



Chorister

Col Canto Associates Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the July 2019 'Chorister' Newsletter

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British Choirs on the Net

Welcome to the July 2019 edition of the British Choirs on the Net '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.

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

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

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.

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 Petite Messe Solennelle 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, orchestra 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 Mailing Services

British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 3,200 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. Details of the data protection regulations that apply to our mailing list visit <http://www.choirs.org.uk/mailings.html>

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, Choir Camp 2019, Hannah Brice, Isle of Man Festival, Oxford University Press and a crowdfunding project for a handheld music stand for choristers.

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)

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 2,000 members and membership is by invitation.

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

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

clubeurope

music tours

Club Europe invite you..... to join them on their trip to Hungary!

We are going on a Familiarisation trip to two beautiful towns in the wine-tasting regions of Eger and Tokaj in Hungary and would love you to join us. The trip will take place on **Friday 18th – Sunday 20th October 2019** and cost just £90, which will be refunded to you, if you book a choir tour for your group.

Tokaj

This is a great opportunity to 'try before you buy' to see what this lovely destination can offer your choir.



Tokaj, lying in the rolling hills of the north east of Hungary, is the capital of its own historic wine region. One of the best-known Hungarian towns after Budapest, it was listed as a World Heritage Site along with the Tokaj-Hegyalja Wine Region in 2002. Eger, a beautiful town with over 1000 years of history, produces the magnificent Bulls Blood red wine and holds a variety of wine festivals that draw wine-lovers from far and wide.

With a wealth of beautiful churches and other performance spaces, the Tokaj and Eger region is ideal for choirs looking for somewhere that offers a fantastic mix of concert, excursion and relaxation opportunities, creating a varied and exciting tour for their members.

The details:

Our two-night trip is just £90 per person. This includes your flights (from most London airports – please ask about alternative departure points), transport in Hungary, half board accommodation and visits.

Like to register your interest? Give us a call on Freephone 0800 496 4996 or email Lucy.s@club-europe.co.uk, who would be pleased to tell you more about this exciting trip.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ABROAD FOR YOUR NEXT MUSIC TOUR!

If you're looking for a close to home destination for your next tour, put your passport away! The UK has so much to offer music ensembles:

Perform in a theatre or art gallery on our [music tour to Cambridge](#)

In the historic Edinburgh Castle on our [music tour to Edinburgh](#)

In Covent Garden on our [music tour to London](#)

In a summer festival on our [music tour to the Isle of Wight](#); or

Perform a joint concert with a local group on our [music tour to Derbyshire](#).

Find out more about all our [UK music tours](#). Or better still, give us a call for a chat on Freephone 0800 496 4996.

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.

Find out more:

Visit: www.club-europe.co.uk/music-tours

Call: Freephone 0800 496 4996

Email: travel@club-europe.co.uk



Simply unforgettable venues to suit your choir's sound and style

An international concert tour brings ensembles together musically, giving you the opportunity to bond as a group and perform in some of the most spectacular venues.

At Rayburn Tours, providing ensembles with **simply unforgettable** performance opportunities is at the very heart of what they do. Taking pride in exceeding the expectations of choirs and offering a variety of inspiring destinations perfectly suited for choral groups, the Rayburn Tours team will work with you to shape the perfect concert tour with performances in exciting venues to suit your sound and style.

From prestigious cathedrals and churches to beautiful parks and gardens, they have a wide range of stunning venues to suit any repertoire, where the venue type, acoustics and stage size are perfectly matched to your choir.

But don't just take their word for it! Hear from some of the choirs who have taken that musical leap onto the international stage and not looked back!

[Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate, Ypres](#)

Could there be a more moving and important performance than participating at the Menin Gate's Last Post Ceremony? Chosen because of the thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields, the Menin Gate bears the names of 54,896 British and Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives with no known grave. Suitable for choirs with a sacred or classical repertoire suitable for the occasion.

"This is magical. An absolute musical highlight."

Voices City of Derby Girls Choir

[Maria van Jessekerk Delft, The Netherlands](#)

This beautiful church located in the canal-ringed city of Delft is the ideal venue for choirs with a sacred or mixed repertoire. With a handsome interior and superb acoustics, your ensemble can't help but be blown away by Maria van Jessekerk.

"An absolutely beautiful and fantastic church to sing in, very thrilling with excellent acoustics. A thrilling experience for us all. Fantastic audience and everyone so welcoming."

Lon Vane Ladies Choir

[Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York](#)

A performance at New York City's Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex is certain to give you a memorable experience. Enjoy cityscape views as you perform on the deck of aircraft carrier Intrepid which is berthed on the Hudson River. The venue is best suited for choirs performing a secular or light repertoire.

"This was a fantastic venue and hugely exceeded our expectations. We sang on the deck with fantastic views of Manhattan. The PA provided was of a high quality so the sound was good and

The Cherry Pie Choir

[Oosterkerk, Amsterdam](#)

Located in the vibrant city of Amsterdam is the Oosterkerk. This beautiful 17th-Century Dutch Reformed church is a wonderful performance venue with excellent acoustics and very friendly staff too! This is the perfect place for choirs and orchestras to perform.

"Seeing the reaction of people in the audience. They were very moved in our ballads, to the point of tears... then happy to join in with the choreography and felt free to dance."

Jam Theatre

Barcelona Cathedral, Barcelona

Located in Barcelona's enchanting Gothic Quarter, the city's central place of worship is a magnificent performance venue. This iconic cathedral, with its richly decorated main façade, is just as impressive on the inside. Perfectly suited for choirs with a sacred repertoire (some secular may be permitted).

"Excellent. A fantastic experience."

Harmony 303

Sant'Agostino Church San Gimignano, Tuscany

This historic church is located in the centre of the picturesque hillside town of San Gimignano. Its dramatic frescoes, quaint central plaza and countryside views will take your breath away. This beautiful venue is best suited for choirs with a sacred or classical repertoire.

"Great performance platform - open staircase functioning as choir risers. Fabulous"

Esprit Chamber Choir

About Rayburn Tours

Rayburn Tours is an independent, family-run company that has been creating tailor-made, international tours for groups since 1965.

Discover more about a choir tour with Rayburn Tours by visiting **rayburntours.com** or getting in touch with the expert team on **01332 347 828**.

The National Choral Organisation

Investing in choral futures



PRESS RELEASE

Rupert Gough, Themba Mvula to lead choral courses at Sing for Pleasure's Summer School this August National choral charity Sing for Pleasure (SfP) has confirmed the special guest tutors for two of its three part-week choral courses running at its Summer School at Keele University this coming August.

Rupert Gough - Director of Choral Music and College Organist at Royal Holloway, University of London - will be leading the Consort Course, designed for very experienced singers who relish challenging repertoire sung in a small group. Meanwhile, for singers of all abilities, renowned operatic baritone Themba Mvula - who is also longstanding MD of the Lichfield Gospel Choir - will take the helm at the Sing Gospel Course. The third course, focusing on Fauré's Requiem, led by SfP tutor and Trustee Jane Hampson, is for singers who are fond of classical iconic works. All three choral courses will run from 15 -18 August, with members performing at a free-to-attend evening concert on Saturday 18 August in Keele University Chapel.

There are also week-long singers' courses available. Musicianship for Singers, to develop notation sight-reading skills and a deeper understanding of music theory from a singer's perspective and - new this year - English Heritage Singers, focusing on English folk song and choral music will run as modules for the first four days, with participants choosing one of the choral courses most suited to them in the latter part of the week.

Manvinder Rattan, SfP's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, commented: "We're delighted to be welcoming Rupert and Themba to Summer School this year. Rupert has a keen interest in Eastern European, Baltic and Scandinavian composers, and whilst final repertoire for the Consort Course is yet to be confirmed, attendees are very likely to be working on pieces by Ešenvalds, Dubra and Sandström amongst others. Themba's approach to his course will be decidedly different; there won't be any set repertoire circulated beforehand, and he's planning to teach by rote, to give participants an authentic experience of the genre."

As ever, the charity's acclaimed choral conductor training will be offered at Keele, with week-long courses catering for all ability levels from absolute beginners upwards. Manvinder added: "I'm proud to say that in 2018, 100% of course attendees rated SfP's training as good to excellent - choir conductors and vocal leaders who are new to our approach should join us at Summer School, to find out why!"

For more information, visit: <https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/events/current-listings/summer-school-2019/>



Summer School

10-18 August 2019 ~ Keele University





Lacock newsletter

We've just put details of two new courses on the www.lacock.org web site. The first is the 2019 winter school between Christmas and New Year, which will be once again in Corsham. The director will be Will Dawes of Stile Antico, well known to many of you no doubt, but this will be his Lacock debut. The programme takes us to renaissance Spain. The main work will be a mass with Christmassy overtones, Alonso Lobo's Missa Beata Dei Genitrix, which Will calls a little-known masterpiece. There will also be music by Guerrero and Victoria and some villancicos, those very characteristically Spanish Christmas songs.

The second is a return to Tobago in February for another Singing in Castara directed by Justin Doyle, assisted by young conductor and former Lacock scholar Sarah Latto. We never intended it to be an annual event (and there almost certainly won't be one in 2021), but once you've been there and escaped the tail end of a northern winter it's very easy to get into the habit. Justin always comes with three generations of his family and this year will be the last before his boys are in full-time school. That was one excuse for a return visit: the other was a suggestion by some of the villagers that we get together with local musicians for a one-day festival at the end of our course. 'The Castara Song Harvest' will feature our group along with a small number of Tobagonian choirs, the village African drumming ensemble and a steel band, and will showcase some of their culinary traditions such as barbecued fish from the bay and bread baked in clay ovens.

In April 2020 Patrick Craig will direct an all-Lassus week in the Devonshire town of Dartmouth. This will be one of our invited 'music party' courses for confident readers happy to sing one to a part and take the odd solo in their stride. We are always happy to enlarge the pool to choose from, so if you are interested and think you would fit in, do let us know. This will be followed by a week in Ambleside in May, the annual visit to Monteconero in June and a summer school in Edinburgh from the 12th to the 17th of July 2020, directed by Rory McCleery.

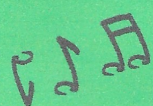
For the Ludlow Summer School coming up in July Gabriel Crouch suggested, to go alongside the Tallis and Striggio 40-parters, an anonymous Spanish setting of the Ten Commandments set as a canon for ten four-part choirs. Panic set in in April when it dawned on us that the only scholar known to have edited the work wasn't minded to be outstandingly cooperative. The only thing for it was to edit the work myself. Soon I realised some of the difficulties: the only remaining copy of the book it appeared in is in a library in Madrid, the source of the text was unknown and to cap it all it is in an obscure system of notation without clefs or note lengths called Spanish number tablature. this notation is known only from three publications in the mid 16th century, so it was a bit like learning a language which has just three speakers. Luckily any ten-part canon is going to be a repetition of a simple chordal pattern and it all fell into place quite easily. The wonder of the internet led me quickly to facsimiles of both the music and the text. The Ludlow group is now just about quorate – we may be able to slip in the odd extra voice so let us know if you still want to join us in July.

The courses in Venice and Rome in October have been full for some time but there is still room in the week with Patrick Craig in Jimena in the south of Spain in September. As usual he has come up with a cracker of a programme drawn from psalm settings by English and Spanish renaissance composers.

We've had some memorable courses recently. Aidan Oliver was a big hit at the Corsham Winter School. Unfortunately, others have spotted him too and has just been made chorus master at Glyndebourne, a more-or-less full time job, so I don't know when we will be able to get him back. We had an excellent group in Tobago. There was a surreal moment in the final concert when – in mid Kyrie – we were almost knocked sideways by a blast of reggae from a house a few doors away. Luckily one of the village elders was in our audience. He went and had 'a quiet word' – though quiet is the last thing it could have been – and calm was miraculously resumed. We thought Lewes was brilliant as a venue and we'll use it again after a decent interval.

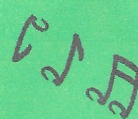
Thank you for reading this far. Details of all Lacock courses can be found at www.lacock.org.

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



**Sound
Escapes**

**UK
PERFORMANCE
TOURS**

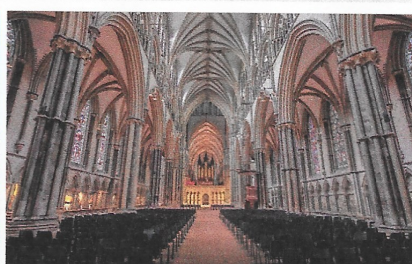
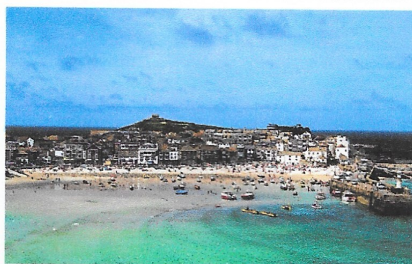


Bespoke Concert Tours for Choirs across the UK & Ireland

Launched in January 2019 from their Nottingham HQ, Sound Escapes UK specialises in tailor-made concert and performance tours for choirs who wish to perform in beautiful and unique locations across the UK and Ireland. Owner Jo Porter is looking forward to showcasing the beauty, creativity and of course music on offer within the wonderful British Isles to adult choirs and musical ensembles from the UK and beyond.

'Live music, performance, travel and my home country are my greatest passions and after many wonderful years of working in this niche area of the travel industry, 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. With a wealth of concert options from historic abbeys and castles, singing al fresco at UNESCO World Heritage sites, to our spectacular Cathedrals and vibrant music festivals, there are a wealth of performance opportunities on offer here, come rain or shine.'

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 bespoke concert touring package to meet your personal performance aspirations and every need. We also love to hear about your own musical travel adventures so please get in touch!



Contact Jo Porter on 0115 874 6396
Web: www.soundescapesuk.com E-mail: jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com



High Spirits, High Notes and High Value with Cornwall World Choral Festival's Million Pound Boost



2019 Junior Champions are the Duke of Cornwall Singers from St Stithian's College, South Africa.
Photo Phil Monckton

Spell-binding singing right across Cornwall thrilled audiences of more than 50,000 people in the Duchy and a further 15,000 across the world as concerts and competitions were live-streamed, for the first time, by the team behind the 2019 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival.

Hotels, restaurants, shops, venues and attractions have all been counting the value of 60 choirs, their entourages and visitors in Cornwall for the biggest event of its kind in the world – injecting an estimated £1 million into the local economy.

"It was a fantastic event without a single false note," says CIMCF Artistic Director Gareth Churcher. "We had sell-out concerts and standing ovations every night: everyone's spirits have been lifted by the superb range of singing. The visiting choirs themselves had the warmest Cornish welcome - they all say they're definitely coming back!"

International choirs came from Australia, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Russia and South Africa, with another 22 from England, Scotland and Wales joining the 28 Cornish male voice choirs taking part in the event.

Cornwall itself as a scenic visitor destination enjoyed world-wide media attention as singers from 9 – 90 years old performed at iconic, world-famous locations like St Michael's Mounts and The Eden Project.

The 2019 Festival's Junior Champions - the South African Duke of Cornwall Singers – and their younger school fellows the St Stithians Boys' Preparatory Barons drew particular interest as they found themselves in the 1859 birthplace of one of their school's benefactors - Albert Charles Collins originally of Stithians, Cornwall, and sang alongside the home-grown St Stythians Male Voice Choir.

The overall Festival Champions were Klapa Kastav Male Vocal Ensemble from Croatia, while Muntra Musikanter from Finland won the prize for choirs with more than 41 voices and the hugely popular Celtic Male Ensemble were named top Cornish Choir.



The Festival's overall winners were Klapa Kastav Male Vocal Ensemble from Croatia.
Photo Phil Monckton

“We’ve been extremely pleased by the number of Cornish school pupils taking part in the outreach programme this Festival ,” says Gareth. “More than 500 from local schools and colleges joining forces with another 500 from the visiting youth choirs to make some fantastic music – it’s been so inspiring and, after all, they are the future of this wonderful choral tradition.” Full details of the 2019 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival including films and photos from this and previous events can be found on the Festival website www.cimcf.uk . Videos of the Truro Cathedral Gala Concerts can be found on the CIMCF YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/c/CornwallInternationalMaleChoralFestival>



The Festival attracted media attention from all over the world for the choirs and the Cornish scenery.