



Chorister

Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the June 2015 'Chorister' Newsletter

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



This newsletter has been sent to you as you or your choir are currently listed on one of the sites, or because the services you provide may be suitable for our website. In some cases it is sent to you as you have specifically requested a mailing. Whatever the reason, you are very welcome.

I am currently in the process of a house move and this has caused inevitable delays in dealing with emails. Apologies if your email has not been dealt with as promptly as usual. Once I am settled in the new property and am up and running on the internet /broadband link normal service will be resumed. More details to follow.

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. Their mailing addresses are collected whenever you ask for your choir to be listed or may be collected from other registers such as the National Association of Choirs and ABCD.

These mailing lists are very important both to provide you with information from our subscribers, information about other choral services, concerts and general updates such as this newsletter. It is also important because it generates a small revenue which allows us to ensure that at least 90% of the content on British Choirs on the Net is free to list.

It is understood that some of the mailings may not be of interest to all the choirs, particularly if you are not a choir that tours or takes part in competitions, but I hope over the course of the year you will find something useful in the mailings. During this year we have sent out mailings for Fortnum and Mason, The One show, BBC Children in Need 2014 - Gareth Malone's All Star Choir, Waitrose, Isle of Man Festival of Choirs and Coram Children's Charity (formerly the Foundling Hospital), to name a few.

The mailing list is not just for big organizations however. For instance there are 260 listed choirs in London. This means that if a London choir is looking to put bums on seats, either in terms of audience or singers, or if it wants to advertise a Come and Sing performance or Workshop it can use the mailing list to target the other 260 choirs on the London list. This year we have sent out a number of targeted mailings to London Choirs on behalf of other London Choirs.

Choirsites They say every picture tells a story and the same rule applies with choirs. The choir that has a website where potential members can see pictures of the choir, their future concerts and repertoire is likely to prove more attractive than simply a listed choir with a text description and an e-mail contact. Choirsites provides low cost website hosting and design for choirs. Some of the choirs using this service include:

Balsham Singers, Cambridge
Clarkson Singers, Wisbech
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire
The Thames Head Singers, Gloucestershire

www.choirsites.co.uk

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 increasingly used to advertise vacancies for Music Directors/Accompanists. There are currently over 1,120 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. Thanks again to John Bawden who has recently gifted 10 new programme notes and also to Ronald Corp who has allowed us to use notes from his own composition 'And all trumpets sounded'.

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

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) .



The Voices for Hospices Choir is organising a Massed Charity Come and Sing performance of The Armed Man on September 27th as part of the Festival of Rugby which will run alongside the Rugby World Cup later this year. Our aims are to provide singers and non singers with a fun day out and to raise much needed funds for local Hospices - there is much more information about the event and about the Voices for Hospices choir on our website www.vfhchoir.com

We will have the capacity for thousands of singers and the more we have the more money we will raise for Hospices and the more exciting the event will be for all concerned so we are anxious to promote the event to as many singers as possible.

We are a very small team and are having to raise all the funding ourselves so budgets are very tight but I wondered whether there were ways in which British Choirs on the Net may be able to assist in promoting the event eg advice about the best ways to reach choirs, listing our event on your site, helping us with email campaigns, using social media to get the word out etc etc. - we would be very happy to feature you on our site as one of our Supporters if you were able to help in any way.

We are passionate about enabling singers to join together and raise their voices to help those with life limiting illnesses. For us, singing is a life enhancing activity and this seems an appropriate way to give something back for the pleasure we enjoy. The Voices for Hospices Choir is open to everybody and we are actively recruiting other choirs to join us on the day - we already have sixteen signed up - see this link <http://vfhchoir.com/supporters-2/> and are in currently in email contact with many more but we have a long way to go - hence this plea for help!

I look forward to hearing from you

Lynda Beament
e lynda@vfhchoir.com
m 07798 623329

[THE "MANCHESTER" MESSIAH — 27th, 28th & 29th November 2015](#)

Returning after the success of 2014, the "Manchester" Messiah offers an invitation to Choirs and Individual singers of all standards, Come & Sing!!! The weekend comprises a Festival programme culminating in a performance of Handel's Messiah by the massed choirs, joined by the Gorton Philharmonic Orchestra at Manchester's architectural gem, The Monastery, newly refurbished and tremendously atmospheric. - [Read Online here!](#)

[Download Colour Brochure](#)

For Further Information contact Breakaway Tours

01706 715808

info@breakawaytours.co.uk

www.breakawaytours.co.uk



The British Composer Awards celebrate the work of contemporary composers in the UK and honour emerging forms of classical, jazz and 'sonic art'.

Nominations are now open across twelve categories for works that received their UK première between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. The awards are a valuable showcase for contemporary composers; as such BASCA encourages anyone with a passion for new music to nominate eligible works.

To nominate a work for the British Composer Awards, please click the following link:

<http://www.britishcomposerawards.com/page.php?idp=773>

Nominations close on **Tuesday, 7th July**, and full rules and guidelines can be downloaded from the panel on the right.

"We were delighted with the diversity of the nominations for the 2014 awards and hope that the ease of making nominations digitally will widen the reach of the awards even further."
Artistic Directors Julia Haferkorn and Ed McKeon

The 13th Annual British Composer Awards are presented by BASCA and sponsored by PRS for Music. They are presented in association with BBC Radio 3 who provide exclusive broadcast coverage of the award ceremony.

For more information about the 2015 British Composer Awards please [contact us](#).

During June and July 2015 Forwoods ScoreStore is delighted to be able to offer a discount of up to 25% on all Oxford music publications!

It's almost 8 years since we last had a major Oxford promotion! For the next two months (June and July) increased discounts of up to 25% are available on the entire Oxford Music catalogue! The vast majority of core titles will carry the full 25% with choral singles available at 20% discount. If you would like more information about this offer or any of the products featured please do not hesitate to contact us by email or freephone - 0800 072 0354.

www.scorestore.co.uk/oup

If you would like any more information regarding these offers or anything else please do not hesitate to contact us by return email or by Freephone on 0800 072 0354. We are very happy to help!

Kindest regards,

Stephen, Susan and Joe

Forwoods ScoreStore

sales@scorestore.co.uk | 0800 072 0354 | www.scorestore.co.uk

Surrey Performing Arts Library — Music

For singers and choirs there are 6000 music sets for loan, including vocal scores of anything from 'South Pacific' to 'Aida', and a large selection of music to suit smaller groups, such as songs and madrigals.

For orchestras there is a wide range of classical and modern music for all levels of ability, covering full, string, wind and classroom orchestras. A large repertoire of performing sets is in stock for chamber groups from trios upwards. If you are an instrumentalist or singer, no matter what standard, there is a wide choice of music for most instruments, both solo and accompanied, as well as songs, vocal scores and libretti. If you are a bit rusty, help is on hand from our collection of tutors, instructional videos and studies. We also keep extensive collections of full, miniature and study scores.

Our bookstock covers music history, biography and theory with specialist areas such as popular and world music, opera, musicals, instruments, recording and jazz.

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/libraries/libraries-in-surrey/libraries-and-opening-times/surrey-performing-arts-library>



Sing loud and Sing proud for Heart Research UK

This **December**, Heart Research UK is asking the nation to warm up its vocal chords so we can continue helping people to live healthier, happier, longer lives.

Over the last nine years our Sing for your Heart campaign has raised over £95,000 and in 2014 we want you to join us as we Sing for our Hearts.

We are looking for community and school choirs, singers and musical groups to get involved with our festive campaign by:

- **Planning your own Sing for your Heart event** – There are many different types of musical activities you could plan for your event, why not choose Heart Research UK as the beneficiary for your Christmas concert? Our [free fundraising pack](#) and [online tools](#) are full of hints and tips to ensure your event is a great success.

Support our Sing for your Heart events – We are planning collection events to take place throughout December at shopping centres and train stations across the country. Could your choir or music group perform at one of the collection events?

For more information please visit www.heartresearch.org.uk/singforyourheart or contact Claire on 0113 234 7474 or email community@heartresearch.org.uk

Not only is singing a great way to raise money, research shows that it's also good for your heart. So why not get involved and help Heart Research UK make this year's Sing for your Heart the best yet.



Did you know that this year, Rayburn Tours will be celebrating its 50th anniversary year?

We are extremely proud of the fact that in this time we have created thousands of tailor-made international concert tours for choirs just like yours!

Since 1965 there have been many things that have changed, but the one thing that has always remained constant is our passion for what we do. Our dedicated and experienced team have proven over the years that they have the skills and expertise to arrange unique and memorable concert tours, which are tailored to meet both the performance and leisure objectives of each and every choir we work with. We know that no two choirs are the same, and likewise, no two tours are the same!

Each year we delight in the positive feedback we receive from touring choirs. Through travelling and performing together over such a condensed period of time, performances improve, understanding of roles will heighten and the overall bond of your group will develop significantly. Couple this with the fact that everyone on tour has had a fantastic holiday together and it's a great way for you to provide your members with fond memories that will last a lifetime!

TAKING YOUR CHOIR TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Let us help you start planning something special...

Enquire before the end of 2015 and you could be in with a chance of winning one of our special birthday Golden Tickets, giving each member of your group a massive £50 off the price of the tour! (www.rayburntours.com/concert/news/uncategorized/50-years-arranging-group-tours-now-thats-something-celebrate)

Give us a call today on 01332 347828 to start talking to one of our choir tour experts about the possibilities for your choir. Alternatively you can view a sample of our favourite choir tour destinations and venues at www.rayburntours.com/choirs