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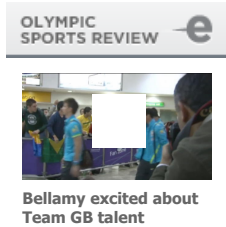
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Opening ceremony orchestra is silenced

ROB HASTINGS | MONDAY 04 JUNE 2012

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Musicians in the London Symphony Orchestra will have to mime their performance in the opening ceremony of the London Olympics because a live performance is deemed too risky.

The shape of the Olympic stadium and worries about the weather mean that a performance recorded six weeks ago will be played during the show while the players go through the motions, apparently against the wishes of Danny Boyle, the artistic director.

The news rekindles the controversy of Lin Miaoke, the nine-year-old girl who mimed a song during the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics because her voice was judged to not be good enough – while the seven-year-old whose voice was recorded, Yang Peiyi, was considered not sufficiently pretty.

The decision was criticised by orchestra members. "The LSO is one of the best orchestras in the world and we're being asked to mime in front of a global audience of billions," one anonymous musician told the Mail on Sunday.

A spokesman for Locog said: "Due to the complexity of staging the ceremony, it is not possible for all music to be live."

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by Steve Anderson

18 July 2012 10:09 AM



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LudwigsLughole • a month ago

I hate Locog. They just don't have a clue. I hate everything the Olympics now stands for and decisions like this just continue to support my views.

You are asking one of - if not the - finest Orchestra's in the world to not do what they do regularly to large audiences without missing a beat, i.e. their job.

It's a bit like asking the Queen to mime her opening speech - "due to the risks".

Absolutely pathetic. I hope that when the music starts, they all just sit there so that there's no pretense whatsoever - people will be able to clearly see that they are not playing live. Their pride demands they do it.

45 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



JOH451 • a month ago • parent

Is the Queen going to make a speech? I thought they were not going to invite her on the grounds that she was too old and wrinkly.

Maybe that is a bit too much even for Locog. After all they will all be expecting to be honoured for their part in this farce.

The actual games had better go off okay or there is going to be a whole load of trouble.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Dark Jedi • a month ago

I cannot understand why the orchestra are allowing themselves to be humiliated in this way. If I was in charge of it they would not be playing there at all, or would refuse to mime. That would only enhance their world reputation which will continue long after the Olympics have faded into memory.

36 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

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18 July 2012 08:00 AM



Free speech is the real loser in Terry v Ferdinand

The least troubling aspect of the John Terry case for me is the revelation that footballers shout of...

by Kevin Rooney

18 July 2012 04:00 AM

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JohnSc • a month ago

Locog are not fit for purpose. Either the music is live or there is no need for the orchestra.

33 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Bryan Hemming • a month ago

It's also a bit of a risk for athletes to run fast, as they might fall over, so they have been told run in slow motion. The images will be speeded up for telly. Swimmers will no longer enter the water because they might get wet and catch a cold. Their images will be superimposed onto images of water and computer enhanced to appear as if they are swimming through it.

29 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



awarningtothecurious • a month ago

The Olympics sum up everything about modern Britain - vacuous, juvenile, lost the plot and having to mime the words.

27 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



worldismad • a month ago

The orchestra should refuse to take part. How about people playing air guitar instead.

26 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



adam_grant • a month ago

There is a greater risk that technicians mess up the playback of a recording than that the LSO mess up a live performance.

Someone needs to look again at their risk-assessment! It's an insult to the world-class skill and expertise of the LSO.

26 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



lizmallard • a month ago

I am sorry for the orchestra - they have probably been told that they need the money, but this does not help their reputation. Any conductor who agrees to stand up in front of them will also not enhance his/her reputation. This is not reflecting Britain, but Locog who seem to be doing their very best to ruin what should have been an exciting festival of sport. Every move they make encourages us to hate them more.

24 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Cuban MustGo • 19 days ago • parent

According to this article, the musicians won't be paid (which is a crime in itself). Has that changed?
<http://www.theleadingevents.co...>

0 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Dcee73 • a month ago

Live music "too risky" ? The whole thing is going to be an absolute joke ! I would rather see a "live" show with all the

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risks that go with it.

They might as well just film a video right now and save everyone the bother of turning up for the opening ceremony at all !

21 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Farweasel • a month ago • parent

You hadn't realised that was done a fortnight ago?

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Dcee73 • a month ago • parent

Lol !.....No I didn't know.....I was just browsing around on here and noticed it !
I'm just reading about the Queens Jubilee concert tonightshould be good , is it live ?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



dylanatstrumble • a month ago

Not only miming...I hear that the Orchestra has been asked by Locog to weed out any odd looking members and replace them with better looking ones.

20 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



ebrauc • a month ago • parent

It reminds me of an earlier Games in Moscow when the streets were swept clean of rough-sleepers, beggars and alcoholics for the duration of the Games. Quote from poet e.e.cummings "let being pay the rent of seem"

0 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reiner Torheit • a month ago

Sir Sebastian Wanchor - Britain's official chav.

The orchestral players should boycott this PE-Teacher fiasco, and tell Coe where he can SHOVE it.

20 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Pete Loud • a month ago

Perhaps the athletes should compete in advance and re-enact the competitions in case rain on the day or protestors mar the event.

20 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



worldismad • a month ago • parent

Are there any athletes? I have not seen or heard anything about them.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



a_no_n • a month ago • parent

you won't see them either, under the mountains of sponsorship stickers they'll have to carry whilst they perform.

It would surprise me to see them face everyone in

it won't surprise me to see them force everyone in the crowd to wear a red coke shirt...it would be in keeping with these advertlympics

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Peter Andresen • a month ago

how many millions for this farce?

20 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Fool_Britannia • a month ago

What could be more insulting than for a professional orchestra. The members should simply not turn up - highlight what the IOC shindig is, a purely commercial undertaking.

Or they could show up and refuse to pretend to play.

The IOC wants honesty in performance, i.e. without drugs, yet it condones this dishonesty.

They should have selected a good British brass band. The only trouble is all the miners, motor and steel works bands have gone and, thanks to Cameron, even the British military bands are a sorry lot.

And this IOC collection plan is better than BeiJing? No way.

17 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Trampler • a month ago

I hope it pisses down for 2 weeks - why on earth is the Olympics being held here and in such a hole as the east end of London ? The whole thing is a Corporate love-in.

16 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Trevor • a month ago • parent

Trampler you are a bore!!!!!!!!!!!!

IF we were all like you nothing would ever get done, no events would ever be held and no one would hae any fun. Let's hope the sun shines for 2 weeks and the whole world can see what us Brits can do!

1 ^ | 1 v • Reply • Share ›



ebrauc • a month ago • parent

I doubt whether "us Brits" are doing anything. I understand that it's only multinational sponsors who are in charge , and most of them are not British.It's our job to buy tickets and pay taxes as subsidies. Unless you're one of the elite suits.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



bobbellinhell • a month ago • parent

Great stuff guys! Bogbrush

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



David Davies • a month ago

They ought to be red carded for simulation.

Is there anything remotely genuine about this whole farce?

16 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



Alex Cheshire • a month ago • parent

The cost is genuinely out of control.

12 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



markoh1 • a month ago

...wouldn't want to upset the nation..oops i meant corporate sponsors and delegates in the stands now would we?

15 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



Kevin Leonard • a month ago

WHAT THE F*** A pi55 poor performance before even a note is struck.

Will ALL the burgers be re-heated in a microwave to ensure continuity?

15 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



latenightextra • a month ago

Will the conductor mime too? What utter nonsense!

13 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



nanook_northpole • a month ago • parent

And get paid handsomely.

The definition of 'performer' is to do what the client wants but heh, heh, nothing for free !

2 ^ | | 1 v • Reply • Share ›



Laars • a month ago

Maybe the orchestra should mime all the right notes - just not in the right order!

12 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



VicTheBrit • a month ago • parent

If they had the balls, they'd turn up in glam-rock outfits, huge hairstyles and air guitar the piece...

3 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



Dcee73 • a month ago

Cardboard audience ?

10 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



bobbellinhell • a month ago

If they had any dignity they'd refuse to take part under such conditions. But then if they had any decency they'd never have got involved with the o£lympics in the first place.

10 ^ | | v • Reply • Share ›



nanook_northpole • a month ago • parent

Except Musicians work for a living, often paid by the hour & often not very much. The 'Dignity' and 'Decency' part is all crap.

9 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Ian Groves • a month ago

Hopefully the instruments will be cardboard cutouts.
Those big heavy brass fellahs could do a lot of damage if you bash into one!

Laughing Stock Orchestra should tell them (in mime of course) where to stick their instruments.

How many millions have been spent? And they cannot sort out the sound system if the wind is blowing in the wrong direction.

Let's get Osbourne on the case - u turn, u turn!

11 ^ | 1 v • Reply • Share ›



sheherezade • a month ago

Perhaps the orchestra can play more appropriate pieces whilst the audience listen to a recording. Maybe Kodaly's Harry Janos where the opening "sneeze" signifies that everything afterwards is a lie? Brahms' Tragic Overture (a broader commentary on the Olympics' effect upon London?). Suggestions for other works please ;)

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



latenightextra • a month ago

Bet health and safety are having a field day.....

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Ian Groves • a month ago • parent

track and field day

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



VicTheBrit • a month ago

Par for the course, I'd say...

For the past 2 years we've had a deputy Prime Minister who is really a ventriloquist's dummy...

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



twig02 • a month ago • parent

Does it really fall to me now to counter with the bl**ding obvious about the Prime Minister?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



VicTheBrit • a month ago • parent

gokkle o' gear, gokkle o'gear?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



ScrapPaper • a month ago

Well, they could take advantage of the situation and turn it into a protest against budget cuts. The whole orchestra could freeze in the middle of the music, so the audience will realize it's a sham and that without arts funding, live performance will soon be a thing of the past anyway.

In a similar vein, the orchestra and choir of the Polish Chamber Opera performed Mozart's Requiem over the weekend -- in the square in front of the Polish Ministry of Culture. The free concert was followed by delivery of a 20,000-signature petition to the ministry, protesting budget cuts.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



SandraL • a month ago

That's just stupid. If I were in that orchestra, I'd flatly refuse to show up. This reflects horribly on the Olympic games.

What's next? Some of those sports are terribly risky - maybe they should just draw straws for the medals and then fake the competition.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



BrianLuxury • a month ago • parent

And when you get sacked for not turning up, how will you pay your mortgage?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



penruddock • a month ago

In view of the shape of the Olympic stadium and worries about the weather, why not replace the actual events with pre-recorded videos transmitted via giant screens? A Games without athletes would simplify things enormously, I should have thought, and would remove the dreaded risk factor, too.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Essex Blur • a month ago

They should all use Dow Chemical containers as their seats with McDonalds packaging as instruments, straws as Bows and CocaCola bottles and tops as instruments. Take a few prostitutes from east London on stage as conductors and have the SCAMlympics Disymphony De Orgistra....

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



capa75 • a month ago

One could not make this up.....

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



PerfidiousAlbion • a month ago

Just play the record and let the orchestra have an early start on their summer holidays. LOCOG couldn't organize a piss-up in a brewery.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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