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Welcome to the December 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.

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.

During 2014 we have listed, and provided free advertising, to a total of 617 concerts. While the works being performed are dominated by the usual suspects—Faure, Durufle, Mozart and Brahms Requiems, Rossini's Missa Solennele and Handel's Messiah there have also been a large number of concerts commemorating anniversaries, particularly 100 years since the outbreak of World War One and William Shakespeare's 450th Anniversary.

Concerts listed have included a number of World Premieres including George Dyson's Choral Symphony "O Give Thanks unto the World"; James McCarthy's Codebreaker; Jonathan Dove's Psalms of Leo; Ray Smith's The Shewings "Revelations of Lady Julian of Norwich" and Jonathan Rathbone's Under the Shadow of his Wing.

The last weekend of March and June are the most popular for concert dates with 28 and 26 concerts respectively advertised on those dates. Likewise the first and second weekends of November proved very popular. The breakdown of concerts by month is as follows

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| January 2014 | 6 |
| February | 18 |
| March | 83 |
| April | 74 |
| May | 65 |
| June | 88 |
| July | 51 |
| August | 2 |
| September | 5 |
| October | 22 |
| November | 100 |
| December | 103 |
| TOTAL | 617 |

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 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 3.500 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

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 this year we have 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 260 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. There are currently over 684 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](https://twitter.com/britishchoirs) with over 1,500 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

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>

London International A Cappella Choir Competition

Applications are now open for this competition, which is held in September at St John's Smith Square in conjunction with the Tallis Scholars. The deadline for entries is 31 March. [Click here](#) for more details.



A Concert Tour to Remember

Venture into the beautiful city of **Prague** and experience the magnificent blend of age old architecture, stunning spa towns and a passion for music which is hard to find anywhere else .

Unique venues

- Grand Cathedrals and Churches
- Prestigious Concert Halls
- Fascinating musically inspired Museums

Plus

- Centuries old castles
- Breath-taking city tours
- Traditional Bohemian evenings



“Prague is the ideal location for a concert tour, providing excellent venues and a beautiful environment for performers to enjoy.” James Henderson, July 2013

“Excellent in every way. Perfect acoustic. We were made very welcome - given water, changing rooms and post-concert gifts. By far our best tour.” Colin Miller, September 2013

This wonderful city is truly an outstanding place to go for your next concert tour. If you are interested in **Prague**, or perhaps have somewhere else in mind, visit www.rayburntours.com/concert/. Alternatively, you can email info@rayburntours.com. **Looking to speak to one of our experts?** Give us a call on **01332 347 828**, and we can answer any of your queries.