



Chorister

Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the July 2017 'Chorister' Newsletter

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



MontyQ

elegant
dresses
for
choirs

www.montyqfashion.com



This newsletter has been sent to you as you or your choir are currently listed on one of the sites, or because the choral related 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, with over 3,950 choirs listed, some of this details regarding choirs may have changed i.e. conductor details, size of choir, choir re-names, email addresses or website choir addresses, etc.

I have spent the last few months auditing the choir listings, removing dead links and updating those whose details were out of date. Many choirs, particularly those aimed at younger members, have moved from websites to facebook pages while others have both forms of media as well as twitter accounts.

As a result of this audit the number of choirs listed has changed dramatically and the information that is available about those choirs is far more up to date as is the resultant mailing list. See below for details of how that mailing information is collected and used.

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 usage we do not list choirs that are only contactable by telephone or post.

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 phillipptolley@colcanto.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 3000 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 or may be collected from other choral registers such as the National Association of Choirs and ABCD.

These mailing lists are important 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.

The mailing list is not just for big organizations. For instance there are 400 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 choirs on the London list, subject to email contacts.

During this year to date, we have sent out mailings for Nonsuch Singers, Chorus Ireland, Helicon Arts, Choirs Beyond Dover, Choir Contact Ireland, Gareth Malone and Oxford University Press.

To see how these contacts are collected, used and audited visit www.choirs.org.uk/mailings.html

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. It is also increasing used to advertise vacancies for Music Directors/Accompanists. There are currently over 1,400 members and membership is by invitation. If you wish to become a member please apply through the site. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts>

We also have a presence on Twitter at www.twitter.com/britishchoirs with over 1,800 followers.

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

During 2016 we listed, and provided free advertising, for a total of 523 concerts.

Already this year that number looks like it will be exceeded, in part due to the numerous concerts which form part of the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival.

If you wish to advertise your concert on Concertfinder please email me at philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk with the following information.

- Date: Date of Concert
- Who: Choir/Singing Group
- Where: Venue and Time
- What: What works are being performed
- Ticket/Info: Prices and contact details (please include any ticket handling fees)

Please note we only advertise choral concerts on this site. Where a programme includes both choral works and orchestral/instrumental works, we will only list the choral elements. We also do not include details of soloists or conductor (no matter how eminent) www.concertfinder.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
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire
Nova, Bristol

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)

VocalBroker This site is being retired. www.vocalbroker.co.uk

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 and Groups. We do ask that you acknowledge in your concerts the authorship of these programme notes, as appropriate.

If you would like to submit a programme note to the site please email me at philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk

Choral Vacancies. This page, which is part of British Choirs on the Net, is particularly successful at successfully placing candidates in Choral Music posts.

The listing covers Musical Director/Choir Leader vacancies and also Accompanist vacancies. There are also listing of candidates who are seeking work as Musical Directors or Accompanists. Finally there are list of choirs seeking singers. To list you vacancy just email the details at philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk.

Please be clear if the post is paid, unpaid or honorarium. Also where possible please include a closing date for applications.

Choral Arrangements for Male Voice Choirs Gwyn Arch is a composers and arranger with something of an obsession with MVC music and now has 160 arrangements, mostly TTBB, in his catalogue

The catalogue now includes a section labelled '2-part arrangements'. They are invariably derived from the 4-part versions, and the accompaniments are the same. We often need more rehearsal time for a concert, and the addition of the occasional (or frequent!) 2-part arrangement saves a lot of rehearsal time and 'works' well. In general, the music meets the needs of male voice choirs looking for a broader variety of styles in their repertoire. Nearly all the music has been rehearsed and performed in many concerts before being selected for publication.

Most of these arrangements have been written by Gwyn Arch, a specialist in the field, and one of the most frequently-published and performed choral arrangers in the UK. He has over 45 years as a male choir director, male voice music arranger and choral adjudicator.

If you feel that MVC members of your organisation please visit Gwyn's site www.malechoirmusic.co.uk.

Festival Interceltique de Lorient: 4-13 August 2017

Each summer, around 700,000 people from all over the world invade the Celtic land of Lorient for the Festival Interceltique. From Galicia to Scotland, the cream of Celtic music can be found here, to be enjoyed in a really convivial atmosphere.

Every year it's the same song and dance! Since 1971, this festival has really got it in the bag-ad, for every year it's bombard-ed with over 700,000 visitors coming to listen to the Celtic sounds of the bombards and the bagad. Just like the Pied Piper, this inter-Celtic parade mesmerises the crowd, assembled here to celebrate an inter-Celtic night at the Moustoir stadium or in the fishing port, to the sound of the Scottish and Spanish bagpipes that fill the air. Around 200 events and shows and 5000 performers on the bill...Tourists will love the atmosphere, and the Lorient locals are wholeheartedly involved in this festival which celebrates Celtic culture. Well into its forties, the Interceltique may be greying a little around the temples, but it is still young at heart.

This year Wales will be represented by the Abertillery Orpheus male Voice Choir, of which I am a member (1st tenor), so I hope to report back on the festival in the next newsletter

Lacock Courses

We've just put details of a couple of courses coming up this winter on the Lacock web site – www.lacock.org. The first of these is the **Ambleside Winter School**. It will be directed by Will Carslake, who was the obvious choice because he is also a composer drawing much of his inspiration from remote and rugged landscapes. He has come up with a brilliant idea connecting the Lakeland setting with renaissance settings of ancient texts with imagery from the natural world. His title is 'Gardens of the Sublime' and he explains his thinking more fully on the web site. Ambleside is the small town in the heart of the Lake District, surrounded by some of the best scenery and walking country England has to offer. We will be based in the Parish Centre, a very comfortable and attractive new building in the local slate, with spectacular views of parkland and fells. People in the town tell us that it is one of their busiest times, so if you're thinking of coming it would be well to tell us and to arrange your accommodation as soon as possible.

The other is **Singing in Castara**, a return to Tobago with Justin Doyle at the end of January. This is of course timed to be just when the northern winter begins to drag on and the contrast with the splendour of the Caribbean is at its height. Justin's programme is centred on music by Thomas Tallis – we had to ask him back after he entitled his previous programme there "Tallis in Tobago. . . part I". It also includes music by Hassler, Byrd and Palestrina and a modern piece, Will Todd's *Christus est stella*, a setting of a text by the Venerable Bede. Castara is a remote fishing village; we sing in the community centre and stay in guest houses and apartments. The island of Tobago is a fascinating place and there is much else to do and see. It doesn't cost as much as you might think to get there – at the moment fares from London on both BA and Virgin are around £550 return.

Most of the courses already announced – Eamonn Dougan and Greg Skidmore in **Ludlow**, Andrew Carwood in **Venice** and Robert Hollingworth in **Jimena** – have been more or less fully subscribed for some time, but there are a few gaps, so it's worth asking if you would still like to come. For instance, we could still find places for inner voices and instrumentalists at Ludlow, a bass in Venice and tenors in Jimena.

We are very lucky to have a solid core of regular supporters, with some of your allegiances dating back to the last century. We are continually grateful to you all, especially those of you who have passed the word on to other singers or have recommended new venues or conductors. Lacock functions as a club, but we are alert to the dangers of cliqueness and are always ready to welcome new members. Last year's bring-a-man scheme has been a great success, so we repeat the offer: anyone receiving this newsletter may recommend a male singer not previously known to us (that is to say, not already on the mailing list) for a place on a course free of charge, as long as he fulfils the criteria for that course.

You may have noticed that some of our courses are for 'invited singers'. The details are not put on the web site but there is not meant to be anything secret about them. The sort of people we invite are those that seem to be natural leaders of their sections, the ones that get asked to sing short solo passages or would be happy to sing in a one-to-a-part semi chorus. That generally means they have had some vocal training and are reliable readers. The 'music parties' are generally smaller than the other courses. The cadre of invitees is always changing: many newcomers are recommended by people already in the group, but you are also free to suggest yourself. If you think you would fit the bill and would like to be invited to one, just let us know.

Please let us know soon if you're thinking of coming to Ambleside or Tobago. All the details of both courses are at www.lacock.org.

Andrew, Lucy and Gog
Cantax House, Lacock, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 2JZ
+44 (0)1249 730468
lucy@lacock.org (please use this address)
www.lacock.org

HELLO!

Welcome to the 2017 Oxford Lieder Festival. Here are some festival highlights and information on how **YOU** can **TAKE PART**.

THE LAST OF THE ROMANTICS

General booking is now open for this year's [Oxford Lieder Festival](#). There's a wide range of stunning music performed by a wonderful array of leading musicians, as well as many opportunities to explore our theme of **Mahler and fin-de-siècle Vienna**. We position ourselves in that time and place, but from there we look back to the influences of [Schubert](#) and [Beethoven](#), still so strongly felt, and forward to the pioneers of the [twentieth century](#). We also take detours to explore the poet [Charles Baudelaire](#) - in the 150th anniversary of his death - and [Russian song](#) in the centenary of the Russian Revolution. There is something for everyone and we look forward to welcoming you.

TAKE PART!

Saturday 14 October - Bring & Sing

A chance for one and all to tread the boards of the Holywell Music Room and perform their very own lieder favourites solo at the Bring & Sing recital. The format for this year's Bring & Sing has been updated and the recital will comprise two 45 minute recitals with a 45 minute interval. Participants can perform with the in-house accompanist or bring your own duo partner. Each participant will be offered a 10 minute rehearsal session in the morning between 9.30am and 11.30am and a 7 minute recital session between 12pm and 2.15pm. This is a warm, friendly and informal recital and singers of all levels of experience are invited to perform.

If you have any questions prior to making a booking, please email me at sophie@oxfordlieder.co.uk. To book a place, please buy a ticket [here](#).

Saturday 21 October - Masterclass Day

We have also updated our Masterclasses this year and are offering an immersive day of masterclasses and networking for enthusiastic amateur singers led by renowned artists Nicky Spence and Caitlin Hulcup. Each participant will receive 30 minutes of individual coaching and will also gain great insights from observing fellow participants' sessions throughout the day. An accompanist will be available, and a light lunch is also provided.

These masterclass are mixed level and anyone may apply. two sessions will run concurrently: participants are welcome to move between sessions when observing. Masterclasses are not open to the public, but friends and family of participants are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions prior to making a booking, please email me at sophie@oxfordlieder.co.uk. To book a performance place, please buy a ticket [here](#).

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warm wishes

Sophie Ruggiero, Learning & Participation Officer

sophie@oxfordlieder.co.uk

07714091536

Voices Now reveals results of Big Choral Census

There are at least 40,000 choirs singing regularly in the UK, according to Voices Now.

The charity has revealed the results of its Big Choral Census – its first piece of research – which examined the activity and volume of vocal groups across the UK.

The charity's online survey collected information on over 3,200 choirs in the UK, cross-referencing this figure with membership lists from members of the Singing Network UK and adding the number of estimated church and school choirs to estimate that there are at least 40,000 choirs in the UK and 2.14 million people singing regularly.

The choirs which participated in the census range in size from four to 700 people, and have members of all ages, from six years to over 100 years old. Two thirds of the choirs surveyed do not audition.

When asked to describe what type of singing group they are, 36% of the choirs identified as a community choir, with 18% describing themselves as a choral society and 15% as a chamber choir. Other categories included refugee choirs, 'tuneless choirs', and choirs related to health and wellbeing.

The ensembles surveyed perform a range of repertoire: 63% sing modern/contemporary music, 60% perform classical repertoire, and 48% opt for folk/traditional pieces.

Noting that 300,000 more people participate in a choir than in amateur football each week, the report suggests that choirs are a 'worthwhile activity to receive greater financial support', stating that with an injection of funding for grassroots activity, choirs could benefit from access to better sheet music and arrangements; vocal coaching; IT equipment and software; music equipment; and more.

The report concludes by saying: 'Choirs have potential to do more. Currently choirs are self-funding and in many cases reliant on members paying some form of subscription. With more support choirs could involve more people, develop their artistic activity and contribute more to communities across the UK.'

www.voicesnow.org.uk

Singing Network UK (formerly TONSIL)

Singing Network UK is a free forum, bringing together all and any organisations with an interest in singing to meet twice a year face to face to discuss what is, can, and should be happening in the world of choral singing, practice and education, in Britain and Internationally. The group began because the member societies felt the need to respond as a group rather than individually to the wide variety of ideas and issues affecting the future of choral singing, including the music education curriculum and Music Hubs.

Singing Network UK is less an official organisation, more an informal association whose function is to serve its member organisations and to act as forum for national and international vocal education and practice.

Singing Network UK currently represents 21 organisations promoting singing across a wide variety of vocal genres, supporting over 40,000 members choirs and over 2 million singers.

More details of those organisations can be found by visiting www.singingnetworkuk.org

The Esterhazy Singers Choral Scholarship for Young Singers 2017/2018

Following the successful inaugural year of the choral scholarship scheme for young singers, the Esterhazy Singers are pleased to invite applications for their 2017/2018 awards.

The choir is based in the City of London under the inspirational leadership of Andrea Brown who was elected as Musical Director of the choir at the end of 2016. Andrea is a highly experienced choral conductor and artistic director who has a professional singing background.

This is an excellent opportunity for a person to gain invaluable experience of choral singing.

Successful applicants will receive £600 per annum, paid in equal parts after each term. There are normally 4 or 5 events a year. Choral scholars will be expected to attend regular rehearsals, usually on Tuesdays at 19.00 at St Magnus the Martyr on Lower Thames Street and to sing at all concerts. There will be opportunities for solo work as well as further development of skills in choral leadership and conducting specific to each candidate's experience.

Applicants should be between 18 and 25 years old and ideally should have considered a career in choral music or just starting in that field. There will be up to four scholarships on offer.

A CV with covering letter and 2 references are required, one personal and one musical. Applications must be received by 14th August 2017. Shortlisted applicants will then be asked to join a rehearsal on Tuesday 5th September when there will be an audition with Andrea Brown and a short meeting with two members of the choir's committee.

Those interested should apply by email to Jane Coupe at treasurer@esterhazysingers.com

Cork International Choral Festival — Change of Date 2018

Cork International Choral festival would like to inform all choristers, audience, stakeholders, partners and followers of the following change for our 2018 Festival.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the 2018 Festival, the 64th edition of the Festival, will move dates for one year only from the May Bank Holiday weekend and will now run from 18th until 22nd April 2018 inclusive.

All application dates for international choirs will remain the same. If you have any queries, please email festival Manager on sinead@corkchoral.ie

Cornwall's Million Pound Boost from 2017 International Choral Festival



St Petersburg Boys Choir drew crowds and media attention at St Michael's Mount

As the excitement settles on Cornwall's hugely successful 2017 International Male Choral Festival - the largest event of its kind in the world - choirs from home and abroad are already signing up for 2019's biennial event.

And, for the first time, the Festival's popular Composers' Competition will itself become international next year as composers across the globe are invited to battle it out against home-grown talent to create top original works for male choirs of any age or background.

This year's final reckoning reveals almost 50,000 tickets were sold to enthusiastic audiences over the May bank holiday weekend – around a half of those for major concerts and competitions in Truro and half for sell-out regional events right across Cornwall.

With 60 choirs and their entourages – from as far afield as Australia, the USA and Russia - involved in 50 events in 40 venues, organisers estimate that the four day Festival brought around £1million into the local economy.

Eighteen hotels across Cornwall hosted visiting choirs and they alone benefitted to the tune of around £350,000 in bed, breakfast and evening meal revenues.

Cornwall itself as a scenic visitor destination enjoyed widespread media attention as singers from 9 – 90 years old performed at iconic, world-famous locations like St Michael's Mounts and The Eden Project.

“It was a fantastic event which gave vast amounts of pleasure to so many people,” says 2017 Festival Director Rob Elliot – who has already been taking enquiries and bookings from choirs wanting to join the 2019 festivities. “It was a choral, operational and financial success, and we are particularly indebted to the wonderful Cornish choirs whose enthusiastic support is so important for the success of the Festival. The great news is that thanks to our patrons, sponsors and ticket sales we met our budgets and can confidently go ahead with the 9th festival in 2019.”

Anyone wishing to find out more about the forthcoming Composers’ Competition and the next Cornwall International Male Choral Festival, which runs from the 2nd – 6th May 2019 can see a short film and details on the Festival website at www.cimcf.uk

Application forms for choirs and composers wishing to register are available by contacting Rob Elliott - rob@cimcf.uk

UK SATB Choir sought for European Project: Gone West – the summer of ‘18

Participating choir Belgium: Roeselars Kamerkor (good standard chamber choir)
Participating choir UK : to be determined

OneStage will be the travel partner for both the UK choir and the Belgian Choir, although we expect that overall costs for participants will be lower than for a ‘normal’ concert tour, as there is funding available from the West Flanders provincial government for this project.

Project ethos: Focus on the end of WWI in 1918 and expressing hope for the future of Flanders and Europe. Greater resonance now given to the project by the Brexit process. Emphasis on cultural connectivity within Europe

Part 1 takes place 5-8 July 2018 in and around Roeselaere, West Flanders region of Belgium. There will be a concert of words and music in Roselaere on 8th July, with rehearsals involving both participating choirs on 6th and 7th July.

Part 2 takes place 1-4 November 2018, in a location in the UK determined by the location of the participating UK choir, and will involve a concert and possible church service

Repertoire has to a certain extent been selected, but there is space on the programme for some work(s) of the UK choir’s choosing. Pieces include Lauridsen’s Magnum Mysterium, Elgar’s Lux Aeterna, Whitacre Lux Aurumque

If your choir is interested please contact;

Julian Edwards
Sales Manager, Onestage Specialist Concert Tours
julian@onestage.co.uk
Direct lines 0121 240 2972/ Mobile 07794 598477

SINGING FOR SYRIANS 2017

Last year Singing for Syrians raised just over £140,000. From Istanbul to Tenby, Norfolk to Glasgow there were more than 80 different events with over 10,000 people attending. None of this could have happened without your support, enthusiasm, time and commitment.

Thanks to your help and through our charity, the Hands Up Foundation, this money has continued to directly fund projects inside Syria. The money raised by Singing for Syrians is implemented by Hands Up's partner organisations on the ground. Sustainability forms the basis of all the projects Hands Up chooses, which is why we focus on funding salaries and long-term work in health and education. All the projects we fund are monitored regularly and designed to have the maximum impact for those in need. For more information, please take a look at our latest newsletter - <http://mailchi.mp/94bfad96dcb1/hands-up-the-latest-june-2017?e=bcf729cdcd>

We have witnessed firsthand the positive effect of direct aid in Syria and we hope that the Syrians we support will contribute to rebuilding and making their country, once again, a place where people can live in peace.

But as you know the war in Syria is far from over, in fact civilian casualties are in the news again this week and so we are beginning our campaign for Singing for Syrians 2017. This year we want to sing louder, make more noise and raise more money than ever before. Our target is £200,000 and we would be thrilled if you would join up with us again to help us go above and beyond our target. One of the projects that Hands Up funds is the National Syrian Project for Prosthetic Limbs in Syria and Turkey. It is estimated that 30,000 people in Syria need prosthetic limbs. The limbs cost an average of £360 and, once fitted, enable the patients to go back to school or work. Just think how many people we could help if we smash our target.

We would be delighted if you would join Singing for Syrians once again to raise the roof and as much money as possible by holding another singing event or carol concert this year. To get started with a brand new 'Hold Your Own' pack for schools, choirs, churches and bands, please click here <http://www.singingforsyrians.com/> and follow the buttons for a pack which includes event ideas, sponsorship tips, song choices, poems and ways to remind Syrians that they have not been forgotten.

Equally, please spread the word amongst family and friends by forwarding on this email. We are here to help with as many events as people sign up for and are incredibly appreciative of you passing on the word about Singing for Syrians.

We very much look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime - our very best wishes

George and Lucy

Singing for Syrians
www.singingforsyrians.com
facebook.com/handsupfoundation

The National Choral Organisation

Investing in choral futures



Sing for Pleasure to align training programme for teachers to new DfE standard

National choral charity Sing for Pleasure (SfP) is pleased to announce that its Vocal Leadership Training Programme (VLTP) specifically designed to develop teachers' singing leadership skills is aligning to the Department for Education's new Standard for Teachers' Professional Development, which was published in July 2016.

Introduced by SfP in 2015, the VLTP is based on the charity's successful 5 Day Course (Foundation & Intermediate 1 levels) and enables teachers to become confident and effective singing leaders, whilst at the same time building a powerful network of singing practice in an area, supported by SfP's wealth of unaccompanied repertoire. Since its launch, some 13 programmes have been run or are presently running across England, principally in partnership with music education hubs.

Feedback from those following the programme has been immensely positive, as borne out by one participant's words: "It has changed the way that I teach new songs to the academy, to the choir and in class. It has made me more confident in teaching music, particularly singing and championing singing in my school." According to Baz Chapman, former Sing Up Programme Director, who is rolling out the programme to music education hubs, "the new DfE Standard recognises value of external expertise in providing high quality Continuing Professional Development and Learning (CPDL), but also stresses the importance of the 3 way partnership between provider, participant and school. This is at the heart of SfP's approach with the VLTP, and the Standard provides a valuable framework to ensure our programmes continue to achieve excellence."

Manvinder Rattan, Sing for Pleasure's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, commented: "The SfP management team views this as a statement of our ongoing commitment to highest quality CPDL in vocal leadership. It's particularly important to see this rigour in schools so that children can benefit from the best possible musical experience, which is such an important part of their education."

More information on the VLTP is available on the Sing for Pleasure website: <https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/forteachers/vocalleadershiptrainingprogramme/>

Link to the DfE Standard page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standardforteachersprofessionaldevelopment>
Website: www.singforpleasure.org.uk