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Welcome to the April 2013 'Chorister' Newsletter

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*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](http://www.choirs.org.uk) and also a standalone website under [www.concertfinder.co.uk](http://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' Re 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 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](http://www.concertfinder.co.uk)

**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](mailto:philliptolley@colcanto.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 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 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.

**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](http://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](http://www.vocalbroker.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](http://www.weddingsingers.org.uk)

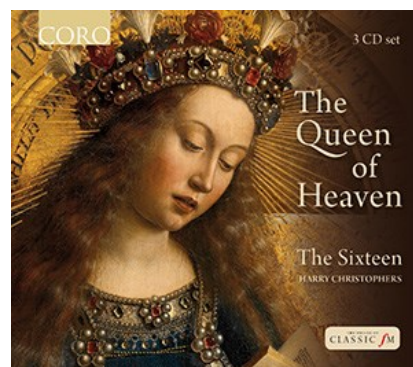
**British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum** This is a new group set up on Facebook to enable Choral Directors, Choirs Secretaries and Choir members to informally discuss issues of performance practice, request new music and music exchanges, and discuss other choral related issues.  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) We also have a presence on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/britishchoirs](https://twitter.com/britishchoirs) with over 400 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.

## 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](http://www.ncem.co.uk). Alternatively call 01904 651485 to book, or for more information visit [www.thesixteen.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.choirsinamerica.org) and [www.ozchoirs.org](http://www.ozchoirs.org) To add your choirs to either of these listings please email [philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk](mailto:philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk) You can also follow us on Twitter



### Rediscover Normandy for your next choir tour

With an ever increasing number of groups expressing interest in Normandy as a choir tour destination, the Concert Tours team at Rayburn Tours wanted to make sure that groups were being offered the most varied choice of performance and leisure options. With this in mind, we recently visited the French region of Normandy to scope out its amazing concert venues, accommodation centres and of course to discover any hidden gems!

Over 5 days we rediscovered why so many of our choir groups fall in love with Normandy. Its stunning cities, villages and towns; impressive architecture, historical monuments and a vast array of shops, cafes and restaurants means there's something to fulfil everyone's needs. Couple this with spectacular performance venues perfectly suited to a range of repertoire styles and Normandy is a clear choice for groups considering a close to home choir tour destination.

To get the most of your next Normandy choir tour we highly recommend basing your group in the city of Caen. Located in the centre of the Calvados area of lower Normandy, it is the ideal base for any group wishing to explore the region. With its plentiful choice of hotels bars and restaurants, it is also well located for excursions to the D-Day landing beaches, the lovely port town of Honfleur, is not too far from Mont St Michel, plus Rouen is still within easy reach for a day trip – and that's not to mention the vast array of diverse and impressive performance venues perfect for any choir...  
Abbaye Aux Hommes – This beautiful Abbey founded by William the Conqueror in 1063 is an ideal venue for choirs with a sacred repertoire. Sing on the steps in front of the alter or participate in Mass; with two organs in full working order this is a truly breathtaking performance venue.



Place 6 Juin, Arromanches – If the weather is good and you are looking for an outside performance, then standing on the promenade surrounding the flagpole outside the D-Day Museum will definitely fit the bill.

Did you know? It's been 70 years since the landings on the Normandy beaches as part of D-Day. Maybe you could incorporate some memorable songs from this period into your performance?

Eglise St Patrice, Bayeux – This is one of our old favourites, an intimate gem of a church. Groups can be certain that they will receive a warm welcome and that their concert will be well attended.

Regardless of your choir's size or style of repertoire, we aim to provide enthusiastic audiences in unforgettable performance venues combined with exciting excursions and high quality customer service and a tour to Normandy certainly delivers on all these levels. With Rayburn Tours prices from £287 per person, our 4 day, 3 night tour includes:

- Bed and breakfast accommodation at the 3-star Ibis Caen Herouville Savery
- Travel by executive coach
- 2 concerts
- Concert publicity
- Services of a French speaking courier

Full itinerary planning service

Price is based on 45 passengers travelling in October 2013.

Request your bespoke quotation today! We will work with you to create a completely tailor made itinerary. Departure dates, travel, duration, excursions and concerts will be planned to meet the individual requirements of your group.

If Normandy 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](http://www.rayburntours.com) or you can call our team on 01332 347 828 for more information.

## INTERNATIONAL PRIZES "CATALUNYA" FOR CHORAL COMPOSITIONS FIFTH EDITION - 2013

### Introduction

To promote the creativity in Catalan choir music has been one of the priorities of the choirs in our country. In 1996 FCEC took the initiative to convene the International Prizes "Catalonia" for Choral Compositions. Already four editions have been realized: 1996, 2002, 2006 and 2008.

Now the Catalan Federation of Choirs organizes the fifth edition in 2013.

### Prizes main purposes are:

- a) To encourage the creation of choral works based on poems and literary texts in Catalan language.
  - b) To encourage the creation of new harmonization on the extensive repertoire of traditional songs of Catalan Countries.
  - c) To facilitate the renovation and upgrade of the choral repertoire with these new songs, to be played by as many choirs as possible.
  - d) To promote the Catalan literature music and to release the richness of our traditional repertoire all over the world.
- According to that exposed, the Fifth Edition of "**Catalunya Prizes**" for Choral Compositions, will lead in the following

### Participation

This is a free International convocation without any inscription rights.

### Contest Regulations

There are six categories of participation according to the following sort of works and its difficulties:

- A1:** Choral composition "a cappella", upon a text in Catalan language, for **mixed** voices.  
**Low** performing level.
- A2:** Choral composition "a cappella", upon a text in Catalan language, for **mixed** voices.  
**Medium** performing level.
- A3:** Choral composition "a cappella", upon a text in Catalan language, for **equal** voices.  
**Medium/low** performing level.
- B1:** Harmonization "a capella" of "Catalan Countries traditional songs", for **mixed** voices.  
**Low** performing level.
- B2:** Harmonization "a capella" of "Catalan Countries traditional songs", for **mixed** voices.  
**Medium** performing level.
- B3:** Harmonization "a capella" of "Catalan Countries traditional songs", for **equal** voices.  
**Medium/low** performing level.

- This year, in the centenary of the birth of Salvador Espriu and the tenth anniversary of the death of Miquel Martí i Pol, in the categories A1, A2 and A3, compositions made from poetic texts of these authors will be appreciated.
- In the harmonization of traditional songs (categories B1, B2, B3) it must be stated of what publication the original melody is taken, the publisher and year of publication.
- Works must be original, unpublished and not previously awarded before at any other competition.
- The maximum duration of the works is estimated four minutes.

It will be considered that the difficulty of the works match and not exceed the specified levels of difficulty for each category of the bases

### Presentation of the works.

- 1) Compositions must be submitted in six copies and pages numbered. They must be legible, clear, without mistakes or amendments.
- 2) Works headline will only show the "Title", a "Lemma" (which will replace the name of the author) and the section under which it is presented.
- 3) In addition, a sealed envelope must be presented which will show the "Lemma" of the author and inside must include the participation form attached to these conditions, signed and completed all the work and personal data requested.
- 4) Authors may submit more than one work and apply for more than one category, with a maximum of two works for

### **Deadline and presentation place.**

Works must be handed or send by mail, by 15 de September of 2013, at the following address:  
FEDERACIÓ CATALANA D'ENTITATS CORALS  
Via Laietana, 54, 2. despatx 213.  
E-08003 BARCELONA

### **The Jury.**

The jury of the fifth International "Catalunya Prizes" for Choral Composition 2013 will be formed by the following internationally renowned conductors and composers:

- ✦ Manuel Cabero
  - ✦ Baltasar Bibiloni
  - ✦ Josep Lluís Guzman
  - ✦ Josep Lluís Valldecabres
- Josep Vila

### **Selection.**

The Jury will select one work in each category.

The jury can declare any prize not awarded, if they consider that the works do not meet the quality requirements to be awarded.

### **7. Verdict.**

The jury will express their verdict by 31 October 2013.

The result will be reported individually to the winners and published at the FCEC Web and magazine "Aquatrevius", "Europa Cantat" magazine and at the "International Choral Bulletin" of the International Federation of Choral Music. The jury's verdict will be unquestionable.

### **8. Prizes.**

- a) EDITION. The winning works will be published by FCEC, in his Choral Collection, and distributed to all their choir members and others upon request.
- b) RECORDING. FCEC will record in CD the winning works and do the appropriate spreading.

### **9. Editions rights**

FCEC has the exclusive right to edit the winning works for a period of ten years from the date of the verdict, and the exclusive right to record them until FCEC has made the first recording. This does not affect the property rights, that belongs to the author's all other effects.

### **10. Return of the not awarded works**

Participants may request the return of the not awarded compositions, within three months from the publication of the verdict. Works not collected will be spread by FCEC except express wish notified writing by the author, attached to their work, or later during the allowed period.

### **11. Acceptance and understanding of the BASES**

Participation in these awards implies acceptance of these rules. Their interpretation and any matter not covered will be resolved by the organization, consulted the jury if necessary.

**Information: FCEC - Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals Tel. 0034932680668**  
**Via Laietana, 54, 2n, despatx 213 Fax. 0034933197436**  
**E-08003 Barcelona [fcec@fcec.cat](mailto:fcec@fcec.cat) / [www.fcec.cat](http://www.fcec.cat)**