

100503

"GRACIE" AND THE OLD FOLKS.

At the Royal Festival Hall in London a Christmas Gala Concert is held with an all-star bill headed by the one and only Gracie Fields. Gracie, like all the artistes in the show, is giving her services for nothing, for the audience consists entirely of old folk from Lambeth. About 3,000 of them are brought by coach to the Festival Hall which stands within the borough of Lambeth.

Although not from Lambeth, some of the most welcome guests are Pensioners from the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. They enter the Hall for the show which lasts about two and a half hours. A great ovation from the packed house greets Gracie Fields who begins her performance with her most famous song:

The Christmas concert was made possible by the generosity of many people. Charlie Chaplin, who was born in Lambeth, recently gave £2,000 to the borough, and part of this was used to stage the performance. Gracie, who sings to the old people for about half an hour, is, as always, the hit of the show.

And now a Christmas carol to end the concert. Gracie leads the audience in "Oh Come all Ye Faithfull".

---