



Chorister

Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the July 2013 '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.

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 2012 a total of 752 concerts were listed on Concertfinder, compared to 677 in 2011, including the concert tour dates for the Australian Voices.

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. Most importantly 752 concerts received free publicity on the site.

The most popular works performed were jointly Handel's Messiah and Faure's Requiem closely followed by Mozart's Requiem, Brahms Requiem and the Vivaldi Gloria. This is the same as last year. New works performed include Francis Potts' Mass for 8 Voices, McCarthy's 17 Days, Tarik O'Regan's The Ecstasies Above, Loewe's Passion Oratorio, Gabriel Jackson's Hymn to St Petroc of Cornwall, Paul Mealor's Stabat Mater & Crucifixus and Patrick Hawes' Te Deum.

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

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. Their 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 generates 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 2012 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.

VocalBroker This is a site which lists vocal soloists seeking work with Choral Societies and Choruses on the Oratorio or concert platform. It is not an agency and the Societies negotiate directly with singers with Vocalbroker taking no commission. They are all experienced singers and choral societies, and choruses are asked to consider these singers when selecting voices for concerts.

www.vocalbroker.co.uk

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
www.choirsites.co.uk

WeddingSingers This is a site which lists soloists, choirs, barbershop and gospel groups who are looking for work performing at weddings www.weddingsingers.org.uk

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum This is a new 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 208 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](https://twitter.com/britishchoirs) with over 900 followers.

Concert Programme Notes British Choirs on the Net hosts a library of Choral repertoire programme notes which are available for the free use of Choral Societies. We do ask however that you acknowledge in your concerts the authorship of these programme notes, as appropriate.

British Choirs on the Net *"..as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know."* Donald Rumsfeld

British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 10 years and some of the choir details on the site is also 10 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.

Until these changes become known to us they remain unknown unknowns, once they are known to us then we can change the details on the website so that these now-known knowns, can be made known to our readers and subscribers. If you know what is unknown to us please email us so that we can know what you know and make it known to others— thanks

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

Choirfiends 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) .

Win a Free trip to Barcelona!

Following on from the hugely successful Directors' familiarisation trips to Estonia in 2011 and the Czech Republic (in 2012) last year, OneStage Specialist Concert Tours can't resist the temptation to arrange another trip. Our trip this year will be to Barcelona and the Costa Brava region in Spain from 29th – 31st October 2013. We have a great selection of hotels and venues in this area, many of which are associated with regular concert series and festivals, and we would like to invite one lucky winner to join us on the trip and experience some of these first hand!

This trip is open to all choir directors or nominated choir representatives, and the places are completely free, including flights, accommodation, and all transfers in Spain. You can bring a long a partner at a nominal price.

All you need to do is to visit the competition page on our new website <http://onestage.co.uk/about/competition/> before 31st July 2013. Whilst you're there, take a look around the site, and feel free to enquire about any of the tour destinations that we feature (and maybe even some which we don't!), and we'll be happy to provide you with some ideas and proposals for your next choir tour

*No catch !

Merry Christmas 2013 ... It's never too early to start programming your Christmas concert

Robin Mayhew, songwriter and composer from Barnham in West Sussex wrote 'The Age Old Reason for Joy' last year but was far too late for it to be included in repertoires for Christmas 2012. He's starting earlier this year in the hope that many will get into the spirit of what he believes is a 'wake up call' carol teaching the young and reminding the older of just what Christmas is really all about.



Here is the link to the web page <http://www.refuse-to-lose.co.uk/pages/ageoldreasonforjoy.htm> just click and scroll down to find everything needed for performance as FREE downloads - the score, the words, the accompaniment, a simulated full choir version and the sung version mentioned below. There are also links to YouTube and the video as well as the full Sibelius file for anyone with the programme.

Any problems with the link simply go to www.robinmayhew.co.uk and follow Music Projects and The Age Old Reason for Joy.

Best wishes and joyous singing

The Sixteen's Choral Pilgrimage 2013

In 2013 The Sixteen will present its most far-reaching Choral Pilgrimage tour yet, encompassing 35 concerts across the UK and Ireland. The tour, entitled *The Queen of Heaven*, will see Harry Christophers CBE and his choir perform music in churches and cathedrals for which it was written.

An unmissable new version of Allegri's *Miserere* is one highlight of this year's programme, which also features stunning music by the 'Prince of Music' Palestrina, as well another brilliant yet contrasting setting of the *Miserere* by James Macmillan.



Conductor Harry Christophers says: 'For our 13th Choral Pilgrimage, I have decided to look at the music of three composers who, although separated by centuries, are unique in their devotion to the Church. We really do have a wealth of simply glorious music for you which I have no doubt will enrich all our lives'.

Ticket prices range from £10 - £40. Most concerts can be booked online at www.ncem.co.uk. Alternatively call 01904 651485 to book, or for more information visit www.thesixteen.com

[The Queen of Heaven \(COR16108\)](#)

The Queen of Heaven limited-edition boxed set features the music from The Choral Pilgrimage 2013 as well as the complete *Missa Regina caeli* by Palestrina, The Sixteen's best-selling recording of the established version of Allegri's *Miserere* and a stunning selection of MacMillan's choral works including *O bone Jesu* and the *Tenebrae Responsories*.

Allegri's *Miserere*, in the new version heard during the 2013 Pilgrimage, is available as a Master Quality Download (96kHz/24-bit) at www.thesixteendigital.com

If your choir is planning a piece that uses a harmonium,

You might like to know about Pam & Phillip Fluke's *Harmonium Services* in Saltaire, near Shipley, Yorkshire. They hire out a Mustel instrument that's top of the range. It's been hired out to BBC radio & TV, to many choirs, and to events such as the Edinburgh Festival and Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. So if you're doing Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Fauré's *Requiem* or *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Stravinsky's *Les Noces* or various things by Debussy, Berg, Puccini, Gavin Bryars e-mail harmonium.service@btinternet.com or phone 01274-585601, mobile 07976-535980.

Choirs in America and Ozchoirs

Building on the success of British Choirs on the Net I am now looking to expand the remit of Choral Guardianship and Choral education by building websites to cover choirs in America and Australia. These sites are not designed to compete with existing national choral websites but to supplement them, in the same way as British Choirs on the Net supplements the National Association of Choirs, Gerontius.net and Making Music in the UK. These sites, which are in the process of being populated can be found at www.choirsinamerica.org and www.ozchoirs.org To add your choirs to either of these listings please email philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk You can also follow us on Twitter



Calling all choirs...have you ever considered performing in Prague?

The recent launch of our 2014 Choir Tours Brochure has nurtured a real interest in choirs selecting Prague as their concert tour destination....it's not hard to understand why!

Prague has over the years become a favoured destination for choirs considering a European concert tour. Often referred to as the 'City of a Hundred Spires,' the city is home to grand palaces and ornate baroque churches linked by winding medieval streets. Couple this with impressive venues such as St. Vitus Cathedral and the Czech Museum of Music as well as a host of appealing ways in which to spend time at leisure, it's clear to see why the city lures so many choirs to perform here.

Attracting an audience

We work closely with our concert providers in Prague. Invitations are sent to the 2,000 concert goers on its mailing list and an RSVP is requested; this enables us to ensure good audience numbers. Posters and flyers will also be distributed on your behalf to the communities surrounding Prague.

Here are just a few venues in Prague that come highly recommended for choirs with a variety of repertoire styles...

St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle

Situated within the magnificent Prague Castle, participating in Mass at the Catholic Cathedral of St. Vitus is an awe-inspiring experience for all. The cathedral's towers dominate Prague's skyline and, as you gaze up at the vast, vaulted nave, it is no surprise that this cathedral is the largest and considered the most important church in Prague.

Czech Museum of Music

Located in a 17th century monastery building, this impressive museum explores the relationship between man and musical instruments and features an extensive collection of instruments. Following your guided tour, the grand atrium is the perfect setting for your choir's concert.

St. Nicholas Church

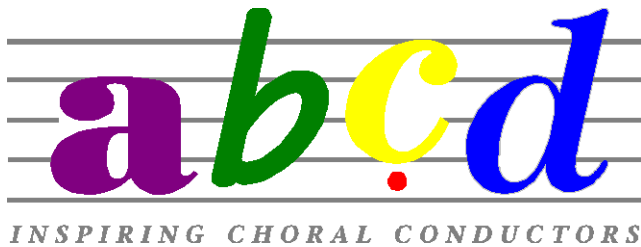
A highlight for many groups is the opportunity to perform in this beautiful Baroque church. Located in the heart of Prague on the Old Town Square, the white exterior stands proud against the hustle and bustle of the square below. The venue accepts a mixed repertoire making it suitable for your choir to take part in the regular lunchtime series.

To see how a tour could work for your choir, see what Sheffield Cathedral Choir got up to on their 2012 Prague Concert Tour! [Click here](#)

"Our best moment on tour – audience appreciation!" Prague 10th-15th April 2012

Request your bespoke quotation today! We will work with you to create a completely tailor made itinerary. [Click here to request a quote!](#)

If Prague isn't what you're looking for, you will be sure to find inspiration from one of our other amazing destinations on our website www.rayburntours.com or you can call our team on 01332 347 828 for more information.



Association of British Choral Directors

The trade exhibition at **abcd's** 28th Annual Convention at Oxford Brookes University from 23-25 August

The exhibition is one of the highlights of the weekend and we very much hope your organisation will be able to take part. The Gypsy Lane site of the university is in Headington, just a few minutes outside the city centre. We have a large exhibition space, in the main hall, including a stage area, which will enable a number of informal concerts to be held in there during the weekend. The exhibition will open on the afternoon of Friday 23rd August and you are welcome to set up any time from 9am that day. Full details of access, sending materials on ahead etc. will follow in due course.

The timetable includes an increased number of repertoire reading sessions, which we've divided into four areas: SATB, church music, upper-voice and school and community. Submissions from all publishers and composers will be very welcome and I will send out specific details of how to do this separately. We also have a range of marketing opportunities available, including advertising in our new Yearbook, and again, these will follow separately.

This year's exhibition bookings will be taken by Diane Morley, who is the **abcd** North West region Secretary, so please request and send back your booking forms directly to her and contact her with any queries. Her email address is d.morley52@btinternet.com and phone number 0151 632 0466.



Voices for Hospices is a wave of simultaneous concerts around the globe which takes place on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day every two years. The objective of the event is to raise funds and awareness for hospice and palliative care in your region and around the world.

The next event will take place on 12 October 2013.

The theme in line with World Hospice and Palliative Care Day is 'Achieving universal coverage to palliative care: dispelling the myths'.

Voices for Hospices events use the voice to raise funds and awareness for hospice and palliative care. These events could be concerts from any musical genre, poetry events, drama evenings or spoken word.

Download the materials, including the logo for 2013, on the Materials page <http://www.worldday.org/voices-for-hospices/>.