



Chorister Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the June 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

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.

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

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.

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. Thanks again to John Bawden who has recently gifted 10 new programme notes and also to Ronald Corp who has allowed us to use notes from his own composition 'And all trumpets sounded'.

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 470 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 with over 1,400 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

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) .

We are very pleased to welcome a new advertising subscriber to British choirs on the Net.

Olton Travel are a fully licensed government approved incoming tour operator in St.Petersburg, Russia. Our registration number with the Ministry for Tourism of Russia is MBT 000520. All our tours are fully insured.

They are a member of ASTA and Cruise Market Association of Russia and their staff members are distinguished by professionalism, knowledge and dedication and have over 25 years of experience in tourism. Their mission is to offer distinctive cultural experiences with the best combination of price and quality. For more details visit <http://oltontravelrussia.com/tours/concert-tours-to-russia/>

London A Cappella International Summer School (LACISS) with The Swingle Singers

1 - 4 August 2014, Kings Place

With workshops, performances and masterclasses exploring everything from beatbox and scat to vocal technique and performance presentation, LACISS welcomes singers of all interests, abilities and ages (17+) to Kings Place for a long summer weekend like no other!

Our crack team of international tutors includes experts from The Swingle Singers, USA's The House Jacks, Scandinavian Postyr, mistress of scat Anita Wardell, former King's Singer Philip Lawson and Dominic Peckham – not to mention performances by New York Voices and The Swingle Singers!

Website: <http://londonacappella.com/summerschool/>

Brochure: view online here or email us to request an info pack in the post http://issuu.com/londonacappella/docs/laciss_a6_booklet_issuu

Register your place now via the Kings Place website

<http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/book-tickets?perfno=11937>

Group discounts are available (10% for groups of 4+ and 20% for groups of 10+). Please contact the Kings Place Box Office about these discounts on +44(0)20 7520 1490 to register.



News from the Royal School of Church Music

SIGHT READING AND EAR TESTS: AN ESSENTIAL NEW GUIDE FROM RSCM.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has just published the first of two new guides for choir trainers and singing teachers who use the RSCM's Voice for Life scheme. The Voice for Life Guide to Musicianship provides step-by-step training and assessment to help develop a musical ear and sight-reading skills. It also provides guidance and tests for candidates preparing for RSCM Singing Awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

The Voice for Life Guide to Musicianship is available for review in bona-fide publications. To arrange for a review copy, please see Notes for Editors.

The new guide offers practical help and guidance for musicianship training and examples of tests at all levels of the RSCM Voice for Life scheme, from White Level for beginners, through light and dark blue and red, to Yellow Level for advanced singers. Those who buy the book are able to download singer's copies of all tests free of charge.

In addition, the new book provides detailed guidance and information to help trainers preparing candidates for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, all of which are formal graded exams in the RSCM's Awards Scheme which runs parallel to Voice for Life. This includes a range of exercises complete with hints and tips, an analysis of the exam requirements at each level, and an explanation of the procedure during the exam itself. The guide also gives an outline of what the examiner is listening for as the tests are conducted.

The new guide is expected to help trainers and candidates alike. "It's true to say that many choir trainers have contacted us to ask for advice on how to prepare candidates for RSCM Awards," says Colin Davey, the RSCM's Education Programmes Manager. "With its advice every step of the way and example tests, this new Guide to Musicianship will give trainers and exam candidates a specific idea of what's required."

The RSCM Guide to Musicianship is the latest addition to the range of Voice for Life resources, and is designed to be used in conjunction with How to Use Voice for Life (due for publication shortly). Also coming soon are The Bronze Collection Book Two and The Silver Collection Book Two – these collections of anthems will bring the repertoire fully up-to-date with music lists for 1

Bronze and Silver examinations. The RSCM Guide to Musicianship will also be available later in the year in a US edition with US musical terminology.

The Voice for Life Guide to Musicianship ISBN: 978-0-85402-213-7 Order number: F0120 Price: £25.00 (£18.75 RSCM Affiliate price, £21.88 RSCM Individual Member price)

Available from RSCM Music Direct:

Online: www.rscm.com/shop

Tel: 0845 021 7726

Email: musicdirect@rscm.com

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>

Come RelaxSing on the Rhine with us this Summer - RelaxSing is open to everyone who loves to sing!

Join us as an individual or a group for this wonderful, exciting and fun-packed all-inclusive week. The choir is formed from whoever comes to the Event, so the make-up is quite different each time.

Sing modern choral music in the mornings, under the guidance of our gifted Musical Director from the UK, Richard Harker and explore the gorgeous region in the afternoons.

There is so much to see in this beautiful part of Germany, famous for it's castles and vineyards.

Come and sample the local fare and visit one of the biggest Wine Festivals on the Rhine. Or, if you prefer, simply relax in the spectacular surroundings. The choice is yours.

So join us and feel the magic and exhilaration of creating beautiful harmonies as one. If you have a love of song and a sense of fun, you are going to love this RelaxSing Holiday!

**For full details please visit our website; <http://www.relaxsing.com.au/2014rhine.html>
Or Contact Us by email; info@relaxsing.com.au**



Sing loud and Sing proud for Heart Research UK

This **December**, Heart Research UK is asking the nation to warm up its vocal chords so we can continue helping people to live healthier, happier, longer lives.

Over the last nine years our Sing for your Heart campaign has raised over £95,000 and in 2014 we want you to join us as we Sing for our Hearts.

We are looking for community and school choirs, singers and musical groups to get involved with our festive campaign by:

- **Planning your own Sing for your Heart event** – There are many different types of musical activities you could plan for your event, why not choose Heart Research UK as the beneficiary for your Christmas concert? Our [free fundraising pack](#) and [online tools](#) are full of hints and tips to ensure your event is a great success.

Support our Sing for your Heart events – We are planning collection events to take place throughout December at shopping centres and train stations across the country. Could your choir or music group perform at one of the collection events?

For more information please visit www.heartresearch.org.uk/singforyourheart or contact Claire on 0113 234 7474 or email community@heartresearch.org.uk

Not only is singing a great way to raise money, research shows that it's also good for your heart. So why not get involved and help Heart Research UK make this year's Sing for your Heart the best yet.



Rayburn Tours is excited to announce that their brand new concert tours website is up and running and their 2014/15 brochure is out now!

The 2014/15 Choir Tours brochure features their most inspiring concert tour destinations for adult choirs. New for this edition is/are;

Detailed Venue Information – including repertoire recommendations, average audience sizes and feedback from groups who have experienced performing on individual stages.

Ensemble Selector – they've made it easier for you to choose which destinations are suitable for your ensemble and your repertoire.

Choir of the Year 2014 – join them on their journey as 'Friends of Choir of the Year'.

Learn more about how their completely tailor-made approach could work for your ensemble.

Request your copy today via their website rayburntours.com/concert/

Prepare to be inspired on their new website!

More venues and excursions featured than ever before...

Large scale venue and excursion images along with detailed venue information, including repertoire recommendations and average audience sizes.

See 360 degree views of venues and their surroundings with the 'venue viewers'.

Feedback from groups who have performed on a concert tour, video interviews as well as a blog!

Take a look at their brand new website today and request a copy of the new brochure. If you already have a tour in mind then contact them today for further information about the tours and the service they offer or go ahead and request a tailor made quotation by giving them a call on 01332 347 828 or via their website or email them on info@rayburntours.com