



# Chorister

*Col Canto Associates Quarterly Newsletter*

Welcome to the January 2019 'Chorister' Newsletter

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## **British Choirs on the Net**

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2019 and a Happy New Year. As we enter 2019 it's nice to reflect on a musically successful 2018. In terms of status, singing with the Abertillery Orpheus Male Voice Choir at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Massed Welsh Male Voice Choirs Concert has to take top spot, although in terms of enjoyment singing with the same choir at my old parish Church of St David in Exeter was the highlight.

I have recently become an International Member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). This together with my membership of the Association of British Choral Conductors (ABCD) and the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM) has opened up more contacts and a wider choral advocacy outreach.

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.

We 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](http://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](mailto:philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk)

## **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).

During 2017 we listed 553 concerts while in 2018 we listed, and provided free advertising, a total of 580 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 World Premieres by Will Todd, Roderick Williams and Owain Park as well as new works specially commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, as well as concerts to mark Hubert Parry's Centenary

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](http://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 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. Their 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 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 items of interest. Recent mailings include Brandenburg Choral Festival of Music, CSSM Summer School, Hannah Brice, Isle of Man Festival, Oxford University Press and a crowdfunding project for a handheld music stand for choristers.

## **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  
Nova, Bristol  
[www.choirsites.co.uk](http://www.choirsites.co.uk)

## **British Choirs on the Net Advertising Subscribers**

We are always grateful to companies who advertise their services on the British Choirs on the Net website and the 'Chorister' Newsletter. The subscription income that the advertising provides helps to pay for the ongoing running of the website including hosting and allows us to make the majority of the website free in terms of listing. (this includes the online choral concert diary at [www.concertfinder.co.uk](http://www.concertfinder.co.uk))

We would like to welcome a new advertiser to the site.

- **Sound Escapes UK (Travel and Tour provider)**

Further details can be found in the Newsletter

## **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 1,900 members and membership is by invitation.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts>

## 2020: 20 years of tours and 20 free trip places!

OneStage will celebrate **20 years of music tours** in February 2020. To mark this special anniversary year, we will be giving away **20 FREE PLACES on familiarisation trips** to what we anticipate will be our most sought after and “different” destinations in the next couple of years.

**Bonn, Beethoven & Birthdays:** To promote our one-off festival in Bonn in Summer 2020 commemorating Beethoven’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, come on our familiarisation trip to Bonn and the Rhineland and see what we could offer your choir. Dates: 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**Music On Stage, Loire:** Our first festival in 2019 has now sold out. Be part of our second festival in the Loire Valley in 2020, celebrating British music making. Familiarisation trip dates half term October 2019.

**Latin America: Costa Rica & Argentina.** Following the recent launch of our Latin American portfolio we would like to invite you to come and see what all the fuss is about and let us help you plan a tour here for your choir. Familiarisation trip to Costa Rica October 2019, Argentina in February 2020. Places limited.

**oneSTAGE**  
.....  
Specialist Concert Tours

**Celebrate with us!**  
20 years of music tours  
**20 FREE PLACES**  
on familiarisation trips in Europe &  
Latin America

**Bonn, Beethoven & Birthdays 2020**  
Inspection Visit dates confirmed: 6 - 9 April 2019

**'Music On Stage' Festival, The Loire**  
Our 2nd Festival is scheduled for summer 2020  
Inspection visit to take place in October Half Term 2019

**Costa Rica**  
Inspection visit October 2019

**Argentina**  
Inspection visit February 2020

**Register your interest by 8th Feb!**  
Limited places available on each trip  
[tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk](mailto:tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk)  
[www.onestage.co.uk](http://www.onestage.co.uk)  
Julian - 0121 244 5892  
Sonia - 020 8568 4586

If you would like to register your interest in a place on any of these trips please email [tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk](mailto:tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk) with your name, telephone number and which destination you are interested in.

**Congratulations** to all those named in the New Years Honours list of 2019. Particularly the following who received their honour for services to Music.

### **New Year Honours List 2019**

Award	Name	Citation
CBE	Nicola BENEDETTI	Musician. For services to Music.
CBE	Nicholas Berkeley MASON	Musician. For services to Music.
CBE	Nitin SAWHNEY	Musician and Composer. For services to Music.
OBE	Professor Shirley Joy THOMPSON	Composer, Artistic Director and Educator. For services to Music.
MBE	Christian Charles BLACKSHAW	Classical Pianist. For services to Music.
MBE	Dr Stephen Mark DARLINGTON	For services to Music.
MBE	Gordon Leonard GILTRAP	For services to Music and charity.
MBE	David Beresford GRANT	For services to Music.
MBE	Dr David HILL	For services to Music.
MBE	Karen Elizabeth HUMPHREYS	For services to Music Education.
MBE	Wilfred PYPER	For services to Musical Theatre and Drama in Northern Ireland.
MBE	Jacqueline Elizabeth TYLER	For services to Music and Music Education in Birmingham.
MBE	Neil Patrick Ross William WARNOCK	For services to Music and charity.
BEM	Janice BALL	For services to Music.
BEM	Elizabeth Jane GLASS	For services to Music.
BEM	Jeffrey John HOWARD	For services to Music .
BEM	Eileen PIKE	For services to Music and Musical Education in Aberdeenshire.

### TOURING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHOIRS OF ALL TYPES

Travelbound has a dedicated Music Department specialised in the organisation of choir tours worldwide. All our tours are tailor-made to each group's specific requirements. For 2019, we have some great suggestions for choirs wishing to travel abroad on a performance tour.

#### Let's Sing Christmas at Disneyland® Paris this year!



Be part of a new musical show this Christmas at Disneyland® Paris. Take to the stage of the Videopolis Theatre and see your choir join the brand-new Disney® production, "Let's Sing Christmas".

An unforgettable experience awaits your group in the fantasy lands of Disneyland® Paris where singers can showcase their vocal talents and join in the festive fun.

We invite you to join Mickey to be part of an unforgettable once in a lifetime experience: singing the Magic of Christmas.

Legend tells that the power of uniting voices from around the world, is strong enough to light the brightest Christmas star! A magical mix of Disney Characters, Disney professional singers, a unique performance venue and technical wonderment, will all create the event.

A Disney Performing Arts vocal workshop prior to the performance will give the chosen choirs an unforgettable glimpse into the world of entertainment at Disneyland® Paris!



A limited number of event packages are available between 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 for 2 or 3 nights with a Friday arrival at Disneyland® Paris.

Full details of this fabulous opportunity are available on our website: [Disney Sing at Christmas](#)

## Cantate Barcelona International Choral Festival

25 – 28 October 2019

- Travel from the UK to Barcelona by air or coach
- Accommodation in the Costa Brava or in Barcelona
- Organisation of 3 concerts as part of the Festival
- Bilingual concert assistance
- Guided tour of Barcelona and Girona
- Possibility of adding extra days to the tour

**DAY 1:** Arrival at your Hotel in Spain. Your Concert Assistant will welcome you and provide a briefing on the programme. Dinner at the Hotel.

**DAY 2:** Breakfast at the Hotel. All-day sightseeing tour of Barcelona. Today, all choirs will have the opportunity to sing in the main square of the Pueblo Español (Spanish Village) - a replica of Spain's multicultural ancestry and architectural styles combined on a single exhibition site - or in a venue in the Gothic quarter of the city, close to the Cathedral. In the evening a Friendship Concert will be hosted by a local choir in a church or concert hall with choirs of several nationalities. This is a great opportunity for choirs to share their music and sing before an appreciative audience. At the end of the concert you will have time to meet and socialise with the other choirs in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

**DAY 3:** Breakfast at the Hotel. Visit Girona - the city of the four rivers - with a rich and legendary history. The city centre has preserved its medieval architecture almost untouched. Visit the Gothic Cathedral (begun ca. 1292), with one of the world's widest aisle-less naves and a Romanesque cloister. The visit continues through the old town around the Cathedral: this area was an important Jewish centre, which can be best admired at "El Call" where Jewish legacy has been kept almost intact. In the afternoon/evening, Farewell Concert of all participating choirs in a local concert hall followed by a Farewell Dinner with music and dance.

**DAY 4:** Breakfast at the Hotel. Departure. (Choirs can opt to extend their stay and add additional activities or visits of their choice).

For more information on the **Cantate Barcelona International Choral Festival**, please call our friendly team on 01273 265 290 or email [music@travelbound.co.uk](mailto:music@travelbound.co.uk)

For an overview of all our tours, please check our website: <https://www.travelbound.co.uk/music-concert-tours>



Cantate Barcelona - International Choral Festival



**WINTER SALE – 50% off selected Musica Britannica volumes**

Following the huge popularity of last year's Summer Sale, we're delighted to announce a new [Musica Britannica Winter Sale](#).

Offering 50% discount on even more chamber, choral, keyboard, opera, orchestral and vocal volumes, this is a great opportunity to acquire some of the most important critical editions in the British musical repertoire.





# London International Music Festival

London's annual music festival

15-18 July 2019

13-16 July 2020

- Runs annually in July over four days in London
- Includes **masterclasses**, **adjudicated performances**, **formal concerts** and a **massed grand finale**
- Open to **amateur ensembles** of all musical disciplines, including band, orchestral, choral and dance
- Registration open for 2019 and 2020



## Dear Music Director,

"The London International Music Festival (LIMF) is a ground-breaking and exciting international festival like no other. It brings together musical ensembles of various configurations to create an **exciting tapestry of musical cultures.**"

*Andre de Quadros*

Prof. Andre de Quadros,  
LIMF Artistic Director



[www.internationalmusicfestival.london](http://www.internationalmusicfestival.london)

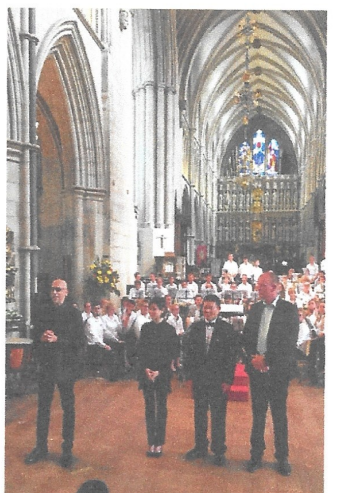
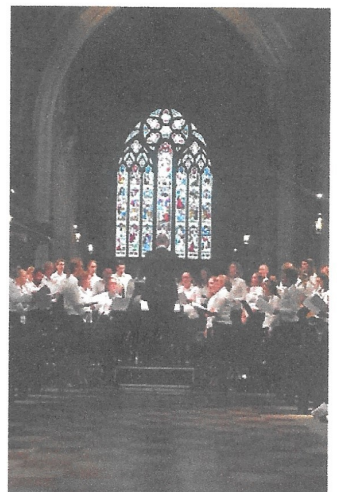
# JOIN US IN LONDON...

## The London International Music Festival offers you:

- An international musical experience of world-class quality at an accessible price
- A chance to experience London, one of the greatest cultural cities in the world
- Opportunities to interact with other people from all over the world in a supportive and non-competitive environment
- A number of events to develop musicality in a way that isn't possible at home
- A connection with music from other cultures and different styles
- A platform to develop your ensemble's "world education"

## Contact us for:

- Additional planning assistance with all ground arrangements
- Pre and post tour options
- Additional exclusive performances



CONTACT US AT  
[limf@livetrandtours.com](mailto:limf@livetrandtours.com)

## Choir Staging for Sale

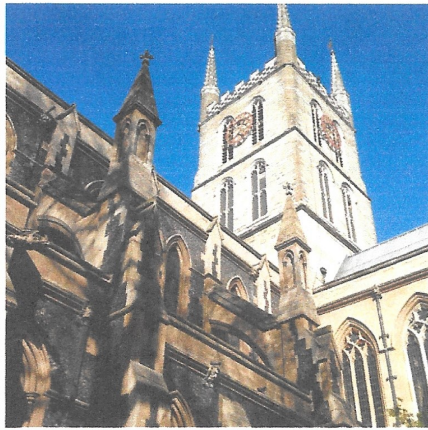
Denbigh and District Choral Society decided not to continue to meet after the end of December 2018. They currently own a factory manufactured choir staging which is substantial in size and can be assembled up to 6 levels (see illustration).

Included in the package is a trailer for transporting and storing all the staging components.

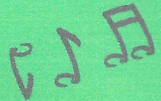
We would welcome offers in the region of £7,000.



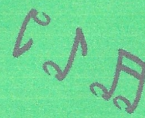
For further information please contact Wendy on 01745 812944 / [dafydd.glyngarth@gmail.com](mailto:dafydd.glyngarth@gmail.com)



INTRODUCING



**Sound Escapes** | UK PERFORMANCE TOURS



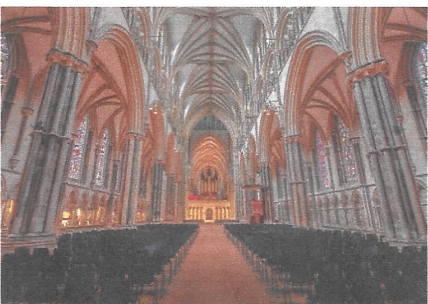
## Bespoke Concert Tours for Choirs across the UK & Ireland

**Sound Escapes UK** is a family run tour operator based in central England specialising in tailor-made concert and performance tours for choirs who wish to perform in beautiful and unique locations across the UK and Ireland, meet owner **Jo Porter**.

*'Live music, performance, travel and my home country are my greatest passions and after 16 brilliant years of working in the travel industry as Head of Concert Tours for a leading bespoke tour operator, I noted that performance tours within the UK and Ireland could be greatly enhanced by showcasing everything we have to offer here from a musical and tourism perspective - hidden gems as well as tourist hotspots - which led to the creation of Sound Escapes UK.'*

We are looking forward to showcasing the beauty, creativity and of course music on offer within the wonderful British Isles and whether you are embarking on a tour to the UK and Ireland for the very first time or visiting from another region of our fine country, we will ensure a great British welcome to wherever your musical journey leads.

A tour with **Sound Escapes UK** provides you with the personal touch and peace of mind knowing that every tour will be fully overseen by the company owner, Jo Porter, your finances protected with our reputable bonding company, **Protected Travel Services**, and we will deliver a high-quality concert touring package to meet your personal performance aspirations.



Contact Jo Porter on 0115 874 6396

Web: [www.soundescapesuk.com](http://www.soundescapesuk.com)

E-mail: [jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com](mailto:jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com)

# The National Choral Organisation

Investing in choral futures



## PRESS RELEASE For immediate release

Ben Parry is guest tutor at Sing for Pleasure's choral conducting Masterclass in London National choral charity Sing for Pleasure (SfP) is pleased to confirm that renowned choral conductor, composer and singer Ben Parry will be guest Masterclass tutor at its first training weekend of 2019, to be held on 2 and 3 February in Victoria, London. Ben, whose credentials include his role as Artistic Director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Co-Director of London Voices and Music Director of Aldeburgh Voices, will be working with SfP's most experienced choral conducting students who have attained Advanced level, and the Masterclass has been fully subscribed since before Christmas.

Manvinder Rattan, SfP's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, commented: "Demand for places on Ben's Masterclass - and indeed all our choral conducting courses running over this upcoming training weekend - has been huge. In fact, we've drafted in additional tutors to lead extra course groups, particularly at Foundation level for beginners, and Intermediate 1 level for those with a little prior conducting experience."

Manvinder will be leading the charity's popular introductory orchestral conducting course in London next month, for those with relevant experience who want to broaden their skills and learn the fundamentals of this particular discipline. He added: "There are subtle differences in technique and skills which conductors need to lead orchestras effectively, either on a stand-alone basis or when accompanying choirs. The orchestral conducting course is actually open to individuals who haven't necessarily followed SfP's choral conductor training programme; and although we have certain criteria in place for prospective attendees in terms of previous experience, I'm very willing to talk through the details with those interested in taking part - we still have a few places left."

"I should add that we can still take one or two more on our Musicianship for Singers course, which is a great opportunity for choir members to build on notation sight-reading skills and gain a deeper understanding of music theory from a singer's perspective."

For more information, visit: <https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/events/current-listings/2019-london-weekend-for-singers-conductors-and-vocal-leaders/>



Sing for Pleasure is a member of A Cœur Joie International



In Partnership with Bolton Music Service

*John Lewis Partnership*  
Supported by John Lewis Partnership

# The National Choral Organisation

Investing in choral futures



## Musicianship for Singers at the London Training Weekend



2-3 February 2019



## An Introduction to Orchestral Conducting at the London Training Weekend



2-3 February 2019



Sing for Pleasure is a member  
of A Choir Joie International



In Partnership with  
Bolton Music Service

*John Lewis Partnership*  
Supported by John Lewis Partnership



## Lacock Courses for Choral and Consort Singers

We have just published details of three new courses in the second half of 2019 – you will be able to find the full details of them all on our web site [www.lacock.org](http://www.lacock.org). The first is a return to Ludlow in mid-July with Gabriel Crouch for a programme of music in 40 parts: Spem in alium by Tallis, Ecce beatam lucem by Striggio and a newly reconstructed anonymous setting of the Ten Commandments, Unum cole Deum. Taking part in a performance of these monumental pieces – we will probably perform them in a circle round Ludlow's vast nave – is a musical experience quite unlike any other, so do come if you are at all interested. You can tell us in your application whether you prefer to sing a line by yourself or one with others. The course will include instruments under the tutelage of David Hatcher.

Next is a Patrick Craig week in September in Jimena de la Frontera, an Andalusian pueblo blanco that has been a favourite Lacock venue since the nineties – an unpretentious working town of great charm and character. It is on the edge of a vast empty stretch of cork oak forest, so still has the frontier feeling to it. Patrick's programme will be psalm settings by English and Spanish composers. This year we will be back in the church of San Francisco in the heart of the old town.

There will be a long-awaited return to Rome in October, when Justin Doyle will direct a week centred on Victoria's Missa Gaudeamus, a six-voice work dating from Victoria's two decades there. It combines order and beauty of Italian polyphony with all the passion and fervour of Spain. The venue will be All Saints' Anglican church, in Via del Babuino in the central Tridente area, near the Spanish Steps. In 1571 Pope Pius V installed a public drinking fountain in the street, complete with a statue of the classical deity Silenus. The thankless townsfolk did not judge the sculpture to be a thing of beauty and soon dubbed it Il Babuino, baboon in the Romanesco dialect.

In general, the courses announced last time – the Lewes Lamentations with Eamonn Dougan and Jo Tomlinson's week at Monteconero – are now largely full, but it's still worth asking if you are interested in joining either. Unusually there are a couple of soprano places still going at Monteconero and others come up from time to time in all voices through cancellations. We could even squeeze you into JanJoost van Elburg's week in Tobago, which kicks off on 10 February.

Looking further ahead, we have decided that Corsham works so well as a venue for the winter school that we hold it there again this year. The tutor will be Will Dawes of Lo Stile Antico and the dates 28 December to 2 January 2020. This will be followed by another week in Tobago with Justin Doyle from 16 to 22 February 2020.

Andrew, Lucy and Gog  
Cantax House, Lacock, Chippenham SN15 2JZ

# clubeurope

music tours

## DO YOU FANCY A SUMMER CHOIR TOUR TO PRAGUE?

Going away on tour isn't part of every choir's calendar, but for one choir from Shropshire it is now, following their first very successful music tour to Prague this August With [Club Europe Concert Tours](#).

"Prague was excellent in all respects," music leader Alistair Auld reported. "It's a great reason for having a holiday and combining that with singing and socialising with friends in a group. It also brings the group closer together.

"We sang in a beautiful church tucked away but close to the city centre. The ambience and atmosphere inside were inspiring."

The choir performed two concerts; one in the Czech Museum of Music. Their choir tour was put together by specialist music tour operator, [Club Europe](#).



"The main reason we used a tour operator was the promise of good concert venues and excellent audiences, which were fulfilled," Alistair added: "I was impressed with Club Europe's helpful staff, who showed a good deal of patience when changes and additions were asked for. There was a willingness to provide a good service and understand individual needs.

"The concert management was excellent, helpful, efficient and highly professional, which resulted in large audiences in wonderful performing venues.

"They gave us an excellent service throughout and made us feel that they really cared."

Club Europe has been creating wonderful choir tours to destinations across Europe and beyond since 1980. A fantastic platform to showcase your choir and have some fun bonding time with your fellow choristers, our music tours are all tailor-made to suit each choir's repertoire and requirements.







#### Some Club Europe Specials:

- Our Choral Retreats offer choirs the chance to perform a few concerts and relax in four star luxury. Staying in an historic and sumptuous villa in the beautiful Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, set in glorious grounds with wonderful food and facilities, our Choral Retreats will be a real treat for your members. There are rehearsal facilities on site, so you can work on material, or just have some fun. Or you can sit by the pool, 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.
- “I Borghi più belli d’Italia” is an association of small Italian towns of historical interest which, thanks to a special partnership, we are delighted to be able to organise music tours to. There are some amazing ‘gems’ to discover in this region. Experience its unique culture, cuisine and warm hospitality, while performing in some enchanted places where time seems to have stood still.

‘Short of time but still want to tour?’ Why not consider a short tour to Flanders? Here’s what one of our choirs said of their Belgium tour in the summer:

“Everything possible was done to make the tour a success including all the little details so that everyone had a good time.”

Find out more:

Visit: [www.club-europe.co.uk](http://www.club-europe.co.uk)

Call: Freephone 0800 496 4996

Email: [travel@club-europe.co.uk](mailto:travel@club-europe.co.uk)