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Welcome to the December 2013 '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 on 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 2013 a total of 623 concerts were listed on Concertfinder, including the concert tour dates for The Sixteen and the Boyan Ensemble of Kiev and the Lyra Ensemble of St Peterburgh.

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 623 concerts received free publicity on the site.

As with last year the most performed work was Handel's Messiah closely followed Brahms' Requiem and the Vivaldi Gloria. This year marked the 100th Anniversary of Benjamin Britten with 'Rejoice in the Lamb' that composer's most performed work. New works performed include Alexander Campkin's 'True Light', Paul Ayres' 'The Christmas Truce' (world premiere), Gabriel Jackson's 'To the Field of Stars' (UK premiere), Guy Turner's 'Under the Wide Sky', Joseph Phibbs' 'Choral Songs of Homage' (world premiere), Ståle Kleiberg's 'Requiem – for the victims of Nazi persecution', Paul Mealors' 'Praise', John McCabe's 'Psalm-Cantata' (world premiere) and Ronald Corp's 'Things I Didn't Say' (world premiere)

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

British Choirs on the Net

British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 10 years and lists the basic information for over 3,342 choirs spread across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Isles, Isle of Man and Isles of Scilly. We are well aware that this is not a complete listing of all choirs, as we do not list choirs unless they have a digital presence either via a website, Facebook, twitter or just email contact. We welcome details of new choirs or choir re-branding.

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

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 and www.ozchoirs.org To add your choirs to either of these listings please email philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk You can also follow us on Twitter

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 company Going4travel, Messiah4Philippines, Don Monro, Gareth Malone and Susan Boyle, 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

A Last Minute reminder - ABCD Auction of Promises – final bids

For over 25 years ABCD (the Association of British Choral Directors) has greatly strengthened choral leadership in the UK. It has provided a growing number of members with more and more opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge, to network and to broaden their range of experience of best practice from all over the world. The ABCD Auction of Promises 2013 offers choirs and conductors of all kinds a host of wonderful resources. ABCD is a Registered Charity No. 1085226 ABCD will introduce successful Bidders to each Promiser, whereupon Bidder and Promiser will be deemed to be responsible for coming to agreement on the delivery of the Promise. ABCD is purely an intermediary and cannot accept responsibility or liability for the performance of, or actions arising from, promises or agreements entered into between Promisers and Bidders. Successful Bidders must pay their bid in full to ABCD at least one month in advance of the Promise being carried out or delivered, or by 1 September 2014, whichever is the earlier. [For the website click here.](#)

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

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

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum This is a facebook group set up 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 currently have 327 members in the Group.

We also have a presence on Twitter at www.twitter.com/britishchoirs with over 1200 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. Recent additions include programme notes for Mass in Blue by Will Tod, Vivaldi's Dixit Dominus RV 594, John Ireland's These Things Shall Be and The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins. If you are choral director who write the programme notes for your concerts, please consider allow the free use of your notes on British Choirs on the Net, equally if you are a composer with a new choral work being published, please consider allow us a copy of your programme notes.

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 or phone 01274-585601, mobile 07976-535980.



Big Big Sing - Produced by Glasgow Unesco City of Music, a range of inspiring singing events will be taking place across Scotland from October 2013 including 'Big Sings', an online Commonwealth choir, and staged singing events in Glasgow during Games Time. For more information or to register your choir visit <http://www.bigbigsing.org/whatson/big-big-sing-glasgow/>

New Choral Composition Competition

All Saints Church, Northampton are delighted to announce a competition for a new choral composition. Composers are invited to submit a brand new choral work to mark the sesquicentennial anniversary of the death of the poet John Clare, who penned many of the poems on the Portico of All Saints.

There will be a single prize awarded of £1,000, and a premiere performance given by the highly – acclaimed choir of All Saints. We offer thanks for the support of the John Clare Society.

The deadline for receipt of entries is Friday 21 March 2014, and the performance will be given a special service on the evening of 18 May 2014. Full details of the competition can be found here: http://www.allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk/pdf/competition_rules.pdf. If you have any queries regarding the completion please contact the [Director of Music](#)



Make 2014 the year you travel with your choir, you'll be glad that you did!

January is that time of year when people set the usual New Year's resolutions; to go on a diet, to make more of an effort to keep in touch with friends or to travel more. Let 2014 be the year that you tick one off the list!

Rayburn Tours' specialist concert tours department have been organising tailor-made concert tours for youth and adult choirs to destinations throughout the UK, Europe and worldwide for almost 50 years. Take advantage of the team's expertise and contact us to start planning your experience of a lifetime; these groups did and they never looked back!

"We performed in beautiful venues, steeped in history, the concerts were well attended with lots of publicity from Rayburn, and we were even mentioned on local Italian radio! An amazing storm hit on the last concert in San Gimignano, floods, landslides, thunder and lightning like as never heard in the UK. The electrics went during the concert but we kept singing a cappella. That experience will last a lifetime! Meeting Puccini's granddaughter whilst visiting his home, for me as a professional singer, was the icing on the cake."

Nicola Bell, Pinewood School, Tuscany.

"The concert in Stykkisholmur was very good and the walk down to the harbour to take in the marvellous views was an excellent way to wind down, but the joys were just beginning! We then took the coast road right round the Snaefellsnes peninsula, broad daylight at 12pm, magnificent and startlingly varied views for 60 joyous minutes. Gasps of delight all round! The views from Hotel Hellnar were so good that no-one wanted to turn in; only the sound of the dawn chorus, around 2.30am made us retire, because we had another concert that very night!"

Mrs Hearne, Stonehaven Chorus, Iceland.

Our concert tours team have worked with thousands of musical directors and their groups to create tours that meet each and every group's requirements, they really are tailor-made every time!

Contact us via our website www.rayburntours.com/concert, email us at info@rayburntours.com or call us on 01332 347 828 to make your New Year's resolution happen.