



Chorister

Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the September 2015 '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.

I am currently in the process of a protracted house move and this has caused inevitable delays in dealing with emails. Apologies if your email has not been dealt with as promptly as usual. Once I am settled in the new property and am up and running on the internet /broadband link normal service will be resumed. More details to follow.

British Choirs on the Net British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 15 years and with over 3,600 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.

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.

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

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 2800 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 such as 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 last year we sent out mailings for Fortnum and Mason, The One show, BBC Children in Need 2014 - Gareth Malone's All Star Choir, Waitrose, Isle of Man Festival of Choirs and Coram Children's Charity (formerly the Foundling Hospital), 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. This year we have sent out a number of targeted mailings to London Choirs on behalf of other London Choirs.

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 increasingly used to advertise vacancies for Music Directors/Accompanists. There are currently over 1,120 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 1,800 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. 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'.

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) .

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

We are pleased to welcome **Nova** — A group of about sixteen very experienced singers will be exploring and performing music from the fascinating world of 15th and 16th century European polyphony, concentrating chiefly on Flemish, Spanish, French and Italian music.

www.choirsites.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 experienced singers and choral societies, and choruses are asked to consider these singers when selecting voices for concerts.

www.vocalbroker.co.uk



The Voices for Hospices Choir is organising a Massed Charity Come and Sing performance of The Armed Man on September 27th as part of the Festival of Rugby which will run alongside the Rugby World Cup later this year. Our aims are to provide singers and non singers with a fun day out and to raise much needed funds for local Hospices - there is much more information about the event and about the Voices for Hospices choir on our website www.vfhchoir.com

We will have the capacity for thousands of singers and the more we have the more money we will raise for Hospices and the more exciting the event will be for all concerned so we are anxious to promote the event to as many singers as possible.

We are a very small team and are having to raise all the funding ourselves so budgets are very tight but I wondered whether there were ways in which British Choirs on the Net may be able to assist in promoting the event eg advice about the best ways to reach choirs, listing our event on your site, helping us with email campaigns, using social media to get the word out etc etc. - we would be very happy to feature you on our site as one of our Supporters if you were able to help in any way.

We are passionate about enabling singers to join together and raise their voices to help those with life limiting illnesses. For us, singing is a life enhancing activity and this seems an appropriate way to give something back for the pleasure we enjoy. The Voices for Hospices Choir is open to everybody and we are actively recruiting other choirs to join us on the day - we already have sixteen signed up - see this link <http://vfhchoir.com/supporters-2/> and are in currently in email contact with many more but we have a long way to go - hence this plea for help!

I look forward to hearing from you

Lynda Beament
e lynda@vfhchoir.com
m 07798 623329

[THE "MANCHESTER" MESSIAH — 27th, 28th & 29th November 2015](#)

Returning after the success of 2014, the "Manchester" Messiah offers an invitation to Choirs and Individual singers of all standards, Come & Sing!!! The weekend comprises a Festival programme culminating in a performance of Handel's Messiah by the massed choirs, joined by the Gorton Philharmonic Orchestra at Manchester's architectural gem, The Monastery, newly refurbished and tremendously atmospheric. - [Read Online here!](#)

[Download Colour Brochure](#)

For Further Information contact Breakaway Tours

01706 715808

info@breakawaytours.co.uk

www.breakawaytours.co.uk

Run By Singers

A programme of singing weeks and weekends for 2015 is now booking online at www.runbysingers.org. These events cater for individual singers singing couples and groups of friends - not for whole choirs

Run by Singers is different. We are large enough to be praised by the Sunday Times but small enough for one of the two founders to attend and join in every single singing event. It was set up in 2004 by two members of Saffron Walden Choral Society who had been organising tours for their own choir.

Full details can be found at www.runbysingers.org. If you like what you see, please forward this email to your members or any other singers who might be interested in our plans for next year.

Ray Bardsley Carol Competition 2015

Dorking Choral Society is pleased to announce its inaugural composition competition, the Ray Bardsley Carol Competition 2015. Open to composers of all ages and nationalities, and adjudicated by Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, and Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, Stephen Jackson, composers are invited to submit a short seasonal work suitable for an amateur choral society, either a capella or with piano accompaniment. For further details please see Dorking Choral Society website at <http://www.dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk> where there is a link to a pdf providing full details of the competition and terms of entry.

Sing Bruckner with Tenebrae

Tenebrae is delighted to launch a competition which allows one talented and lucky choir to be invited to perform Bruckner's 'Locus Iste' with the choir in concert on Thursday 12th November at St. James's Church, Spanish Place. To be in with a chance of winning this once in a lifetime opportunity, choirs are invited to submit a very simple audio recording to be judged by Tenebrae's Artistic Director, Nigel Short. There are a limited number of free copies of 'Locus Iste' which will be sent to choirs on a first-come, first-served basis so get in there quick!

The competition and concert celebrates the launch of Tenebrae's album Brahms and Bruckner Motets, the profits of which will go to **Macmillan Cancer Support** to aid their incredible work. The concert programme will include Brahms' 'Drei motetten', 'How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair' and 'Geistliches Lied' and Bruckner's 'Christus Factus Est', all taken from the new album.

Entries must be submitted by email to locusiste@tenebrae-choir.com with applications closing on 10th September 2015. The winner will be announced on 24th September 2015.

(Due to the summer holidays this is a very tight timeline and may not be possible for all choirs)

LACOCK NEWSLETTER

Plans for this year's Winter School are now in place and published on the Lacock web site. We'll be back in Corsham Town Hall, which most would agree that because of its heating, lighting, seating, acoustics and kitchen is one of the best singing venues. It's also fairly central – well, compared to some of the places we've been – and easy to get to at a time of year when travel is not always as straightforward as one might hope. Note that because of the way the week falls we'll begin a day later than usual, on 28th December. The conductor will be Greg Skidmore, very much a Lacock figure ever since he started coming to courses as a scholar shortly after arriving from Canada to study in England.

In March we reunited our now dispersed family with a holiday in Tobago – Henry is in Los Angeles and it seemed only fair that for once the rest of us should cross the Atlantic. I was immediately struck by the thought that where we stayed would make an ideal Lacock course venue: an idyllic Caribbean fishing village with two glorious swimming beaches, surrounded by virgin jungle – the whole north east end of the island has been a nature reserve since the eighteenth century – a community hall to sing in and no large-scale tourist development. I was sure any of the Lacock conductors would jump at the chance of going there, so which one to choose? We'd want somehow to engage with the local music-making and gradually I decided that because of his time in Africa, the ties of his new family and his genius in coming up with brilliant choral arrangements of music from all over the world, Justin Doyle would fit the bill very well. Then in the cafe on the beach on our last day I was told I must meet that couple over there because their family was musical. Indeed they were: their daughter was a soloist with Opera North and her husband was a conductor. What, I asked, was the name of the conductor (wrong question!). I was so shocked to hear the name Justin Doyle that it took me a few seconds to realize what they'd said. Flights are not as expensive as you might think: at the moment both BA and Virgin have return fares at just over £500. As with other long-haul courses, we'll just make sure that enough people are interested before we make detailed plans, so if you are at all tempted, please let Lucy (lucy@lacock.org) know as soon as possible. We hope to confirm everything at the end of August.

A quick run-through of the other course planned for 2016 – the dates are on the Lacock Calendar page of the www.lacock.org web site:

The Corsham Voice Workshop with Ghislaine Morgan in April
Singing in Venice with Robert Hollingworth also in April
Monteconero Music Party for an invited group with Eamonn Dougan in June
Music at Monteconero with Patrick Craig at the end of June going into July
Lacock Scholars' Summer School in Lacock with Greg Skidmore in July
Monteverdi Vespers week in England (location to be revealed!) with JanJoost van Elburg in August
Trogir Music Week with Erik Van Nevel in September

The Lacock Scholars are planning another series of concerts under Greg Skidmore in St Cuthbert's Church in Earl's Court, a little known gem, with one of the most dramatic interiors of any London church. The dates are 20 September, 19 October, 29 November, 17 January, 14 February and 13 March. We'll put more details on the web site in due course and hope to see some of you there. You may not have heard that Cantax House was flooded in the Great Storm of Wiltshire on 19 September last year. Since then we have been living up the road in Corsham while the house has been *in restauro*. So while Corsham has many things that may be said in its favour, life has been a little disjointed for the last twelve months. The work is almost complete and we're planning to moving back in next month. We look forward to having the Winter School New Year's Eve party there and also the Lacock Scholars' Summer School next summer.

As always, you'll find all the details of these events at www.lacock.org



Barnardo's Youth Choral Competition

Registration Form 9 February 2016

Name of choir(s): _____

Contact name: _____

Title: Music Teacher ☐ Head Teacher ☐

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____

Email address:

please use capital letters to fill in

We would like to participate in the competition (£30 entry fee per choir included). ☐
It would be helpful if you register your interest early.

If chosen, our choir will attend the **finals on 9 February 2016** ☐
at The Royal Festival Hall.

We will also perform in that evening's concert. ☐

We will send in our CD/DVD/MP3 for consideration by **30 October 2015**. ☐

Choirs entered

Up to and including 12 years of age: ☐ Number of children in choir: ☐

Up to and including 18 years of age: ☐ Number of children in choir: ☐

Our two songs are: *(title and composer – please print clearly)*

These can be emailed when your recording is sent in

1. _____

2. _____

Please return this completed registration form, with cheque made payable to Barnardo's, to:

Barnardo's UK Events Team for the attention of Mrs J Privett

Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG

or pay online at www.barnardos.org.uk/nationalchoralcompetition

Believe in children



Barnardo's

Barnardo's adheres to the Fundraising Promise and Fundraising Standards Board guidelines
Barnardo's Registered Charity No. 216950 and SC037805



16940x15



Barnardo's Youth Choral Competition

Royal Festival Hall

Tuesday 9 February 2016

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 February 2016**. **Entry fee is £30 per choir.**

Entries are to be received by **30 October 2015**. Entries received after this will not be considered.

CDs/DVDs/MP3s (**non returnable**) 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 **27 November 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 February 2016. 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 9.00am and the concert starts at 18.30pm.
- Children in the junior category must be aged 12 or under on 9 February 2016. 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.



for rich children

Barnardo's adheres to the Fundraising Promise and Fundraising Standards Board guidelines
Barnardo's Registered Charity No. 218850 and SC037606

10940ur15



Celebrating 15 years of specialist concert tours!

Phew, it's been quite an Anniversary summer: over the last 15 years of specialist concert tours we've racked up over 2500 concerts involving nearly 50,000 musicians in more than 20 countries; but we're already planning to do it all again in 2016

Here are just some of the ways that you could feature in our plans too:

Sacred choirs can sing in some of Europe's great Cathedrals: Notre Dame in Paris, Salzburg Cathedral, St Stephens in Vienna, St Vitus in Prague, St Marks in Venice. Our 'tried-and-tested' favourites of Germany and France welcome all kinds of choirs, but go crazy for gospel and jazz ensembles particularly: we can even help you to discover new parts of those countries you've never thought of, such as the Atlantic Coast of France, or the central Harz region of Germany

Choirs of all types and ages can take part in one of the many competitive and non-competitive music festivals across Europe: from 'We are Singing' in Croatia in April, to Cantonigros in Barcelona in July, or even the renowned Estonia Song Festival (next in 2017), a festival directly responsible for the independence of a nation!

And for those choirs feeling particularly intrepid, you could visit the far-flung corners of Europe in Portugal, Romania, Lithuania or Iceland, or venture even further to the USA to sing in the largest Cathedral in the world in New York or in Toronto's St James Cathedral.

This year concert touring has never been better value for money, with the Pound strong against most currencies: why not get in touch with us today to discuss your requirements and be surprised at the value for money you can achieve? You can use our website <http://onestage.co.uk/about/contact/> or call us on 0208 568 5486/ 0121 240 2972 or email tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk