



# Chorister Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the August 2014 'Chorister' Newsletter

British Choirs on the Net is supported by advertising subscriptions from the following



*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.*

**British Choirs on the Net** British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 15 years and some of the choir details on the site is also 15 years old. Some of this detail may have changed i.e. conductor details, size of choir, choir re-names, email addresses or website choir addresses, etc.

Please review your choir entries on a regular basis and advise if any 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.

We have over 3.400 choirs listed however 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](mailto: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](http://www.choirs.org.uk) and also a standalone website under [www.concertfinder.co.uk](http://www.concertfinder.co.uk).

Each concert is listed with the same prominence and for this reason I do not include the conductors or soloists details. Additionally non choral works are omitted from the listing even when they form part of the concert programme.

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.  
[www.concertfinder.co.uk](http://www.concertfinder.co.uk)

**British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services** British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 2600 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. These mailing addresses are collected whenever you ask for your choir to be listed or may be collected from other registers provided by the National Association of Choirs and ABCD.

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 something useful in the mailings. During 2013 mailings were sent out on behalf of choir tour companies, Disney, Isle of Man, Cork and Kenmare Choral Festivals, BBC Singers, The Sixteen, Eric Whitacre and Australian Voices, to name a few.

The mailing list is not just for big organizations however. For instance there are 261 listed choirs in London. This means that if a London choir is looking to put bums on seats, either in terms of audience or singers, or if it wants to advertise a Come and Sing performance or Workshop it can use the mailing list to target the other 260 choirs on the London list.

**British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors 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 523 members and membership is by invitation.

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

We also have a presence on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/britishchoirs](http://www.twitter.com/britishchoirs) with over 1,500 followers.

**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:

Balsham Singers, Cambridge  
Clarkson Singers, Wisbech  
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire  
The Thames Head Singers, Gloucestershire  
All Saints Chorus, West Ham

[www.choirsites.co.uk](http://www.choirsites.co.uk)

**Choirfriends** This used to be a small website associated with Colcanto Associates. This has now become a facebook group. By moving it from a static website to a facebook group we hope it will be used by a wider audience.

The group was created to help choristers find previous friends who they used to sing with but have now lost contact. It is also used to help find information about defunct choirs and help people find relatives who may have sung with these choirs. It is not designed as a choral dating agency but if that happens - congratulations! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/157147511132581/?fref=ts>

*(Note: It is an open facebook group so we cannot control content, membership or adverts) .*

**The Denington Choral Series**, as endorsed by the former King's Singer member **Philip Lawson**, is a new series of choral works set in both SATB and SSA formats that will enhance the repertoire of both Christian and secular choirs. The lyricists and composers are proven songwriters that bring a wealth of experience to the choral market and have provided songs that cover a broad spectrum of styles and difficulty and should appeal to many choirs who regularly present music in churches or concert halls.

This month the Denington Choral Series editor, Richard Phillips has chosen to highlight **Sing for Joy** as his work of the month.

Sing for Joy is Richard Phillips' setting of his own adaptation of Psalm 95. It was composed as the first movement of a 3-movement finale for the Salvation Army's national school of music in 1995. The remaining two movements were provided by other composers. Beginning with a softly spoken rhythmic pattern, it develops into a statement of the main theme with punchy rhythms and full harmonies. A softer and slower middle section is followed by a passage in unison, repeated with an upper part for a few sopranos, and then a bridge passage takes us back to the main theme, first in B major and then in triumphant C major as the chorus proclaims "Sing joy to the Lord."

[Listen to a professional recording](#)

**Sing for Joy** is available for:

SATB and Piano (1.95 per copy) – [Buy online now](#)

SSAA and Piano (1.95per copy) – [Buy online now](#)



## News from the Royal School of Church Music

### RSCM ACQUIRES 'LIVING CATALOGUE' OF CATHEDRAL MUSIC

The catalogue of a publishing house specialising in cathedral music repertoire has been acquired by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Cathedral Music is to become an imprint of RSCM Press. Cathedral Music publications will be available to order online through the RSCM's Music Direct website [www.rscmshop.com](http://www.rscmshop.com).

Since Cathedral Music was founded in 1977, the company has become a regular supplier of advanced choral repertoire to many cathedrals, collegiate chapels, and churches with a substantial music tradition, as well as choral societies and chamber choirs, in the UK and worldwide. The entire catalogue (including distribution rights for the Cantiones Press imprint) is being acquired by the RSCM, but the Cathedral Music catalogue with its distinctive logo will still be retained as an imprint.

The extensive list includes service music and anthems, both ancient and modern. Cathedral Music publishes works by contemporary composers including Patrick Gowers, Francis Grier, Richard Lloyd, Philip Moore and Barry Rose. During its 37 years' existence, the company has built a large and loyal clientèle of customers, many of them cathedral organists and choral conductors. Richard Barnes, the company's owner and co-founder, has retired from the active running of the company, but is being retained by the RSCM and will continue to be available to offer his extensive church music knowledge to members and customers alike, as well as actively expanding the Cathedral Music catalogue. "I am delighted that the future of Cathedral Music is secure," he said. "One of the problems of running a company on a day to day basis has been the lack of time to spend on bringing new titles into print. Now I will be able to do just that."

Richard also has one of the largest private collections of church and organ music in the country, and the service of sourcing and supplying music out of print or difficult to find will continue.

The acquisition by the RSCM means that Cathedral Music will be available to a much larger and growing market of customers, such as church organists and choir directors. "We are delighted to become the curators of a living and precious catalogue of cathedral music," said RSCM

Director Andrew Reid. "One element of the RSCM's purpose is to provide musical resources for choirs of all sizes and abilities. The acquisition of Cathedral Music is to be understood in tandem with the resources we have published in recent years for smaller choirs, including those singing in fewer than four parts. It's part of achieving a balanced offering to church musicians."

Cathedral Music has become part of RSCM Press as of 1st July 2014, and its catalogue will be available through RSCM Music Direct at [www.rscmshop.com](http://www.rscmshop.com) (RSCM affiliated churches and individual members will be entitled to substantial discounts on sales), as well as from [www.cathedral-music.co.uk](http://www.cathedral-music.co.uk).

## Surrey Performing Arts Library — Music

For singers and choirs there are 6000 music sets for loan, including vocal scores of anything from 'South Pacific' to 'Aida', and a large selection of music to suit smaller groups, such as songs and madrigals.

For orchestras there is a wide range of classical and modern music for all levels of ability, covering full, string, wind and classroom orchestras. A large repertoire of performing sets is in stock for chamber groups from trios upwards. If you are an instrumentalist or singer, no matter what standard, there is a wide choice of music for most instruments, both solo and accompanied, as well as songs, vocal scores and libretti. If you are a bit rusty, help is on hand from our collection of tutors, instructional videos and studies. We also keep extensive collections of full, miniature and study scores. Our bookstock covers music history, biography and theory with specialist areas such as popular and world music, opera, musicals, instruments, recording and jazz.

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/libraries/libraries-in-surrey/libraries-and-opening-times/surrey-performing-arts-library>

## Sant Jaume Choir from Vila-real (Spain).

This year, 2014, we will celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Festival Coral Ciutat de Vila-real* (Vila-real City Choral Festival) in the weekends of month of December. We are looking for an abroad choir to participate in our festival in our city next 13<sup>th</sup> of December of 2014. Our budget is not very high, but we could offer it as a future exchange with our choir and payment of part of your expenses in participation in said festival.

Please, we will be extremely thankful to you if you submit this proposal to British choirs interested in coming to Vila-real next 13<sup>th</sup> of December could contact with us as soon as possible ([coralsantjaume@gmail.com](mailto:coralsantjaume@gmail.com)).

Each interested choir must send us some material about them such as audios or videos, either as an attached file or an online link. We will carry out a selection among all the interested choirs, considering that only one can perform that evening.

The repertoire should include some typical Christmas Carols from your region or country.

In our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/P%C3%A0gina-Oficial-de-la-Coral-Sant-Jaume-de-Vila-real/153855494646788?fref=ts>) you can find some information about us and our performances.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,  
Bet



## CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Could you impress the nation with your vocal talent?

Will your vocal notes earn the votes?

This is a singing competition like no other...

The hunt is on for the UK's very first **RISING STAR**.

Rising Star is **ITV's BRAND NEW PRIMETIME LIVE & INTERACTIVE** singing competition where **YOU** could compete to win a **CONTRACT WITH A MAJOR RECORD COMPANY!**

We want to hear from solo artists, duos or groups who think they are the UK's RISING STAR!

Whatever your musical style...

Apply **NOW** at

[itv.com/risingstar](http://itv.com/risingstar)

Or Call

**0207 157 4237**

The closing date for returning application forms is by midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014. We reserve the right to extend the closing date at our sole discretion.

All applicants must be 16 years or older on or before 31st August 2014. Terms and conditions apply.



# Barnardo's Youth Choral Competition Royal Festival Hall Monday 9 March 2015

The competition is open to all school, youth and community junior choirs  
There will be two age categories:

- up to and including 12 years of age
- up to and including 18 years of age.

To enter, choirs should submit a CD/DVD/MP3 of their choir singing two contrasting pieces of their choice. The two songs recorded and sent in must be the two songs to be performed in the competition on 9 March 2015. Entries are to be received by 29 November 2014. Entries received after this will not be considered. CDs/DVDs/MP3s should be sent to: Mrs J Privett, UK Events Team Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG Choirs will be informed if they are successful by 4 January 2015.

## **Rules for the final at the The Royal Festival Hall**

- There will be 18 choirs chosen from the junior age category, up to and including 12 years of age. There will be six choirs chosen from the senior age category, up to and including 18 years of age. 24 choirs in total will perform at The Royal Festival Hall on 9 March 2015. Each selected choir has to sing one of their competition pieces in the evening concert as well as joining in two massed choir items.
- The finals are held at an allocated time during the day from 10.00am and the concert starts at 18.30pm.
- Children in the junior category must be aged 12 or under on 9 March 2015. Young people in the senior category must be between ages 13 and 18 on the day of the final.
- On their CD/DVD/MP3, each choir should sing two contrasting pieces of their own choice.
- The recording of each item must be of one take. An entry will be disqualified if there is evidence of such enhancements as dynamic processing, use of auto-tuners, tracking and layering of voices, editing and mixing or any other electronic enhancement.
- At least three copies of the music for the adjudicators must be provided on the day for the adjudicators.
- Recordings must be of the current choir - the choir that if selected would sing in the competition - and not for example be of the choir singing in the previous summer term when some of the singers would then have left school.
  - The combined length of the songs must not exceed eight minutes.
  - Each choir cannot exceed 50 members.
  - The conductor must not sing with the choir.
- The suitability of the chosen songs will be taken into consideration by the judges.

- Singers who are members of more than one choir may perform as a member of each choir to which they belong. The entry does not have to be a school choir.
- Choirs may sing along to a pre-recorded accompaniment. However, the accompaniment must be purely instrumental and must not contain any vocals.
  - Choirs must provide their own accompanist, if they wish to use the piano provided.
- By entering the competition, participating choirs agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the competition.
  - Performances on the first recorded submissions and of the finalists will be judged on the following criteria: Intonation, tone quality, diction, ensemble, balance, blend, interpretation of music and text, dynamics, phrasing and communication. The suitability of the chosen songs will also be taken into consideration by the judges.
  - The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the results.
  - No correspondence will be entered into on comments to the rules and regulations by either the judges. There will be a first and second place awarded to each age category.

The two winning choirs will be invited to sing at our Young Supporters Concert in November 2015 at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Douglas Coombes MBE has offered to write a song for the two winning choirs.

[An entry form can be downloaded here:](#)



## **The Schubert Project**

### Festival Chorus Mini-Course Information

The Schubert Project is the UK's first ever complete performance of Schubert songs and one of the biggest ever celebrations of Schubert's life. Join the Festival Chorus Mini-Course and play an important part in this ground-breaking festival. The Festival Chorus is back by popular demand and offers singers of all abilities an intensive course covering all aspects of choral singing including vocal techniques, performance skills and pronunciation. See below for the full schedule:

#### Festival Chorus Mini-Course Schedule

#### **Saturday 20th September - Introductory Study Day – Denis Arnold Hall, Faculty of Music, St Aldates, Oxford**

10am Welcome and coffee

10.20am Introduction to Schubert's part songs, given by Richard Wigmore

11am Vocal Techniques - Fiona Dobie (with Jonathan Williams and accompanist)

12 Music Rehearsal - Jonathan Williams and Fiona Dobie (with accompanist)

1-2 Lunch break

2-2.30 German Pronunciation –

2.30-4 Music Rehearsal – Jonathan Williams (with accompanist)

#### **Weds 24th September – Denis Arnold Hall**

7.30-8.30 Vocal Techniques - Fiona Dobie (with Jonathan Williams and accompanist)

8.30-10pm Music Rehearsal - Jonathan Williams (with accompanist)

#### **Weds 1 October – Denis Arnold Hall**

7.30-8.30 Vocal Techniques – Fiona Dobie (with Jonathan Williams and accompanist)

8.30-10pm Music Rehearsal – Jonathan Williams (with accompanist)

#### **Weds 8 October – Denis Arnold Hall**

7.30-8pm German Pronunciation

8-10pm Music Rehearsal and Vocal Techniques – Fiona Dobie (with accompanist)

#### **Saturday 11 October – Holywell Music Room**

4-6pm Dress Rehearsal – Fiona Dobie and Jonathan Williams (with accompanist)

6.30pm Concert Performance – Fiona Dobie and Jonathan Williams (with accompanist)

**Fee:** The fee for the course, including all two complimentary tickets to a lunchtime recital during the festival and a folder for your music is £60 (£30 for full-time students) and includes 14 hours of study/rehearsal time and two complimentary tickets to lunchtime recital (selected recitals only).

[To download a booking form click here](#)

## POSTGRADUATE COURSES AT LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC

A postgraduate degree from the University of West London will develop your talent. London College of Music (LCM) is the largest specialist music and performing arts institution in the UK. We welcome those who share our passion, whether your interests are in performance, composition, music technology, performing arts or music management.

Our career-focused courses are respected worldwide and are taught by practising industry experts, ensuring our graduates are among the most employable in the UK and beyond. London College of Music (LCM) offers a diverse programme of postgraduate courses that complement and support one another. This creates a unique community of postgraduate students who share ideas and work closely together in a dynamic and supportive environment.

[More details can be downloaded here:](#)

### **International Oratorio Choir** Choral Workshop on Lake Garda (Italy) 13-18 October 2015 W. A. Mozart - Requiem

Which piece will be worked on together?

The Requiem Mass in D minor (KV 626) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's is his final composition. Even though only two-thirds actually originate from Mozart himself, it is one of his best loved and admired works. Mozart died while writing the Mass. The piece was completed by his two students, Eybler and Süßmayr. The genesis and quality of later additions have been hotly debated for a long time. The strange circumstances in which the work was commissioned, and the chronological connection between this requiem mass and Mozart's rather early death has also inspired countless legends.

Where will the rehearsals be held?

On Lake Garda the International Oratorio Choir will be using the rehearsal rooms. The lake presents a wonderful spectacle of natural luminescence and colours for an unforgettable musical event.

Where and when the concert will take place?

The concert will be held in Riva del Garda (Italy) on 17 October 2015 within the context of the 9th International Lago di Garda Music Festival.

More information about this project: <http://www.choral-workshops.com/>

Kind regards,  
Alexandra Laskowska

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Rayburn Tours brings Hong Kong to the UK!

The truly tailor-made aspect of all Rayburn Tours' concert tours and the specialist skills of the staff and what can be achieved is clear when working with all groups, however, working with a choir in Hong Kong who had the desire to visit the UK was a new and exciting challenge for the team.

Hong Kong Eastern District Children's Choir is made up of almost 40 children aged from 7-16 years. The group visited Manchester, Derby, Loughborough and London on their tour to the UK, performing a Mandarin musical 'Pai Niang Niang' or 'A Story of White Serpent.' Pai Niang Niang is Hong Kong's first musical, produced in the 1970's, featuring widely acclaimed songs and timeless allegory,

The musical was re-enacted by the Eastern District Children's Choir in a junior version and the choice to perform this musical on their concert tour made it only the second time the musical has ever been showcased in the UK!

Rayburn Tours' Concert Tour Co-ordinator Judy Lewin has had the pleasure of working with the choir to plan their tour to the UK. Judy said, "it's been a really exciting challenge to work with the Hong Kong Eastern District Children's Choir, as their performance repertoire is quite different from many of our other groups. The choir had a full range of activities planned so they really made the most of their time in the UK – everything from a visit to Old Trafford to seeing a show in London's West End!"

The group gave fabulous performances in all the cities they visited and to sum up the tour in one sentence, party leader Ms Si Lai Li said it was 'too good to be true, but it's real!'

The concert team at Rayburn Tours look forward to working with every new group and returning customers to help them enjoy unforgettable experiences and incoming groups are given the same level of support and consultation as those travelling out of the UK. It is a pleasure for the team to play a part in so many once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

If you have an idea for your next choir tour, however outlandish or simple, their team would be happy to discuss your ideas and help you make them a reality!

Get in touch today on 01332 347 828 or via [www.rayburntours.com/concert/](http://www.rayburntours.com/concert/). Alternatively, you can email [info@rayburntours.com](mailto:info@rayburntours.com).