



Chorister *Col Canto Associates*

March 2012

Welcome to the March 2012 '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 2011 a total of 677 concert were listed on Concertfinder ranging from the Sixteen's Choral Pilgrimage to one off concerts by smaller, less well known, choirs.

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 677 concerts received free publicity on the site.

While Handel's Messiah was the most popular choral work to be performed, if you remove the Christmas effect and look at concerts from January to November only, the most popular work was Faure's Requiem closely followed by Mozart's Requiem.

Of the more contemporary works Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man and Will Todd's Mass in Blue were the most popular. It is hoped that 1000 concerts will be listed on Concertfinder during the 2012 year.

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 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

New website 2 new sites are currently under construction. Australian choirs on the Net www.ozchoirs.org and American Choirs on the Net www.choirsinamerica.org To advertise on these sites please email philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk Twitter accounts www.twitter.com/choirsinamerica and www.twitter.com/ozchoirs

TONSIL Comprises organisations, including British Choirs on the Net, that work in the field of youth & adult singing. Formed in 1988, it meets two to three times a year or as needed to discuss and what can and should be happening in the world of choral singing, practice and education, in Britain and Internationally. TONSIL is less an official organisation, more an informal association whose function is to serve its member choral organisations and to act as forum for national and international vocal education and practice. Tonsil represents 14 organisations promoting choral singing across a wide variety of genres, supporting over 25,000 members choirs and over 500,000 singers, who each year perform to audiences totalling nearly 3 million. www.tonsil.org.uk

British Choirs on the Net The site continues to grow with over 2900 UK choirs now listed. We continue to welcome new choirs both UK based and internationally. We continue to successfully place musical directors and accompanists with choral societies and choruses across the UK and also increasingly internationally. www.choirs.org.uk

Additions and Amendments 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, email addresses or website addresses. Please email any corrections and amendments to philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 2000 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. While the site has no intention of selling this it can provide a mailing service to choirs and businesses to help promote events and services of interest to the choral community. Recent mailings have been sent out on behalf of the Barbican, Shorter House Choral Editions and the composer Eric Whitacre..

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
Leominster Choral Society, Herefordshire
www.choirsites.co.uk

Choirfriends This small site is designed to help chorister get back in touch with their friends and colleagues when you move to other choirs or (heaven forbid) stop singing. Recent searches have been for former members of the Belfast Girls Choir (in the 1940-1950's) , Ulster Girls Choir, the Hall Russell Male Choir (in the 1920—1930's) and the Wolverhampton Girls Choir (in the 1950's) www.choirfriends.co.uk

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 experience singers and choral societies and choruses are asked to consider these singers when selecting voices for concerts. www.vocalbroker.co.uk

WeddingSingers This is a site which lists soloists, choirs, barbershop and gospel group 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 upon 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.
www.facebook.com

We also have a presence on Twitter at www.twitter.com/britishchoirs

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.

Canford Summer School of Music (Sherborne) 29 July—5 August 2012

Cappella Chamber Choir with Nigel Perrin

If you are a keen chamber choir singer and would enjoy a week studying and performing some singularly beautiful music, then this is the course for you. The choir is limited to between thirty and forty members and places are subject to the balance of voices. The repertoire ranges from the beautiful Bach Motet Komm Jesu komm to the colourful idiomatic So Deep by James McMillan - some of it will be familiar, whilst other works will be eye and ear openers though immediately accessible and memorable. We have great pleasure in welcoming Nigel Perrin to conduct this year's Cappella course. Nigel is a charismatic and inspiring conductor, if you have not sung for him before you are in for a wonderful experience. A concert of pieces selected from the list will be given at the end of the week.

For more info visit www.canfordsummerschool.co.uk

Canford Summer School of Music (Sherborne) 12—19 August 2012

The Art of Choral Direction

In association with the Association of British Choral Directors

Josephine McNally *with* Simon Gregory

Designed for directors of choral societies, chamber choirs, church choirs and youth choirs at all levels, this course offers to each participant a unique programme of study tailored to their experience and requirements. Students will be encouraged to

evaluate how they can become a more effective conductor and will include the consideration of technique (both good and bad habits) and the overall place of gesture in practical work with the choir in front of us rather than the choir in our heads. Respect is our core philosophy and students will be

challenged but never discouraged. Conducting is a 'lifelong journey' and the goal is to improve individual abilities and in turn a choir's musicality.

All conducting students will have the opportunity to direct the course choral group formed by the other course members.

For more info visit www.canfordsummerschool.co.uk

Welcome to a new British Choirs on the Net Subscribers

MUSICULTUR TRAVEL GmbH

Musicultur Travel GmbH is your specialist for choral trips. In close cooperation with international choral societies, local festival organizers, cities and communities we organize a wide range of festivals and competitions in Europe for choirs and music groups and arrange individual and tailored tours according to your own requests and interests. Our offers include concerts in attractive venues with great ambience such as the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Arena di Verona and the Christmas Market of the Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna. Meet a local choir and perform a joint concert and share your love of music.

Our experienced team will be glad to handle your hotel accommodation, city tours, concert venues, local guide assistance and transportation. Contact us and we will be delighted to assist you! For further information and details please visit our website at www.musicultur.com or call 0049 (0) 228 28986011

MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

Specialising in preparing the perfect choir concert tour for Choirs, Civic Choirs, Choirs with religious affiliation and College & University Choirs. The concert tour can take place at an Invitational Festival, Special Event or during a custom-made Concert Tour. Music Contact International offers all choirs the highest standard of service before, during, and after the tour and highly attractive concert options.

Choirs travelling with Music Contact International are guaranteed a comprehensive travel preparation and a fulfilling concert tour experience. Music Contact International first invited German choir groups to sing in Spain in 1979 and has since hosted choirs from all over the world. Over the past 20 years we have formed partnerships in countries such as Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and the USA. Each office is an independent company and works closely together to offer first class customized choir concert tour programmes and invitational festivals throughout Europe and the United States.

Our affiliated offices have contacts in the above countries and local choir associations which allows us to provide all choirs with personal contacts together with enthusiastic audiences and interesting venues.

<http://www.musiccontact.net>

ONE STAGE

Provide tailored performance tours for all types of choir, from chamber choirs of 15-20 to large choruses of over 100 members. We have organised nearly 600 concert tours over the past 11 years, finding the right venue and an appreciative audience for choirs of all standards and musical genres.

At OneStage, we are all musicians used to performing to a high level ourselves, with over 50 years combined experience of concert touring and with several languages spoken fluently in-house. We therefore have a proper understanding of the needs of touring choirs and can communicate these effectively to concert venues: this ensures that the concerts remain the focus and the high-point of your tour.

Contact us on 0208 568 5486 or concerttours@onestage.co.uk to discuss your touring requirements

Next newsletter we will focus on some of the existing subscribers

The Community and Youth Music Library

OPEN DAY FRIDAY 9 MARCH

2.30 – 6.00

An invitation

The above library, originally an LCC, then ILEA resource, has just relocated to Hornsey Library, and is seeking to make its existence more widely known, particularly to schools, choirs, bands and orchestras.

The Directors would like to invite you to come and view the library for yourselves and enjoy a glass of wine at the same time. Our hire charges are substantially below commercial publishers' rates and the personal service we offer is helpful, friendly and knowledgeable.

The full catalogue can be viewed on line but a much clearer idea of this huge musical resource can only be appreciated through personal inspection. If you are able to join us, please let us know via email or 'phone, in order that we can cater accordingly. Tel: 020 3602 5214 Email: cymlibrary@gmail.com

CSSM (formerly Charterhouse) Summer School of Music, Sherborne

July 21st —July 28th 2012

Chamber Choir under the direction of Ian Humphries

The choir will study a wide range of music so a reasonable standard of sight-reading is required for this course. There are often opportunities for solo and consort work and the choir will give at least two performances during the week.

One will be the choir's own Concert on Thursday afternoon. In addition the choir will lead the Sherborne Abbey Choral Evensong on Wednesday afternoon at 5.30 to which all CSSM members are invited and which will include:

Preces and Responses - William Smith; Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C - Stanford;

Psalm 86 - Gustav Holst

As well as three daily sessions there are evening rehearsals for the final choral performance on Friday evening which all are expected to attend. Please bring an item (a solo or party piece) if you would like to perform in the final informal session on Friday.

Ian Humphris is well known as conductor of the famous Linden Singers, presenter of music programmes for television and radio, and until recently, conductor of the National Westminster Choir, and Head of Choral Studies at the Centre for Young Musicians. He now conducts the Halesworth Festival Voices in Suffolk.

You are asked to study before the course:

O Magnum Mysterium by the American composer Morten Lauridsen (pub. Faber £2.99), or possibly available from local libraries.

For more details visit www.cssm.org.uk or email info@cssm.org.uk

[Loughborough University Arts announces winners of choral composing competition](#)

Paul Ayres, a freelance musician working in and around London, has been awarded the main **£2,000 prize** for his composition ***Loughborough Cantata***, for Loughborough University Arts' competition to compose a new and uplifting choral work which celebrates The University's sporting tradition and success, and marks the London 2012 Games.

Comprising three parts ranging in style and mood Paul Ayres' winning composition uses relevant poems and texts by Peacham, Housman, Kinto and Tennyson, along with lyrics written especially for the competition. Ayres comments *"I am thrilled to have won this competition, and hope the work reflects the huge interest and enthusiasm that the Olympic Games are generating in London, Loughborough and across the country. Although the complete piece is about 25 minutes in duration, the different sections could be used stand-alone for a variety of occasions, and I hope it will be widely performed and enjoyed after its premiere in May."*

The Loughborough University Student prize of £500 was won by **Harris Chapman**, a final year undergraduate studying 3D Design, for ***Sweet Victory***, a 2 minute crowd rallying song, which captures the spirit and exuberance of Loughborough student team match supporters.

The winning compositions, which were selected by a panel made up of members of the University Choir, along with well-known choral composer Bob Chilcott, will be premiered by at the Choir's Gala concert at The University on 11 May 2012.

['Singing for Joy' - WI Choir of the Centenary 2015](#)

To mark the WI Centenary, the NFWI Board of Trustees would like all federations to encourage their WIs to join together members of all levels of ability to enjoy the pleasures of singing by forming a Choir or Singing Group. Assistance will be provided by the Federation Support Committee through information and singing workshops.

Federations will run initial heats from which the winners will go forward to 6 regional heats. The 6 regional winners will compete in the national final in London the night before the AGM in 2015 to crown the 'WI Choir of the Centenary'. All finalists will be invited to join together to 'Sing for Joy' at the AGM the following day.

Entry criteria and timetable can be found on the [Moodle](#) under the '[NFWI Challenges and Competitions](#)' area. Alternatively, contact the NFWI-Unit team on 01865 391 788, or through the '[Contact Us](#)' form.

Best of luck to you all.

[Small Choirs International Composing Competition](#)

A donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has made £1,000 available to promote the interests of small choirs. It has been decided to use this money as the basis for a composing competition, spread over four years with £250 being allocated to each year. This will be divided up as **£80 for a First Prize, £50 for a Second Prize**, and £100 for promotion and advertising. The overall intention of the competition is to stimulate the composition of new music suitable for small choirs, with particular emphasis on music that could be used by a wide range of such choirs.. Last Date of Entry: 1 September 2012. For more details visit www.small-choirsorg.uk/competition

National Association of Choirs National Annual Conference

23—25 March 2012

The Blesfield Hotel , Bowness-on-Windermere

Headlining Conference is the internationally renowned David Lawrence, one of the UK's most versatile conductors, working with orchestras, symphony choruses and national youth choirs. His positive and engaging manner makes him a popular speaker, and he is an experienced and respected trainer of choral conductors and choirs. He teaches regularly and delivers training through the media of singing and conducting working with the London Philharmonic Choir, the Hallé Choir, the CBSO Chorus and the national youth choirs of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. David adjudicates at international festivals including the BBC Choir of the Year and Young Musician of the Year; he conducts for BBC Television's 'Songs of Praise' and directed 'The People's Chorus' for BBC Four. During the Conference weekend David will lead three jam packed sessions and will pass on his knowledge and expertise to those attending willingly!!

Also presenting will be Dr. Liz Garnett, her teaching experience is varied covering Musical Philosophies, practical workshops, one-to-one tutorials and Professional Development for Musicians. She is one of the UK's most prominent arrangers and performance coaches, having coached and/or arranged for many of the UK's top choruses and quartets and has adjudicated in both barbershop and 'mainstream' choral classes at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod and the Sligo International Choral Festival.

A full and packed [Conference](#) awaits, consisting of Trade Stands (especially chosen for the expertise and understanding of the Choral World) offering products and services required to help and assist all choirs as well workshops and seminars covering a whole host of subjects and themes.

Dartington International Summer School 21 July—25 August 2012

Dartington Summer School Choir is a perfect morning wake-up call for those who want to raise their voices in song and learn a major work from scratch in less than a week. The choir is open to all and not auditioned. The course culminates in a public performance with orchestra in Dartington's historic Great Hall

Week 1 - Choir Course 21-28 July - directed by Andrew Griffiths

Mondonville - Dominus Regnavit; De Lalande - Cantata Domino; Charpentier - Te Deum in C major

Week 2 - Choir Course 28 July - 4 August - directed by James Weekes

Bach - BWV 130 Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir; BWV 236 Missa Brevis in G major; BWV 21 Ich hatte viel Bekummernis

Week 3 - Choir Course 4—11 August - directed by Stephen Cleobury

Haydn - Te Deum; Haydn - Creation Mass

Week 4 - Choir Course 11 - 24 August - directed by Sian Edwards

Berlioz—L'enfance du Christ

Week 5—Choir Course 18 - 25 August - directed by David Angus

Dvorak—Stabat Mater

For details and booking information visit www.dartington.org/summer-school



Prague, a Choir Tour destination for all seasons...

Prague really is a city for all seasons; in summer, the streets come to life with entertainers and stalls which celebrate the Czech culture whereas, in winter months, visitors wrap up warm to enjoy the natural beauty of the landscapes and appreciate the hearty cuisine.

With this in mind, the Rayburn Tours Concert Team is thrilled to announce a special offer on Prague tours departing in October 2012 which lets you sample all the delights of this region for less. Our prices, from £479pp, include return flights, 3 publicized concerts, 4 nights B&B accommodation, a guided tour of Prague and much more!

Why Prague?

Often referred to as the 'City of a Hundred Spires', the city boasts grand palaces and ornate baroque churches linked by winding medieval streets, all dominated by the magnificent castle, Pražský hrad. The city lends itself to many exciting and original adventures including a buffet dinner cruise on the River Vltava, an authentic Czech folklore evening, a tour of the castle or a visit to the impressive Krizik Fountain Show.

The beautiful baroque church of St. Nicholas, located in the Old Town Square, is perfect for choirs performing any repertoires and in St. Vitus' Cathedral, whose spires protrude from Prague castle and dominate the city's skyline, performances are spine-tingling. For a unique venue, the Czech Museum of Music, with its selection of musical instruments, combines an interesting visit with a great performance venue.

Outside Prague, the Czech Republic has much to offer in the way of performance opportunities and cultural experiences. From a stage in the elegant spa towns of Western Bohemia to a tour of the historic castles and monasteries of the Southern regions - the variety of tours is almost limitless!

To find out more about Prague, visit the [Rayburn Tours Website](#) or contact one of our team on 01332 347828.

British Choirs on the 'Web' was created in 1995 by Rod Cuff. The final design included the legend 'British Choirs on the 'Net', so the web site name was changed to accommodate the logo.

In August 2002 Rod Cuff passed on the ownership of the site, and associated domain name, to [Phillip Tolley](#). After sixteen years the [British Choirs on the Net](#) has achieved a prominent and established position within the choral community .