



Peaceful protest  
performances  
on the climate and  
nature emergency

## **Over 150 Climate Choir singers challenge Parliament on Rosebank North Sea oil field licensing**

**The UK Climate Choir serenades parliamentarians with a surprise musical  
protest to the tune of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus**

### **FULL MEDIA RELEASE**

MPs and visitors to the Palace of Westminster have been serenaded to a powerful and beautiful reworking of the Hallelujah Chorus as the UK Climate Choir movement took over St Stephen's Hall this afternoon (7th March 2024) in a peaceful and dramatic singing protest against the Government's decision to allow drilling of the massive Rosebank oil field.

[Rosebank](#) is the biggest undeveloped oil and gas field in the North Sea and the decision to approve drilling has been condemned by environmental campaigners, [celebrities and people from all walks of life](#) and from across the political spectrum, from the Women's Institute to Chris Skidmore whose resignation as Conservative MP for Kingswood in South Gloucestershire led to a by-election win for Labour.

According to the [World Bank](#), burning Rosebank's oil and gas would create more CO2 than the combined emissions of 28 low-income countries in the world, home to 700 million people.

The Government admits that what Rosebank produces will be [sold at world market prices](#). So while UK taxpayers would carry almost all the costs of developing Rosebank, overseas oil companies will take the profits. The project will not [cut energy prices for UK consumers](#).

Kate Honey, a composer whose work has been performed internationally, has rewritten Handel's lyrics and led the choir with a call to politicians to *Stop Rosebank!*

They said:

"The [new lyrics](#), which we hope Handel would have approved of, are a creative, urgent and peaceful call on politicians to 'Stop Rosebank'.

"Rosebank is a pretty name for a dirty business. It will contribute to destroying the climate but will not lower our bills. The soaring cost of fossil fuels is the cause of much of the current cost-of-living crisis and people – from UK farmers to its firefighters – are now awake to what is being done to our planet by profiteering oil and gas companies. People want a reliable, affordable energy supply that doesn't put the planet at risk.

"We have brought choirs from all over the country to send a simple message to politicians 'Stop Rosebank Now: renewables are cleaner, safer and cheaper'".

Jo Flanagan, co-founder of the [Climate Choir Movement](#), added:

"Today we are singing the truth to those in power. For the first time on record, global warming has exceeded temperatures of 1.5 degrees Celsius over [a 12-month period](#). This is a dire warning to humanity — a warning that politicians still do not seem to listen to.

"The Conservative government has approved Rosebank knowing full well that more oil and gas will fuel the climate crisis while doing nothing to bring down UK energy bills as the public face an unprecedented cost of living crisis. And now Labour has dropped large parts of its green investment pledge. Across the political spectrum, our leaders are spectacularly failing in taking this crisis seriously.

"So in this election year we will hold all our politicians accountable and push for stronger climate targets. We need clear and ambitious policies and large-scale investment in renewable energy which confine fossil fuel to the dustbin for ever.

"That's why we're taking this harmonious approach, singing to our politicians to cancel new oil and gas drilling and put into place an emergency plan to build and unlock genuine clean power that is less expensive for consumers."



*Climate Choir protest inside the Science Museum, October 2023 (Credit Andrea Domeniconi)*

---

### **About the Climate Choir Movement:**

The Climate Choir Movement, founded in Bristol in the Autumn of 2022, uses voices in peaceful and creative protests against corporations who are contributing to the climate emergency.

The choir has performed inside museums and corporate AGMs, outside airports and investment companies, outside courts and cathedrals and, most recently, processing through the financial heart of the city of London.

The Climate Choir Movement has grown rapidly and now boasts some 700 singers in 12 participating choirs in Bath, Bristol, Ballycastle, Forest of Dean, Guildford, London, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton and Swansea.

More information can be found at <https://climatechoirmovement.org/> and here <https://bit.ly/48slWcc>.

**[ENDS]**