Sister Roma, and Monét X Change, alongside actors and **Broadway** showstoppers such as Jane Lynch, Cheyenne Jackson, Ana Gasteyer, and Marisha Wallace.

Each individual performance is **tailored exclusively** to its location, making every show unique and encouraging the engagement of local talent and audiences.

A classic variety show with a twist, *A Christmas Gaiety* is perfectly placed to bring **new and diverse** audiences into the orchestral sphere, with **high-quality talent** also exciting existing classical concert-goers. The performance not only provides entertainment and comedy, but highlights the significance of a **chosen family** and **sense of belonging**, which is so important to many members of the **LGBTQ+ community** and beyond - especially during the holiday season.

# PARTICIPANTS

## TRAVEL PARTY

- Edwin Outwater (host and conductor)
- Peaches Christ (host)
- Tech support/cue reader (e.g. Eric St Laurent)
- Manager (TBC depending on performance)

Travel and accommodation for all members of the travel party is to be paid for by the promoter. A detailed hospitality rider can be found [here](#).

## GUEST ARTISTS

- Headliner (Pop star or A+ drag queen)
- West End / Broadway star
- Local drag / LGBTQ+ talent
- Opera / instrumental talent
- Voguers
- Local choir



All guests can be curated according to local audiences; we would encourage a focus on diversity in the guest artist lineup as much as possible.

Guest artists should ideally be contracted directly by the promoter.

# REPERTOIRE / SCRIPT

The repertoire for each show is flexible and subject to change depending on the preferences of the guest performers, production team, and orchestra, meaning the performance is tailored to each location.

Ideally, the programme features a mix of festive classical repertoire plus popular Christmas hits.

It is the responsibility of the orchestra to hire scores and parts, but Polyarts can assist with this procurement where we have existing strong relationships.

In line with this, the script is uniquely tailored to each performance. An example script is available to read [here](#).

## REQUIRED INSTRUMENTATION

3223 / 4431 / strings (10/8/6/6/4) / 4 perc + 1 timp  
drum kit, bass and keys  
choir

## PREVIOUS EXAMPLE REPERTOIRE

Leroy Anderson, *A Christmas Festival*

Rutter, *12 Gays of Christmas*

Madonna arr. Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, *Vogue*

Tchaikovsky/Ellington, *Peanut Butter Brigade*

Leroy Anderson, *The Sleigh Ride*

Martin and Blane, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*

Wham!, *Last Christmas*

Howard Blake, *Walking in the Air* from *The Snowman*

Mariah Carey arr. Gavin Sutherland, *All I Want for Christmas is You*

# TECHNICAL / PRODUCTION NEEDS

## SCREENS

A screen behind and above the orchestra, to display original content delivered to the orchestra in advance of the performances. Usage of this footage is included in the total project budget.

## MICS AND AMPLIFICATION:

Edwin and Peaches will require microphones both with headsets

- Peaches will require a microphone to be secured before she fully dresses.
- Both will require an audio monitor at the front of the stage.

Amplification will be needed for all guest artists; their tech needs will be separately distributed.

## ADDITIONAL

Teleprompter/Autocue readers (placed downstage)  
Suitable space and set location for various guests  
Conductor rostrum for Edwin

Props as follows:

- Furniture (sofa and cushions)
- Festive décor (e.g., Christmas tree, presents)
- Disco ball from ceiling
- Miscellaneous props as requested



# SCHEDULE / STAGING

## REQUIRED REHEARSALS

- 2 x orchestral including general (3 hours)
- 1 x cue-to-cue (3 hours) without orchestra

## EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL

- Afternoon – read-through with production and lighting team, meet talent
- Evening – 3-hour rehearsal with cast, producers, stage managers, orchestra

### DAY 2: SHOW DAY

- Morning – cue-to-cue rehearsal with cast
- Afternoon – 3-hour general rehearsal (all cast and orchestra)
- Evening – show!

### DAY 3: DEPARTURE

## STAGE PERSONNEL

At minimum, we recommend the orchestra is working with the following:

- Sound engineers x2
- Lighting manager and assistant
- Stage manager x2
- Dresser / Artist Liaison
- Usual staffing for the venue (security, FOH, box office, F+B etc)

## STAGE PLAN

Stage layouts should be discussed and agreed between Polyarts/Peachout and the orchestra.

When the sets are finalised, a completed stage plan should be made available at least one month in advance of the concert date.

An example stage plan can be found [here](#).

# MERCHANDISE / MARKETING

## MERCHANDISE

Merchandise will be sold at all shows, and will include small items such as mugs, t-shirts and tote bags, provided by Polyarts/Peachout.



## MARKETING

As this production sits outside more traditional orchestral programming, it will likely require additional marketing efforts than is standard for the promoter.

We would like to emphasise the need for commitment and collaboration in this so the show can be as successful as possible.

Press releases and a full marketing plan should be drafted at least six months prior to the show date, with dedication to reach into the existing queer community.

Polyarts will support here where needed and artists will make themselves available for all press opportunities garnered.



# CONTACT DETAILS

For all advancing, creative, and financial enquiries,  
please contact:

**Moema Parrott**

[moema.parrott@harrisonparrott.co.uk](mailto:moema.parrott@harrisonparrott.co.uk)

**Tabitha McGrath**

[tabitha.mcgrath@harrisonparrott.co.uk](mailto:tabitha.mcgrath@harrisonparrott.co.uk)

**Amy Gold**

[amy.gold@harrisonparrott.co.uk](mailto:amy.gold@harrisonparrott.co.uk)

