

Chorister Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the July 2016 'Chorister' Newsletter

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.

So, time has moved on since the last Chorister Newsletter. I have joined my first Welsh Male Choir, Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir, and completed a sold out concert tour to Yorkshire. After 14 years of singing with a SATB choir my eyes tend to start reading the 3rd line down rather than the top line required with the male choir but I am enjoying both the music and the company, while the famous Welsh Male choir sound is not too diluted by the occasional English Cathedral tenor tones.

Later in the year I have been invited to Hungary to enjoy a familiarisation tour run by OneStage. This is a short visit which enables Music Directors to visit possible choir venues in Budapest and understand the work of the Tour Companies. I am going as an observer and there will be a report about the visit in a future Chorister Newsletter. There are still a number of vacancies for the Onestage trip in October and details can be found in this Newsletter.

We have also had the EU Referendum and whichever side of the vote you were on, I have no doubt that the arts, including Choral Music, will transcend politics and that we will continue to have wonderful cultural exchanges between the countries of Europe and the rest of the world.

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum is a facebook group where contributors can advertise or comment on choral music issues. Over the last few months there have been a couple of interesting and sometime heated debates.

One is the perennial issue of musicians rates. I am sometimes chastised for advertising choral music vacancies which do not pay professional or ISM rates of pay. The simple answer to that is that I am not here to set rates or even encourage professional rates of pay. My role is simply to advertise the posts and if people wish to apply for them that is up to them.

The other short but sharp debate was about inappropriate repertoire. The piece of music which caused a stir was the song 'Delilah' which was deemed inappropriate because it was about domestic violence. At the end of the day any piece can be offensive to anybody if they wish it to be, even 'ba ba black sheep' or 'there are fairies at the bottom of my garden'. There is an old philosophic statement that says 'offence cannot be given, only taken' and while this may not always be true it is, at the end of the day, about intent. Singing 'Delilah' outside a women's refuge may not be appropriate however I've known it sung at wedding because it was a favourite song of the couple being married. So providing the choir enjoy singing the repertoire, the audience enjoy listening to it and, most importantly, it is sung well - don't worry.

Phillip Tolley

British Choirs on the Net is supported by advertising subscriptions from the following:

















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.

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 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. There 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 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. So far during 2016 we have sent out mailings for the Addison Singers, Temple Music Foundation, Wimbledon Choral Society, Hal Leonards, St Martin in the Fields, LEPRA, and Gareth Malone.

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 mailing to London Choirs on behalf of other London Choirs.

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

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. It is also increasing used to advertise vacancies for Music Directors/Accompanists. There are currently over 1,340 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 with over 1,800 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.

Choirfiends This used to be a small website associated with Colcanto Associates. This has now become a Facebook group. By moving it from a static website to a Facebook group we hope it will be used by a wider audience.

The group was created to help choristers find previous friends who they used to sing with but have now lost contact. It is also used to help find information about defunct choirs and help people find relatives who may have sung with these choirs. It is not designed as a choral dating agency but if that happens - congratulations! https://www.facebook.com/groups/157147511132581/?fref=ts

(Note: It is an open facebook group so we cannot control content, membership or adverts).

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

We are pleased to welcome **Nova** — A group of about sixteen very experienced singers will be exploring and performing music from the fascinating world of 15th and 16th century European polyphony, concentrating chiefly on Flemish, Spanish, French and Italian music.

www.choirsites.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.

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

Come and sing with us!

If you like singing choral music, come along in September and try our choir. We are Ruddington and District Choral Society and meet Monday evenings 7 15 until 9 pm. The Choir, over 50 years old, has members from all over South Nottinghamshire. There are no auditions and you can come for 4 weeks before joining.

In November we are singing music by Mendelssohn, Faure and Rutter, and in December a community Handel's Messiah.

Our next meeting is at St Peter's Church, Ruddington NG11 6EL on Monday 5th September. Thereafter we meet at St Peter's Junior School, Ashworth Avenue, NG11 6GB.

Have a look at our website www.spanglefish.com/ruddingtonanddistrictchoralsociety/ or phone 01159211451



Northern Choir Conducting Competition, June 6th – 9th 2017 in Svendborg, Fyn, Denmark

The 2nd north European competition (the first was in June 2014) for young classical choir conductors, born in 1980 or later, takes place in Svendborg, Fyn, Denmark during 6th – 9th of June 2017.

The competition consists of 3 rounds with 1) a small concert performance with a semi-professional choir (about 35 members), 2) a rehearsing situation (corresponding to 3rd or 4th rehearsal, with an amateur choir (around 45 members)), 3) a concert performance with a top professional chamber ensemble from the Danish Broadcasting (18 members) and 4) a final round with rehearsal and concert with the chamber ensemble, including a new composed Danish work (NOT with danish text!).

The repertoire: from late renaissance to contemporary choir music, including Scandinavian, British and German works.

Prizes: First prize: 3000 euro Second prize: 2000 euro Third prize: 1000 euro

+ possibilities for the finalists for further concerts in DK/ Scandinavia.

15 participants will be selected in the light of original sound-/video recordings by an international jury, consisting of 5 members (3 danish and 2 international choir conductors.

The competition is limited to participants from Scandinavia, incl. Greenland and the Faroe Islands, UK, Ireland, Northern Germany, incl. Berlin, and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Date for application: 15th of January 2017.

Final accept for participation: primo March 2017, where the exact repertoire also will be announced.

Further information will follow from medio September 2016

Contact: Povl Balslev (musikfidus@gmail.com) (head of the Jury and SyngSydfyn Festival) Inger Allan (ingerallan@gmail.com) (head of Administration and SyngSydfyn Festiv.)

Please have a look at www.syngsydfyn.dk and our Facebook profile

Svendborg, July 14th 2016 Inger Allan

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Kontakt/contact: Inger Allan • mail: ingerallan@gmail.com • mob.: +45 21 20 40 17 & Povl Christian Balslev • mail: musikfidus@gmail.com • mob.: +45 21 60 62 58 • www.facebook.dk/syngsydfyn

Dancing Day is a project for Christmas 2016 which makes a brand new Christmas carol by **Jamie W. Hall** available for free and without any limitations to choirs everywhere who will then use their performances to support the amazing work of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Sleep, my Jesu is an accessible and beautiful Christmas lullaby for unaccompanied SATB and is available for SSAA or in transposition for ATBarB.

CLICK <u>HERE</u> to see the score, <u>HERE</u> for the SSAA version Or <u>HERE</u> for the ATBarB version.

Using this piece you can raise funds in whatever way is best for you and there is no minimum donation but we'd obviously like you to be as generous as you can.

Singing new music is an exciting part of every choir's experience and well worth the small cost of buying copies but here the music is free so that you can support this fantastic charity at no extra cost to you or your choir, and that means more money for Macmillan! Visit their website to learn more about the work they do. http://www.macmillan.org.uk/

So what next? Simply download the PDF of the carol and the rest is up to you. There's no sign-up, no conditions, no rules... I just want you to enjoy singing it and get on with raising those all-important funds.

I'd love to hear about your performances through my Twitter feed [@JWHallBaritone], and you can make donations via the Just Giving Page at any time up to January 31st 2017 or afterwards direct to Macmillan.

Here's where the idea for Dancing Day came from.

"Last year I found myself having a text conversation with a friend whose mother – a delightful nonagenarian with severe dementia – was in hospital in a really very serious condition. I remembered meeting her some time before that and her repeatedly telling me how much she loves to dance, and I found the famous Christmas carol text Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day going round and round my head – So much so that I set to writing my own version.

With my finished ditty in hand it didn't feel right to simply publish it in the usual way so, on a whim and with no real plan in mind, I offered it to a few choirs for free, suggesting they might like to donate to Dementia UK in honour of my friend's mum.

I was both stunned and gratified when the piece not only received several performances and even a radio broadcast on Christmas Day, but more importantly that it raised several hundred pounds for a deserving charity. So when I found myself putting pen to paper again in the wake of the sudden loss of a member of my own choral society to pancreatic cancer, I decided once again to allow my carol to be printed and performed for free, this time in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

So now I need your help. I am asking choirs to pledge a performance of my new carol Sleep, My Jesu, as part of a concert, a church service, carol singing at the hospital or even down the pub, or even just an informal performance as part of your usual rehearsal session, but the important thing is that you then make a donation to this brilliant charity through my Just Giving page. Whether it be a share of your ticket sales, a bucket collection, an informal whip-round amongst choir members or just an individual donation, however large or small, every penny will help the work of Macmillan Cancer Support and – I hope – make this Christmas just a little bit brighter for people going through the trauma of cancer.

We all love singing together, especially at Christmas. How wonderful if this year our singing helps give a very real gift to a person at their time of greatest need. Isn't that what Christmas is all about?

So please take this carol and use it however you like this Christmas, remembering to visit the Just Giving page, our Twitter feed and our Facebook page."

The Summer Schools Directory is the UK's leading online directory listing a huge range of UK and international music summer schools, including:

- Instrumental and orchestral courses
- Conducting and composition courses
- Choral and solo singing courses
- Different age groups and abilities
- Residential and non-residential courses

Music summer schools really do offer something for everyone, and the locations are often beautiful and inspiring as well. Experience the opportunity to develop your musical skills and gain recognised certifications whilst connecting with like-minded people and making lasting friendships along the way.

Our summer schools' directory allows you to search for exactly the sort of music experience you're looking for, as well as the right location, age range and type of accommodation. Or if you're not sure, just browse! So whether you are looking for yourself, a group of friends, or family members, you should find the perfect course. The Summer Schools Directory also lists summer schools and camps in a wide variety of other subjects and areas, including sports, theatre, and English language learning. So why not get searching?

http://www.summer-schools.info/music/

Local choir Mirabilé Vocal Ensemble wins best Female Choir in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – Saturday 9th July 2016.

West Bridgford based Vocal Ensemble, Mirabilé, have been judged best female choir at the prestigious Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, and are now proud bearers of an international trophy and £750 prize money.

4000 performers from 30 different nationalities travelled from around the world to sing and dance in a unique combination of competition and performance, in a festival also featuring such big names as Kerry Ellis, Bryn Terfel, Jools Holland and Collabro.

Following their success, Mirabilé, the only English choir of five category winners, went on that same evening to compete for the Pavarotti trophy and the title of 'Choir of the World', sharing the stage with the world famous Swingles, in front of an audience of almost 4000. Although pipped to the post by mixed choirs from the USA and the Philippines, Mirabilé were delighted to be awarded 3rd place in their first-ever competition. The adjudicators complimented Mirabilé on their "beautiful sound, blending of voices and excellent musical phrasing and style".

The 'Choir of the World' finale concert was broadcast live on television and this and highlights from the festival, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary, are available at http://llangollen.tv/choirs/?lang=en and on BBC2 Wales I-player at http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p03zx4x2/llangollen-llangollen-2016-cor-y-byd until August 2016.

The Mirabilé Vocal Ensemble was originally founded by the late Joy Nicol, vocal tutor to Nottinghamshire based Cantamus, and since 2011 has been directed by Roselise Gentile.

For more information on the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, visit: http://international-eisteddfod.co.uk

For more information please contact Carolyn Owen on 07760104252 or at famowen@btinternet.com or visit: http://www.mirabile.org.uk

Dresses for sale

29 stage dresses. Deep pink satin with pink chiffon outer. Ruched, boned, fitted bodice and generous gathered skirt, with sparkly flower detail below the bust. The sizes are variable, including lengths, but are approximately 1 size 8, 6 size 12, 6 size 14, 6 size 16, 4 size 18, 4 size 20 and 2 size 22. The dresses fasten at the back with a zip. A few have been altered to enlarge the back with lacings, so are adjustable to fit. The straps on some of the dresses have spare material so they can be altered for length.





The dresses were made to made to measure for the Abbey Belles Chorus in 2011 and have only been worn a handful of times. They are all freshly laundered and come from a smoke free, pet-free house. Postage/delivery to be arranged on sale. The dresses are located in Selby, North Yorkshire.

£500

Contact Susan Taylor at susan@abbeybelles.co.uk Telepho

Telephone 01977 685132

Sutton's Impromptu all female choir, under the directorship of Natalie Vesty, has recently enjoyed great success in the Bournemouth Music Competitions Festival.

The group came away with three trophies including overall Choir of the Year, awarded Outstanding for the A cappella class and 3 further Distinctions...... also winning the accompanied class.

The choir have been singing in Sutton for over two decades now and have won many other competitions, been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and appeared on BBC Choir of the Year. We'd love to attract a few new members, said a spokesperson.

For full details go to www.impromptu.org.uk

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at Sutton Baptist Church from 7 30 and are looking for new members. Future events include a concert in Sutton in November and a trip to a choral festival in Prague in December.

ABCD - Young Conductor Days also taking place in Manchester and London

Intermediate Course - Manchester

We are delighted to be returning to the Royal Northern College of Music for an Intermediate course, starting in October. Keith Orrell will lead this course, joined by Susan Hollingworth, Martin Cook and Peter Broadbent. The course is designed for those who conduct a choir regularly and wish to develop the technique they already have, but it is not necessary to have previously taken our Initial course.

Dates: 1st & 2nd October, 29th October, 4th December, 22nd January 2017, 26th February, 18th & 19th March

Prices: £600 abcd members, £635 non-members

Observers are also welcome at any sessions, prices £30 **abcd** members/students, £35 non-members.

Find out more about the course, including how to apply, <u>here</u>.

Advanced Course - London

Our next Advanced Course takes place at St Botolph-without-Aldgate Church and the Hall School in London. Our Director of Training Peter Broadbent will be joined by Neil Ferris, Patrick Russill and Sarah Tenant-Flowers to offer practical support and guidance for those conduct a choir regularly, to a high standard, and have successfully taken the Intermediate Course, DipABRSM or have the equivalent training and/or experience.

Dates: 24th & 25th September, 22nd October, 26th November, 7th January 2017, 11th & 12th February

Prices: £780 abcd members, £820 non-members

Observers are also welcome at all sessions, at a cost of £35 *abcd* members/students and £45 non-members.

Find out more about the course, including how to apply, here.

Advanced Day - London

2nd July

If you don't feel ready to commit to a full Advanced Course yet, or want to test the waters to see if it's right for you, try our Advanced Day!

Spend the day studying the interpretation of Three Shakespeare Songs by Vaughan Williams and Gesänge 2 - 4 from Fünf Gesänge Op. 104 by Brahms with Peter Broadbent and Neil Ferris.

Participants will have the chance to put what they've learned into action with new chamber choir Evoke.

Prices: £105 abcd members, £120 non-members

Observers are also welcome at a cost of £40 abcd members/students, £45 non-members.

Find out more about the day, including how to book, here.

Moving Forwards - London

17th September

If you've been conducting for a while and want to develop your technique further, then this day is for you! It's also ideal for anyone trying to decide between our Initial and Intermediate courses, or who wants to work with a choir on exploring gesture. You don't already have to have your own choir to take part in this day of practical development and more.

Prices: £90 abcd members, £100 non-members

Observers are also welcome at a cost of £35 abcd members/students, £40 non-members.

Book your place online here!

Young Conductor Days - Manchester and London

These days are for anyone aged 18 - 25 interested in leading singing. No previous conducting experience is necessary, just an ability to read staff notation. Participants will have the chance to try out what they've learned with a choir.

Dates and Locations

8th October

Hallé at St Michael's, 36 - 38 George Leigh Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 5DG

With Keith Orrell and the William Byrd Singers

Book online here!

5th November

Royal Holloway University of London, Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX

With Rupert Gough and Sarah Tenant-Flowers, and the choir of Royal Holloway Chapel.

Book online here!

Prices: £20 (includes membership to *abcd*)

If you have any questions about any of these courses or events, or want to know more about our training programme, contact our Training Manager Penny Homer on penny.homer@abcd.org.uk or 07805454563



WILL YOU SING YOUR HEART OUT?

What does singing give you? Fun, friendship, freedom? And that's just the start. Singing is powerful stuff, that's for sure.

But now your singing could give even more. Because you and your choir could transform the lives of vulnerable and isolated older people – by putting on a *Sing Your Heart Out* event, in aid of Royal Voluntary Service. You don't have to do anything different. You just have to do what you love best – sing!

You might decide to sing for your other colleagues as they come into work in the morning or at lunchtime, and hold a collection. You might have a concert coming up that could raise funds for Royal Voluntary Service. Or you might be looking for the perfect excuse to put on a performance and show the world how much you love to sing – well here it is! And we'll send you a *Sing Your Heart Out* fundraising kit to make it all happen.

We need your singing power because a million older people in the UK haven't spoken to anyone in a month – not friends, not family, not even neighbours. Royal Voluntary Service exists to make older people's lives better by giving them someone to talk to, the chance to go out into the community or a hot meal.

Your work singing group or choir brings people together and gives them something to look forward to. Now your choir can do all these things for isolated older people, and have loads of fun doing it. All you need to do is choose your favourite songs, sing them at the top of your voices and raise money – think raffles, tickets, collections, refreshments. Please say you will!

Our partner Music in Offices (musicinoffices.co.uk) are also offering interested companies a one off 60 minute workshop open to as many people as possible and at a special discounted rate of £150, please contact tessa@musicinoffices.com to find out more

You can sign up now at <u>singyourheartout.org.uk</u> Or, if you'd simply like to know more, please email me <u>jessica@thevirtualmarketer.org.uk</u> or phone me on 07745 683723.

Here's to singing loud and proud and transforming lives!



Last minute places available on a FREE trip with OneStage

Every year or so OneStage arranges a familiarisation visit to one of our destinations for current and potential tour leaders/musical directors. It's a chance to showcase a particular destination, for those that don't know us to get to know OneStage a little better, and exchange ideas and experiences with other people in similar positions.

This year's trip is to Western Hungary and Budapest: we still have a couple of places available, which are absolutely free! To be considered please click the link below http://onestage.co.uk/about/competition/.

Start Planning this summer for your 2017 tour!

We're experiencing another record year with hundreds of concerts all over Europe and even some further afield. Next year promises to be no different and we've already received a record level of interest!

If you're planning a tour in 2017 or even 2018, now's the time to get in touch and gather some ideas: the earlier you book, the better the choice of the best venues and destinations! With OneStage's unique approach, you'll get the same specialist service that you would expect from the only tour operator which focuses exclusively on concert tours. Some of our specialist services include:

- Personal visits from one of us to speak to you and/or your choir
- Detailed repertoire advice
- Open and honest price discussions
- Fully accompanied inspection trips
- Experienced and competent tour managers

Here's what just three of our touring choirs this year have told us.

"We are mightily impressed with One Stage and would certainly recommend you to others. We have much experience of touring all over the world and we think the hotels selected were some of the best we have encountered" Ely Cathedral Choir, Vienna/Bratislava/Budapest

"OneStage were endlessly helpful in accommodating our choir tour requirements, and their service felt customer-dedicated, focussed and tailored to our exclusive needs. It was a great experience, and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend them to other choirs." Worth School Chapel Choir, Rome

"The choir and staff thoroughly enjoyed the whole Paris tour, especially singing in Notre Dame. I feel we got the balance of rehearsals, performances, and leisure time completely right for our pupils." Milton Abbey School

Don't hesitate to contact us today to chat about your tour plans, and share our passion for choir tours! There's no obligation, and you'll always find a friendly and helpful response and be surprised at the value for money you can achieve? You can use our website http://onestage.co.uk/about/contact/ or call us on 0208 568 5486/ 0121 240 2972 or email tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk

Julian Edwards email: julian@onestage.co.uk