



THE STORY OF THE GREAT WHITE HORSE *For young voices and narrator*

Music by Nicholas Keyworth
Words by Philip Jamieson

PROGRAMME NOTES

This mini musical for young people explores the universal themes of community, hopes and dreams. The origins of the piece go back many, many hoofbeats ago to 1995 from a series of workshops for young people commissioned by Corsham Festival in Wiltshire in the South West of England - where the White Horses are!

A new and expanded version of *The Story of the Great White Horse* (GWH) took place on Saturday 23 March 2024 at the Bangkok Arts & Cultural Centre as part of the Spotlight Performing Arts Festival.

This fable tells of the creation of the ancient white horses carved in the hills of Wiltshire in England. From time to time, we all see pictures in the clouds. Long ago there was a Great White Horse living in the clouds who was the inspiration and spiritual guide for the communities of horses living in Wiltshire.

A wise old plough horse recalls when he was young and was told in a dream that the Great White Horse was going to make a rare visit to Wiltshire. In the dream the Great White Horse requests each community of horses to carve a giant picture of him in the hills. In return, the community which creates the finest picture will receive a magic gift. All the communities of horses then set about carving huge pictures of the Great White Horse on the hills in the Wiltshire countryside.

Unfortunately, the night before he returns to judge the competition, a thick layer of snow fell across the land and all the pictures were hidden. No one wins the prize. But today the magnificent images of the white horses still remain on the hills... until the Great White Horse returns again.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. Introduction
2. The Old Oak Forest (*Song*)
3. Horses in the Sky (*Song*)
4. The Great White Horse
5. Snow Dance
6. Head in the Clouds (*Solo song*)
7. Finale: Horses in the Sky: Reprise (*Song*)