

Chorister Col Canto Associates Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the November 2019 'Chorister' Newsletter

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British Choirs on the Net

Welcome to the October 2019 edition of the British Choirs on the Net 'Chorister' Newsletter. This newsletter has been sent to you as you or your choir are currently listed on one of the sites, or because the services you provide may be suitable for our website. In some cases it is sent to you as you have specifically requested a mailing. Whatever the reason, you are very welcome.

We have a listing of well over 4,000 choirs which have either websites, facebook entries or email addresses listed on the site. Given the popularity of choirs, covering various genres and styles, this number is only likely to grow and we welcome news of new choirs and their concerts.

Please continue to review your choir entries to ensure the listings remain as up to date as possible and advise if website addresses or facebook addresses change, if the conductor details change or if the email contact for the choir changes. Please review your choir entries on a regular basis and advise if any of the Information needs to be updated. Where a choir has a website, that will be listed as the main contact point, otherwise facebook links or emails will be used. In order to promote choir websites and facebook pages we do not list choirs that are only contactable by telephone or post.

If you are interested in having a website for your choir please visit www.choirsites.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net is only as useful as the information held on it. Please email me with any corrections and omissions to choir information. Please email any corrections and amendments to philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk

Concertfinder & British Choirs on the Net

Concertfinder is a free online concert diary. It is part of British Choirs on the Net under www.choirs.org.uk and also a standalone website under www.concertfinder.co.uk.

In 2018 we listed, and provided free advertising, a total of 580 concerts. While the works being performed are dominated by the usual suspects; Faure, Durufle, Mozart and Brahms Requiems, Rossini's Petite Messa Solennelle and Handel's Messiah, there have also been a small number of World Premieres by Will Todd, Roderick Williams and Owain Park as well as new works specially commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, as well as concerts to mark Hubert Parry's Centenary

Each concert is listed with the same prominence and for this reason I do not include the conductors, orchestra or soloists details. Additionally non choral works are omitted from the listing even when they form part of the concert programme. The only exception to this general rule is in December when I am happy to list Brass Bands where they are performing Christmas concerts with choirs.

Please submit your concert details via email in text format. Please do not send pdf or html posters which require the salient points to be extracted and this can delay posting the concert. Also do not forget to let me know the date of the concert as well as the who, where, what and ticket information. You will often find that I do not acknowledge the email, so please check the site to see if it has been added. <u>www.concertfinder.co.uk</u>

If you use a ticket agency which adds a booking fee please ensure the ticket price you advertise is the full price you pay (including handling costs).

British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services

British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 3,200 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. There mailing addresses are collected whenever you ask for your choir to be listed. Email details may also be collected from public domain sources such as websites. We do not purchase email lists and we do not sell on our lists. Details of the data protection regulations that apply to our mailing list visit http://www.choirs.org.uk/mailings.html

These mailing lists are very important both to provide you with information from our subscribers, information about other choral services, concerts and general updates such as this newsletter. It is also important because it generate a small revenue which allows us to ensure that at least 90% of the content on British Choirs on the Net is free to list.

It is understood that some of the mailings may not be of interest to all the choirs, particularly if you are not a choir that tours or takes part in competitions, but I hope over the course of the year you will find items of interest.

British Choirs on the Net Advertising Subscribers

We are always grateful to companies who advertise their services on the British Choirs on the Net website and the 'Chorister' Newsletter. The subscription income that the advertising provides helps to pay for the ongoing running of the website including hosting and allows us to make the majority of the website free in terms of listing. (this includes the online choral concert diary at www.concertfinder.co.uk)

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductor Forum

This is a group set up on Facebook to enable Choral Directors, Choirs Secretaries and Choir members to informally discuss issues of performance practice, request new music and music exchanges, and discuss other choral related issues. There are currently over 2,100 members and membership is by application.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts

Choirsites

They say every picture tells a story and the same rule applies with choirs. The choir that has a website where potential members can see pictures of the choir, their future concerts and repertoire is likely to prove more attractive than simply a listed choir with a text description and an e-mail contact. Choirsites provides low cost website hosting and design for choirs. Some of the choirs using this service include:

Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir Balsham Singers, Cambridge Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire Nova, Bristol www.choirsites.co.uk



Dear Chorister,

Crowned the UK's top experience by Lonely Planet, Edinburgh Fringe is something every music group should experience. Home to the cool, the quirky and the spectacular, it's a cocktail of creativity – and with the support of Rayburn Tours you can be a part of it!

Find out more

For information and how to apply visit <u>http://www.choirs.org.uk/Edinburghfringe2020.pdf</u>



About Rayburn Tours

As singers and musicians ourselves, providing ensembles with special performance opportunities is at the heart of what we do. Having worked with adult groups since 1965, we know the social side of a concert tour is every bit as important as the music.

With a range of inspiring destinations and spectacular venues to choose from, we'll work with you to create a tour that meets all your musical needs, as well as let you experience the local culture to its full.

Get in touch

Discover more about a choir tour with Rayburn Tours by visiting <u>rayburntours.com</u> or getting in touch with our expert team on **01332 347 828**.

Singing for Syrians is a nationwide campaign chaired by Victoria Prentis, MP offering a fun, inclusive and positive way to raise money for some of Syria's most vulnerable people.

The idea is to get schools, choirs, churches and individuals to hold a carol concert (or any musical event) in aid of the <u>Hands Up Foundation</u>, with funds raised going directly to our three projects: a Primary Health Clinic in southern Aleppo, Syria, a Prosthetic Limb Project in Bab al-Hawa on the Syrian-Turkish border, and a School in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. We give medical staff and teachers the choice to stay and use their skills for Syrian communities in need, by teaching and taking care of patients. Last year, we received the support of more than 60 schools, choirs, churches and bands, communities and individuals who sang for Syrians, raising over £83,000 overall. This year, with your help, we aim to raise over £100,000 for Singing for Syrians' 5-year anniversary. Please don't underestimate the impact of your involvement which means so much to the Syrians we support. See the attached for what your funds can do, alternatively, <u>this video</u> is an excellent example of our work. It really is a brilliant cause and a lovely way of raising money.

As I'm sure you have seen in the news headlines recently, the situation in Syria is growing more severe. The power of your input on the awareness and funds we could raise would be immense, and invaluable.

We are a fun and innovative charity and we spend a huge amount of time making sure we know exactly where the money goes, which can be found on this resources page, as well as everything you need to hold your event. However, if you have any questions at all, please get in touch – I would be happy to answer anything; I aim to provide as much support as possible to enable you to hold your musical event.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Jessica

Singing for Syrians Tel. +44 7871 886 316 1E Mentmore Terrace, London, E8 3DQ

NOW AVAILABLE TO BRITISH CHORAL SOCIETIES!

A NEW WORK FOR SOPRAND & TENOR SOLDISTS, SATB CHORUS AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (15 PLAYERS)



AN ENGLISH REQUIEM

by

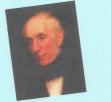
Stuart Nettleship

This inspirational new composition combines words from the Latin Mass for the Dead with some of the greatest poetry in the English Language. It was first performed with great success on 30^{TH} June, 2019, conducted by the composer.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge

1772 - 1834



William Wordsworth 1770 - 1850



Oscar Wilde 1854 - 1900



John Clare 1793 - 1864



Christopher Smart 1722 - 1771

For details please contact CSN Music (nettleshipmuse@gmail.com).

Visit <u>www.nettleshipmusic.com</u> To learn more about Stuart Nettleship and to hear examples of his music including *An English Requiem*.



Creating tailor-made choir tours to Europe and beyond since 1980

'Awesome - a totally unforgettable experience!'

This is how a community choir from Merseyside summed up their fabulous choir tour to Paris in the Summer.

The Kaboodle Community Choir made some wonderful musical memories, performing at Disneyland Paris and in a bandstand and enjoyed eating, drinking and exploring this exciting city.

These great pictures speak for themselves. Here's what their party leader Elaine Shell-Parsonage had to say about their experience.



"The staff at Disneyland were extremely welcoming; they were very professional people who made sure we had a fabulous experience. A representative from Disney called two days before we left to discuss everything, including the stage lay out. The sound was excellent and the whole event went off without any hitches. Singing in Disneyland was a privilege and quite an experience for us all."





"Josh, our tour manager, did far more than anyone expected. He treated everyone with respect. He was friendly, helpful and very caring. He eventually became an adopted member of our choir and was even invited to join in with us at our final concert. He was a "God send". His friendship; knowledge and experience was beyond expectation and words.

"All communication with Lucy and Sabine was dealt with in an extremely professional and friendly manner. No query was too small and I felt very confident in the information and assistance provided.

"Awesome – a totally unforgettable experience!"





You don't have to go abroad for your next music tour!

If you're looking for a close to home destination for your next tour, put your passport away! The UK has so much to offer music ensembles:

- Perform in a theatre or art gallery on our music tour to Cambridge
- In the historic Edinburgh Castle on our music tour to Edinburgh
- in Covent Garden on our music tour to London
- In a summer festival on our music tour to the Isle of Wight; or
- Perform a joint concert with a local group on our music tour to Derbyshire.

Find out more about all our <u>UK music tours</u>. Or better still, give us a call for a chat on Freephone 0800 496 4996.

Some Club Europe Specials:

- Our Choral Retreats offer choirs the chance to perform a few concerts and relax in four star luxury. Staying in an historic and sumptuous villa in the beautiful Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, set in glorious grounds with wonderful food and facilities, our Choral Retreats will be a real treat for your members. There are rehearsal facilities on site, so you can work on material, or just have some fun. Or you can sit by the pool, wander around the gardens or enjoy an in house cooking class or game of tennis. There are plenty of wonderful places to visit, too; Venice and Treviso are a short drive away.
- "I Borghi più belli d'Italia" is an association of small Italian towns of historical interest which, thanks to a special partnership, we are delighted to be able to organise music tours to. There are some amazing 'gems' to discover in this region. Experience its unique culture, cuisine and warm hospitality, while performing in some enchanted places where time seems to have stood still.

Find out more:

Visit: <u>www.club-europe.co.uk/music-tours</u> Call: Freephone 0800 496 4996 Email: <u>travel@club-europe.co.uk</u>

The National Choral Organisation Investing in choral futures



Sing for Pleasure reveals its Young Conducting Scholars for 2019-20 National choral charity Sing for Pleasure is delighted to confirm the four scholarship recipients on its highly acclaimed Young Conductors' Programme during the 2019-20 academic year. The talented young musicians who were successful following a rigorous interview and selection process are:

Gina Baker, a freelance musician and Birmingham Conservatoire BMus Voice graduate, who in the past year has taken on several choirs including; choirs for vulnerable people such as prisoners and those affected by homelessness, and health and wellbeing choirs for NHS staff groups and carers;

Sarah Batten, who holds a music degree from Christ Church, Oxford, and a PGCE in Secondary Music from the Institute of Education, University of London, and who now works as a specialist music teacher at a London school whilst also studying part-time for a Masters in Music Education;

Tristan Weymes, a former Organ Scholar with St Mary the Virgin in Merton, and Bass Scholar with the London Youth Choir, who has amassed both a wide range of singing and some conducting experience in recent years, and who is now studying for a music degree at Trinity College, Oxford;

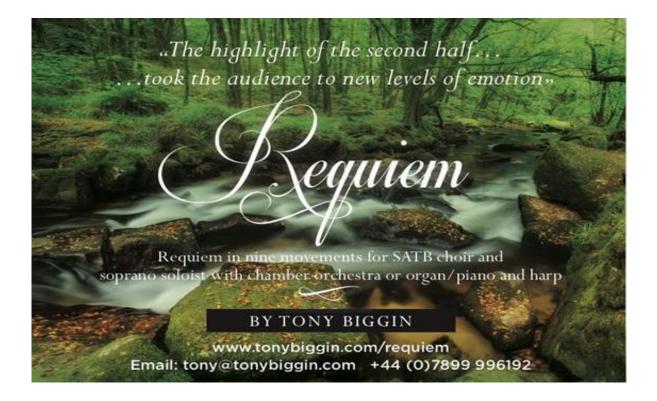
Clover Willis, who graduated with a Music degree from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge where she was also a Choral Scholar, and who is following a secondary music teaching career in London alongside outreach work leading singing in primary schools and prisons.

The four scholars will benefit from fully funded training during the coming year, starting their tuition at the charity's training event taking place in Bolton on 2 & 3 November; during their scholarship they will work towards SfP's Advanced Level accreditation, conducting complex a capella and orchestrally accompanied works, with an option to take the LRSM in Choral Directing near the end.

Manvinder Rattan, Sing for Pleasure's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, commented: "The calibre of scholarship applicants was very high again this year - unusually, female scholars are in the majority or 2019-20, with past years tending towards a 50/50 split - and we're delighted to welcome Gina, Sarah, Tristan and Clover to the SfP "family". It heartens me to know that our Young Conductors Programme supports the UK's vibrant choral tradition by helping to mould future generations of choral conductors."

Launched in 2013 as part of the charity's mission to invest in choral futures across the nation, the programme has assisted 31 scholars so far in developing their careers in the field.





Tony Biggin's *Requiem* is a 30 minute work for SATB chorus and soprano soloist. It can be accompanied by a small chamber orchestra or organ/piano and harp. It is melodic and tonal and attractive to both performers and audience. It is not too challenging technically although the parts are rewarding to sing.

The *Requiem* has evolved over a number of years with constituent movements being performed regularly in concerts and churches. In recent months the composer has updated the work and published it as a cohesive whole and this will be premiered in the Netherlands in 2020.

I am attaching links below to a webpage where a video of the work can be seen. At the top of the page is a short 'taster' video followed by the entire work and then its constituent movements: <u>http://tonybiggin.com/requiem</u>

The piece can be performed continuously or with gaps between movements.

If this is the kind of work in which your choir might be interested please do get in touch via the email at <u>tony@tonybiggin.com</u>.

Dr Tony Biggin, FRSA Composer



LACOCK NEWSLETTER

Details of the Lacock programme from May to July next year have now been published on <u>www.lacock.org</u>. In May Eamonn Dougan will lead a week devoted to the Spanish composer Esquivel in **Ambleside** in the Lake District. Eamonn was struck by the quality of Esquivel's music while working on a recent CD of his music and compares his output with that of Victoria. Then in June Gabriel Crouch returns (at his own request) to **Monteconero** for a week of early music from Mexico and South America. Gabriel recalls how he discovered some music by Padilla of Puebla City in the music library at Cambridge twenty-five years ago and has been waiting for the chance to delve into it more ever since. Finally, our main summer school next year will be in **Edinburgh** in the middle of July. The young conductor, singer and musicologist Rory McCleery will direct a programme of music found in Scottish 16th century sources, including Robert Carver's 19-part O bone Jesu.

Rory is someone we had been wanting to meet for some time, and it turned out that he was just as keen to meet us. By a happy coincidence his father-in-law is my fellow serpent player Stephen Wick. When Rory came to Lacock to talk about the Edinburgh week I was able to dredge up a photograph taken when Steve and I – alongside some other oddities – joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a recording of Peter Maxwell Davies's opera *Taverner*, some time back in the nineties. The complex atonal score was quite a challenge for the small band of early instrumentalists, whose normal fare was nothing more frenetic than a pavane or canzona. The conductor was Oliver Knussen, a great bear of a man who died before his time last year. Our blood ran cold when after the first run-through he turned to the cornettist and asked if a certain semiquaver was marked with a flat, as it was in his score, because what he heard was a natural. Nothing escaped his ear. Some of the upper parts were almost impossibly complex, but mercifully for Steve and me the serpent parts were relatively sedate.

We have accepted quite a few people already for the three courses next summer, so I must apologise in advance to those for whom we won't be able to find a place. We are being quite strict these days about not letting the numbers go above the mid-thirties for most courses, which seems to be what most people want. We are, however, hoping to run two more courses in the autumn and are looking at new venues in Bremen and Lucca.

Courses in Venice and Rome are about to happen in the next two weeks, then the next will be Will Dawes's Iberian Christmas programme at the **Corsham Winter School**. There are just a couple of places left; we would prefer them to go to altos or basses. Then it's Justin Doyle and Sarah Latto in **Tobago** in February, with a good group of 21 singers already on the list. There is room for a few more – another tenor would be particularly welcome. There is plenty of accommodation and mid-week return flights direct from Gatwick are still around £500.

Since the last newsletter we have made our annual pilgrimage to Monteconero, where our new conductor Jo Tomlinson was a great hit. We'll certainly be trying to keep her on the books. The forty-part week with Gabriel Crouch (and noteworthy input from Lacock scholars Robin Datta and Connor Cobb) in Ludlow was an exhilarating experience and our performance in the round was much appreciated by the gratifyingly large audience. Most recently we were in Jimena de la Frontera for Patrick Craig's programme of psalm settings. I've just realised that our first venture in this characterful part of the world was a quarter of a century ago. Andalusians love a bit of noise: one morning it sounded as if the house removers across the narrow street from the church were throwing furniture onto the pavement from an upper window. It seemed rather fitting to be singing 'Lord let me know mine end and the number of my days' with what sounded like the destruction of Valhalla going on in the street outside.

Finally, our friends in the Iberian and Latin American Music Society are organising a London workshop on Zespedes and other Mexican baroque composers directed by Jagoba Fadique in St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate on the 16th of November. The Lacock Scholars will present a similar programme in the evening. You will find the full details at <u>https://</u>www.echoesfestival.co.uk/16nov19workshop.

Once again, thank you for reading this far. Details of all Lacock courses can be found at <u>www.lacock.org</u>.

The Choral Course 2020 applications are now live!

The time of year has come when we open the applications for all of the Junior and Senior Choral Courses. We have seven courses during 2020 and we're so excited to get up and running ever since the 2019 courses closed!

If you are someone interested in coming on one of our courses, head to our <u>website</u> and apply! Places can fill up quickly, so it's best to get your application in as soon as you can!

Perhaps you know someone who may like to come on one of our courses? We'd be most grateful if you could circulate this email to them. So many people come on our courses due to a recommendation from a teacher, relative or friend!

We have generous bursaries available too, so we encourage everyone to apply!

Pleae click <u>here</u> to view a copy of the brochure. Please also visit our website - you can click <u>here</u> to be taken directly to the page about The Choral Courses.

With best wishes,

The Rodolfus Foundation Team Helen Bennett



Introducing a Brand New Music Service for Choirs in the UK

We know that one of the biggest challenges for choir leaders is finding high-quality music which is affordable and enjoyable for everyone to sing.

At ChoirCommunity, you'll find a unique collection of arrangements for choirs of all shapes and sizes written by other choir leaders and musicians in the UK. We ensure that every arrangement has been written specifically with a type of choir in mind so that the experience of singing together is as good as it can be.

We also work closely with publishers and rights owners to make sure that every title available is properly licenced, but affordable so that all parties can properly benefit from the arrangements which we have made available.

Click on the link below to find out more about this unique new service and join our growing community of choirs. There's also an introductory offer of 25% off your first purchase if you sign up with us from this link. www.choircommunity.net/britishchoirs

Piers McLeish Co-Founder, ChoirCommunity



2021 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival (CIMCF) -Application For Registration Open



2019 Junior Champions are the Duke of Cornwall Singers from St Stithian's College, South Africa. Photo Phil Monckton

From Poldark to Pasties from Port Isaac (the home of Doc Martin) to Prussia Cove, Cornwall has an amazing array of iconic landmarks, super cuisine and some of the best locally brewed beverages! All of which make it the most wonderful setting for the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival.

The 2021 CIMCF has been confirmed to run from the 29th of April to the 3rd of May, 2021 and applications for registration are now open. However, you'd better be quick because already applications are coming in and spaces will be limited to approximately 60 choirs!

The 2019 CIMCF welcomed choirs from Russia, South Africa, Australia, Lithuania, Croatia, Holland, Finland and of course many choirs from the UK. All were hosted by our very own Cornish Male Choirs, their hospitality is second to none.

All choirs get to perform in breath-taking settings such as the Minack Theatre, Truro Cathedral, The Eden Project and Trebah Gardens to name a few. For the competitive Choirs and Choristers amongst you there are competitions for large, small and youth choirs with some enticing cash prizes up for grabs, £1000 first prize in the two adult classes.

The 2019 CIMCF was a superb platform for choirs to share their passion for singing and allowed for many choirs to take away new repertoire ideas, top tips on conducting and singing through our masterclasses and symposium, but most importantly some long lasting friendships.

Please visit our website <u>https://www.cimcf.uk/</u> to find out more and to sign up here <u>https://www.cimcf.uk/2021-choir-application-form</u> If you would like to know more then please use our expression of interest document here <u>https://www.cimcf.uk/express-interest</u>

Also the 2019 CIMCF was live streamed across the world and you can visit our YouTube channel to relive some of the stunning performances at Truro Cathedral here https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ShEJl8Lk8Rsaq7le36AlQ

We very much look forward to seeing you in 2021 for what will be a superb festival of Male singing, the largest of its kind in the world!





Hello Singers!

New auditioned choir starting this January. Are you experienced, with solid vocal technique and a great ear? Conductor and vocal coach Hannah Brine (Mountview, coaching choirs for Olivier Awards, Strictly Come Dancing, BBC Proms & Royal Variety Show) is launching a new choir with a focus on contemporary choral music. The choir will look at a wide variety of styles and different vocal colours, and the ability to switch styles would be welcomed from the singers. This includes being able to sing with and without vibrato - with clear tone across the range and to access 'mixed voice' as well as lighter 'head voice' tones.

Ability to follow a score with a great voice / ears is preferable to being able to sight read, but ideally you are a reader and have a great contemporary sound.

The choir will rehearse on a Thursday in central London (potentially around Liverpool Street) and once established will be looking for professional / interesting / high profile performance opportunities. Much as I would be the main conductor for the choir I would encourage people with a strong performance background & welcome ideas and input for repertoire / arrangements and performances.

I envision that each rehearsal will cost £10 pp to cover the cost of room hire, music, administration etc. Any pro work would be treated as session work and individuals would be paid.

Please fill in the form below with your details. I will then be in touch to arrange an audition.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc890sgWWwRRg-HQ76bAZxKsr2CPKMjCNPpUASMmMU67hm01A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please note that all the information on the form is confidential and will not be passed on to third parties.

Hannah Brine

Issigeac International Music Academy

Vocal Course 18 - 24 May 2020



Sing the Fauré Requiem and Bob Chilcott's Dances of Time In France

> With BBC Radio presenter conductor and singer Brian Kay

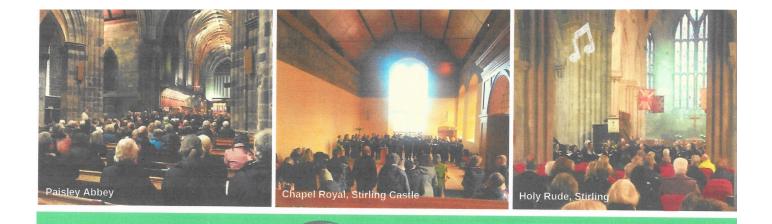
Enjoy 6 days of Vocal Coaching with one of the worlds most famous opera stars

Dame

Ann Murray

Spend a week in one of the most beautiful villages in France

In an unforgettable musical experience we are inviting experienced choral singers and advanced soloists to come together in two separate courses tutored by two of the best known vocal coaches in the UK. The two courses will run concurrently with separate coaching and tuition, but with joint concerts, masterclasses, events and activities. Throughout your stay we will be hosting informal concerts, social events, talks and visits. For more information visit <u>https://iimusicacademy.com/</u>



Bespoke Concert Tours for Choirs across the UK & Ireland

625

Since launching in January 2019 from their Nottingham HQ, the team at Sound Escapes UK has certainly found their niche by offering tailor-made concert tours for adult choirs who wish to perform in beautiful and unique locations across the UK and Ireland. Company owner, Jo Porter recently accompanied a choir from Yorkshire on their annual Autumn tour. Usually accustomed to more far-flung destinations, this year the choir opted for bonnie Scotland!

'With our base in the historic city of Stirling, I had the pleasure of accompanying this most talented choir throughout their four-day tour of this beautiful region. With four concerts supporting local charities in Paisley Abbey, St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, the Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle and Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling, the choir captivated audiences with their beautiful programme of music to include heavenly performances of 'Only in Sleep' (Esenvalds), 'May it Be' (Enya) and 'Deep Peace' (Knight) . We even managed to fit in visits to a very atmospheric Loch Lomond, Glasgow, the Falkirk Wheel and iconic horse-head structures, 'The Kelpies' which were all thoroughly enjoyed in spite of the Scottish drizzle and topped off with much-needed relaxation time (and a wee dram or two!) much later in the day.'

A tour with Sound Escapes UK provides you with the personal touch and peace of mind knowing that every care is taken to deliver a high-quality bespoke concert touring package to meet your personal performance aspirations and every need and your finances protected with our reputable bonding company, Protected Travel Services. Please get in touch!





Contact Jo Porter on 0115 874 6396 f 20 Web: www.soundescapesuk.com E-mail: jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com Registered office Beeston, Nottinghamshire