

Chorister Col Canto Associates Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the January 2018 'Chorister' Newsletter

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0 L T O N T R A V







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 2017 we have listed, and provided free advertising, to a total of 553 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 small number of newly premiered works such as Paul Carr's - Stabat Mater (world premiere) and Nils Greenhow's - "For the Fallen".

While there has been a reduction of full works being performed there has been a resultant increase in 'themed' concerts producing very interesting programmes.

Concert listing breakdown per month

January	7
February	12
March	62
April	90
May	32
June	58
July	48
August	2
September	9
October	36
November	81
December	116

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.

The only exception to this general rule is in December when I am happy to list Brass Bands where they are performing Christmas concerts with choirs.

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

If you use a ticket agency which adds a booking fee please ensure the ticket price you advertise is the full price you pay (including handling costs).

British Choirs on the Net

Following an audit of British Choirs on the Net, which has taken nearly six months, we have checked websites and email addresses, removed dead links and choirs which no longer seem to exist. We have also in the process found a number of new choirs and therefore we now have a listing of well over 4,000 choirs which have either websites, facebook entries or email addresses listed on the site. Given the popularity of choirs, covering various genres and styles, this number is only likely to grow and we welcome news of new choirs and their concerts.

Please continue to review your choir entries to ensure the listings remain as up to date as possible and advise if website addresses or facebook addresses change, if the conductor details change or if the email contact for the choir changes. Please review your choir entries on a regular basis and advise if any of the 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.

If you are interested in having a website for your choir please visit www.choirsites.co.uk

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 3,000 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. There mailing addresses are collected whenever you ask for your choir to be listed. Email details may also be collected from public domain sources such as websites. We do not purchase email lists and we do not sell on our lists.

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 items of interest.

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductor 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 1,500 members and membership is by invitation. <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts</u>

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 Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire The Thames Head Singers, Gloucestershire All Saints Chorus, West Ham Nova, Bristol www.choirsites.co.uk British Choirs on the Net is pleased to welcome a new Travel and Tour Subscriber to our website

travelbound

Inspiration made easy

Travelbound arranges music and performance tours to Europe and beyond. All our tours are tailor-made and offer each performer the opportunity to shine on an international stage, discover a new culture and develop as a performer and as an individual.

We cater for all types of choirs and have a wide range of performance venues to suit different standards and different types of repertoire.

All performances are fully advertised to ensure the best possible audience numbers. We take care of every aspect of your tour so you can concentrate on the music: we arrange your travel, accommodation, performances, publicity, local visits to places of interest and fun group activities. We have full financial protection through ABTA and ATOL so you know your money is safe!

We are a small department within the company and can guarantee a personal service with specialist knowledge.

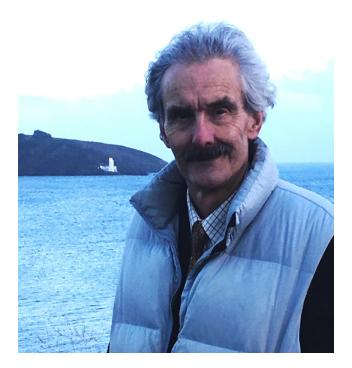
We pride ourselves on being friendly and knowledgeable so if you would like to find out what opportunities we can offer your choir, please just get in touch on 01273 265 290 or by email on <u>music@travelbound.co.uk</u>

Website: https://www.travelbound.co.uk/music-tours

Cornish Sounds of Music bring New Year Honours for John Larke

A founding father of Cornwall's International Male Choral Festival – now the largest event of its kind in the world - has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2018 New Year's Honours list.

John Larke, who was instrumental in setting up and developing the world-renowned Festival, and who has been part of the key team of organisers working tirelessly on it for almost eighteen years, has been awarded the MBE for his services to music in Cornwall.



John – who has also sung with the City of Truro Male Voice Choir for the past thirty years and been its chairman for the last fifteen – is eager to stress he is one of a huge number of people who devote their time and energy to celebrating the male choral tradition and ensuring the Festival is such a popular and joy-filled event.

He says, "I am deeply honoured to receive this award and see it as recognition of the many volunteers in Cornish male voice choirs who are maintaining the genre and assisting in making our International Festival a truly global success."

John and the team are already hard at work ahead of the ninth biennial Cornwall International Male Choral Festival – with choirs from across the world already signed up for the event in Spring 2019. The eight events since the Festival's inauguration in 2003 have brought around 16,000 singers from every continent on Earth (including Cornwall) for a celebration of music and song in the male choral tradition.

During the 2017 event 60 choirs and their entourages – from as far afield as Australia, the USA and Russia – took part in 50 events in 40 venues right across Cornwall with organisers estimating that the four day Festival brought around £1million into the local economy.

The 2019 Festival will run from May 2nd to 6th – all details including a festival film, background and photos from previous festivals can be found at www.cimcf.uk

Other Recipients of New Years Honours for Music

Dr Andrew Charles PARMLEY for Services to Music Education (Knighthood) Richard Starkey (aka Ringo Starr) for Services to Music (Knighthood) Barry Gibb for Services to Music (Knighthood) Professor Jonathan FREEMAN-ATTWOOD for Services to Music (CBE) Professor John Anthony SLOBODA, FBA for Services to Psychology and Music. (OBE) Marc Almond for Services to Music (OBE) Charles Richard BUTLER for Services to Music Education (MBE) Professor David Hugh Gray CHEAPE For services to Scottish Cultural Education and Traditional Music. (MBE) Matt HENRY for Services to Musical Theatre (MBE) Glenys Irene HUGHES for services to Music in Orkney (MBE) Grace LADOJA for Services to Music (MBE) Bazil Leonard Duncan MEADE for services to Music especially the Development of British Gospel Music (MBE) Alison Elizabeth NORTH for Services to Music Education (MBE) William Cowie (aka Wiley) for Services to Music (MBE) David George OPENSHAW for Services to Music in Northern Ireland (MBE) David Anthony TEMPLE for Services to Music (MBE) Ian Nigel TULLY for Services to Music (MBE) Cleveland Alexander WATKISS for Services to Music (MBE) Sandra Jane BOOER for Services to Music in Dartford (BEM) Hazel Valerie DRUMMOND for Services to Music in Northern Ireland (BEM) Aonghas William GRANT For services to Fiddling and Music Tuition in the Highlands. (BEM) Dr Norman Wesley Francis Berkeley HILL For services to Music in Kent (BEM) Stephen CHAPMAN for Services to Music in Northern Ireland (BEM) Margaret Mary HARVIE for services to Music in Dumfries and Galloway (BEM) Jean HOLMES For services to Choral Music in Nottinghamshire (BEM) Geoffrey Miles KEATING for Services to Music in Dumfries and Galloway (BEM) William John MATHESON for services to Music, Culture and charity in the Highlands (BEM) Colin John MOORE For services to Music in East Sussex (BEM) Rebekah Mary OLPHERT for Services to Music (BEM) Sheila LynetteTHOMAS For services to Music, Education and the Welsh Language in Powys. (BEM) Graham John WADLEY for services to Church Music (BEM) Doris WILLIAMS for services to Choral Singing in the North East (BEM) David Alan WILSON for services to Music and Young People (BEM)

And especially to

Eileen Thelma STRANGE for voluntary service to The Seven Towers Male Voice Choir (BEM)



Celebrating the human voice in all its glory: the London A Cappella Festival returns for its ninth year 24 – 27 January 2018

The London A Cappella Festival 2018 is back, bringing together the best a cappella talent from across the globe.

Curated by The Swingles and Ikon Arts Management, the London A Cappella Festival has grown to be one of the country's most-loved and eagerly awaited celebrations of the human voice. Hot on the heels of hit a cappella shows 'Pitch Perfect', 'Sing It: Ultimate A Cappella' and 'Pitch Battle', a cappella is now more popular than ever, and the London A Cappella Festival features a star-studded line up of international headliners and vocal supergroups, for four days jam-packed with headline acts, free showcase performances, talks, interactive pop-ups, workshops led by industry experts, and LACF Kids.

From incredible beatboxing and awe-inspiring throat singing, to sublime Renaissance polyphony and toe-tapping jazz favourites, the London A Cappella Festival is set to showcase the outstanding variety of vocal talent from across the world.

Highlights - Global jazz superstars New York Voices (performance and workshop) - Leading exponents of Renaissance sacred music The Tallis Scholars - Internationally acclaimed Tuvan throat singers Huun-Huur-Tu (performance and workshop) - World Beatbox Champions The Beatbox Collective (performance and workshop) - Award-winning vocal sextet Estonian Voices - All-female powerhouse Musae - Festival co-hosts and favourites The Swingles - Invigorating All Things Vocal Workshop series for singers of all ages and abilities

The festival also sees the return of the hugely popular LACF Kids on Saturday 27 January, bursting with events for the next generation of a cappella singers to enjoy, featuring performances from UK Looping Beatbox Champion OxBox and Voice Festival 2016 Champions The Bristol Suspensions, as well as workshops from British a cappella ensemble Apollo5 and National Youth Choirs of Great Britain's Deputy Music Director Esther Jones.

London A Cappella Festival welcomes the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, the most inspiring organisation for young singers in the UK, as its Festival Partner. NYCGB will give a range of workshops and performances throughout the festival.

The London A Cappella Festival is pleased to announce British choirmaster and broadcaster Gareth Malone OBE as its Festival Patron.

"I'm thrilled and honoured to be a Patron of the London A Cappella Festival. I have been attending this event over the last few years and am hugely inspired by the quality and ambition of work on display. It's great to be working again with The Swingles who lead the way and are able to bring so many extraordinary voices together for this excellent festival. I can't wait!" Gareth Malone



Reading Phoenix Choir are excited to announce that we have today launched a new international choral composition competition.

The Walter Hussey Composition Competition, with a £750 prize and a line-up of top judges, promises to become one of the leading choral composition competitions of our time.

The adjudication panel for the inaugural year will comprise of four time winner of the British Composer Awards Kerry Andrew, internationally acclaimed film composer Andrew McKenna, and award winning conductor and vocal coach Anthony Jenner, alongside representatives from Reading Phoenix Choir.

The competition is named in honour of Walter Hussey, Dean of Chichester Cathedral from 1955 to 1977, who commissioned many choral works throughout his lifetime. It was at Chichester that choir member Howard Jenner, and his brother and competition judge Anthony Jenner, were choristers under the guidance of Hussey. Inspired by the commitment of Walter Hussey to support the work of composers, musicians and artists, financially as well as intellectually, the idea for a composition competition evolved.

The theme of the inaugural competition is 'Gold' to coincide with the choir's upcoming 50th season. Reading Phoenix Choir will perform the world premiere of the winning entry at their 50th year Annual Concert on 9th March 2019 at Reading Concert Hall.

During its history Reading Phoenix Choir have given first performances of more than 25 pieces written and arranged by composers from all over the world, including well-known names such as Bob Chilcott, Andrew Carter and Donald Swann. Most recently, in 2016, the choir were involved in the premiere of 'The Voyage', a joint project between Bob Chilcott and Age UK Oxfordshire.

The closing date for competition entries is 1st July 2018. Entrants must be aged 16 or over. The winner of the competition will be announced in March 2019.

For more information about the competition and to sign up for updates, please visit <u>www.walterhussey.com</u>. News about the competition will also be shared via our Facebook page (<u>www.fb.com/walterhusseycc</u>) and Twitter account (<u>www.twitter.com/walterhusseycc</u>), so do like/ follow the competition there too.



abcd is launching its new training course structure in 2017-18.

Choral singing is thriving in Britain today in many forms, some traditional (choral societies, colleges), others new (pop and community choirs). After talking to some of the leading figures in these fields, *abcd* has responded by restructuring its training provision to meet the needs of leaders of all kinds of choral singing. It retains the key elements of our original courses – including foundations of choral directing technique, with assessment of attainment against ABRSM qualifications – with new elements particularly for those working in music education or the community.

New are ground-breaking courses for music teachers in secondary and primary schools called '<u>Get them singing, keep them singing!</u>'. Both courses:

- Leading Singing in Secondary Schools Secondary School vocal leadership training Leading Singing in Primary Schools - Primary School vocal leadership training are aimed at teachers who wish to develop their knowledge of leading singing for young and changing voices. In addition, a course 'Encouraging Young Vocal Leaders' is being offered for the first time:
- Encouraging Young Vocal Leaders for GSCE/A-Level students wishing to develop vocal leadership skills.

This new offer is in direct response to the challenge identified by the distinguished choral director Ralph Allwood that "the provision of singing in secondary schools is patchy: excellent in some and non-existent in other".

We have accepted the challenge to tackle this problem and have spent two years developing courses specifically for music teachers with little or no choral background or experience.

All three new courses will be made available via Music Hubs, Academy Schools and Music Services in any part of the UK.

Our team of specialists will share their vocal knowledge, music teaching skills and choral leadership expertise with music teachers and those leading singing in schools who may have little or no choral background or experience

These new courses form part of a restructured training structure that also features a development of the former Intermediate Course into two distinct strands – <u>'Emerging</u>' and <u>'Progressive</u>'. These new strands will allow potential participants more choice in developing their own skills and experience according to each person's ambition and ability.

Full details of the new course structure and individual courses can be obtained from the *abcd* website at <u>www.abcd.org.uk/training/abcd-courses</u>.

The National Choral Organisation Investing in choral futures



PRESS RELEASE For immediate release

Matthew Hamilton to lead Sing for Pleasure's choral conducting Masterclass in February.

National choral charity Sing for Pleasure (SfP) is delighted to confirm that respected choral conductor Matthew Hamilton will be joining the tutor team at its first training weekend of 2018, which takes place on 3 and 4 February in Victoria, London. Matthew - who was appointed Choral Director at the Hallé in 2015, acts as Associate Director of the London Symphony Chorus, and is also Musical Director of New London Chamber Choir - will work with SfP's more experienced choral conducting students on choruses from Bach's St John Passion and Britten's Five Flower Songs.

In addition, there's a new opportunity over the weekend for conductors to broaden their skills and learn the fundamentals of orchestral conducting; having run this introductory course in Bolton for some years now, the charity is offering it in the capital for the first time.

Manvinder Rattan, SfP's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, explains: "For our choral conducting courses, the norm is for attendees to progress through the four graded levels of attainment which are at the heart of our tuition, from Foundation up to Advanced. However, our orchestral conducting course is open to (often choral) conductors who haven't necessarily undertaken SfP's training - the only prerequisite is that their level of expertise in leading choirs is roughly equivalent to our Intermediate 2 or Advanced levels. I'm more than happy to talk through the details with potential course attendees, to work out if it ticks the relevant boxes for both parties." Repertoire for the orchestral conducting course includes Grieg's Holberg Suite plus Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

For more information about all courses running over the weekend and to book online, visit: https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/events/current-listings/london-weekend-2018/

/notes for editors:

For further information please contact Manvinder Rattan tel: 0800 0184164 email: conducting@singforpleasure.org.uk or Caroline Sindall tel: 07824 661113 email: fundraising@singforpleasure.org.uk

Sing for Pleasure is a registered charity, launched in Bristol in 1964. The charity runs a respected conductor training programme and trains over 200 conductors and vocal leaders every year. SfP also runs a variety of nationwide singing events, offers a wide range of publications and provides national curriculum compatible teaching resources and INSET training. Website: www.singforpleasure.org.uk



2018 Courses

Madsongs and Particles

Fri 9 - Sun 11 March—Tutor: Peter Broadbent

We are delighted to welcome back Peter Broadbent for another choral weekend. This year we will enjoy madrigals from the Renaissance by Morley, Tomkins and Monteverdi and part-songs and opera choruses by Mozart, Brahms, Verdi, Sullivan and Rutter. A weekend of love, life and humour not to be missed!

http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=1973

The Benslow Baroque Opera: Rameau's Les Indes Galantes

Mon 9 - Sun 15 April—Tutors: Dionysios Kyropoulos, Julian Perkins, Judy Tarling, Henrik Persson, Andrew Radley

Our Baroque Opera Project returns in 2018 with Rameau's Les Indes Galantes. We are delighted to welcome back Dionysios Kyropoulos, a specialist in historical acting and Baroque opera, for this production, which will feature scenes from this colourful and vibrant work (complete with an earthquake and volcanic eruption!). Our team of tutors is led by the musical duo of Julian Perkins and Judy Tarling, with Henrik Persson providing the all-important continuo tuition, and Andrew Radley, our vocal coach. We are seeking competent Baroque players with period instruments at A=415 (flutes, oboes, bassoons, trumpet, strings and continuo) and choral singers who are able to learn their lines before the course, and in early 2018 we will be auditioning singers – who must be of a professional standard – for the solo roles. The course begins at 4pm on the Monday and will culminate with a semi-staged performance in French in front of a public audience on the evening of Saturday 14 April. http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=1983

A Chance to Sing: The Fabulous Gershwins

Fri 18 - Sun 20 May—Tutor: Roger Moon

Once again Roger Moon will lead from the piano an enjoyable weekend of group singing. Two brothers as unlike as potatoes and tomatoes, who together and separately were among the very greatest of that great era of songwriting talent. One flamboyant, one studious; one working to a good age after the other's tragic early death. No need to be able to read music, although experienced singers have enjoyed the weekend as do beginners and returners: but if you expect a very serious course you might find more of a sing-song! As always, the only prerequisite is a sense of humour. One session will cover other music for a change, and may include participants' requests if made in advance. http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2008

Choral Weekend with Jonathan Willcocks

Fri 13 - Sun 15 July-Tutor: Jonathan Willcocks

We are delighted to welcome distinguished conductor and composer Jonathan Willlcocks to direct this course, which will focus on a range of European sacred choral music, including works by Bruckner, Fauré, Mozart and Rachmaninov, together with Jonathan's own choral music. Please note that you must already have reasonable experience of choral singing to get the most from this course, which is not for beginners.

http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2049

UK CHOIR FESTIVAL 2018

MANCHESTER 17-18th Feb 2018 MONMOUTH (WALES) 13-14th Oct 2018 ST ALBANS 20-21st Oct 2018

Featuring workshops by:

Bazil Meade, Jean Paul Samputu, Ayo Oyerinde, Ben Sawyer, Russell Scott, Stuart Overington, Richard Eteson, Phil Churchill, Joanna Tomlinson, James Davey and many more....

Launched in 2016, The UK Choir Festival is a festival aimed to support, train and bring choirs together in a beautiful setting where people can learn, develop and thrive.

Produced by Producer & Musical Director, Russell Scott, the festival is designed for choirs of all abilities, ages and style, no matter whether you are a local community choir, a cappella choir, school or university choir, gospel choir, choral society or barbershop choir.

Whether you are a choir of 4 people or 100 people, your choir will love being part of this exciting and dynamic festival, where learning and making great music is at its heart.

The UK Choir festival is produced to give choirs the opportunity to be taught by some of the best workshop leaders in the UK.

Whether you choose to attend on one day or both days, choirs take part in a series of amazing workshops given by some of the best workshop leaders in the UK, in a supportive, informative, collaborative, non-competitive and inspiring conference-style setting.

The festival involves practical and method teaching, and everyone will be involved. At the end of each day, choirs get the opportunity to rehearse and then perform (if they choose to) in front of each other and the panel of workshop leaders who will give each choir written constructive feedback.

The festival is non-competitive, but very much 'hands-on' for everyone to watch and learn from each other whilst being guided and developed by some of the best work-shop leaders in the UK.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity of learning from the very best and being part of some incredible music making.

BOOKING NOW OPEN

www.ukchoirfestival.com



An Italian treat for your choir

After working with choirs for many years, one thing stands out to us at Club Europe Music Tours - choir members love spending that extra time together, getting to know each other better through relaxation and performance and forming memories they can share for years to come.

So we've come up with a wonderful way to combine all these elements by creating our <u>Choral Retreats in Italy</u>.

A Choral Retreat, simply, is an opportunity for your choir to enjoy time together, in beautiful surroundings. We've discovered a historic and sumptuous villa in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, set in glorious grounds and with wonderful food and facilities that makes the perfect base for a Choral Retreat. You'll have rehearsal facilities on site, so that you can enjoy your Choral Retreat as an opportunity to work on material, perhaps preparing for a future concert or simply trying out new works, just for fun.



Or you can sit by the pool with a drink in your hand, wander around the gardens or enjoy an in house cooking class or game of tennis. There are plenty of wonderful places to visit, too; Venice and Treviso are a short drive away.



Of course, you may want to give a concert performance in a local town during your stay. If so, there'll be plenty of opportunities, where the audiences will be genuinely enthusiastic as well as ample.

If you think a Choral Retreat would appeal to your choir, give our friendly music team a call on Freephone 0800 496 4996 or drop us an email at <u>travel@club-europe.co.uk</u>. Or you can visit our website <u>https://club-europe.co.uk/music-tours/</u> and make an <u>enquiry online</u>.