



Chorister Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the March/April 2016 '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.

Concertfinder & British Choirs on the Net

Concertfinder is a free online concert diary. It is part of British Choirs on the Net under www.choirs.org.uk and also a standalone website under www.concertfinder.co.uk

During 2015 we have listed, and provided free advertising, to a total of 555 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 large number of newly premiered works Ronald Corp's "An Essex Posy", Patrick Hawes' "Eventide", Robert Streadman's "Via Crucis", Luigi Gatti's "Requiem in C" and Paul Carr's "The Lamb".

Other works of interest include Kurt Nystedt's "O Crux", Cornelius Cardew's "The Great Learning" and two works based on Magna Carta—Timothy Graig Harrison's "The Great Charter" and Graham Garton's "Magna Carta Cantata"

Concert listing breakdown per month

2015

January	2
February	13
March	99
April	31
May	27
June	55
July	47
August	6
September	8
October	47
November	97
December	123
TOTAL	555

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

N:B: 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 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 important 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. To see how these contacts are collected, used and audited visit www.choirs.org.uk/mailings.html

The mailing list is not just for big organizations. For instance there are 261 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.

During this year to date, we have sent out mailings for Helicon Arts, Hal Leonard, LEPR, Wimbledon Choral Society and Gareth Malone's new TV programme.

British Choirs on the Net British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 15 years and, with over 3,640 choirs listed, some of this details regarding choirs 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 phillip@colcanto.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum This is a group set up on Facebook to enable Choral Directors, Choir 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 1,200 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](https://twitter.com/britishchoirs) with over 1,800 followers.

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/15714751132581/?fref=ts>

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

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

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

We are pleased to welcome **Nova** — A group of about sixteen very experienced singers, based in Bristol, 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

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.



Celebrate Shakespeare's 400th anniversary through song with our selection of choral arrangements.

2016 commemorates 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare. Celebrate this special anniversary year through song with our selection of choral settings of Shakespearean texts, available at MusicShopEurope.com

Browse all titles here: https://www.musicshopeurope.com/en-us/productlist/2016_03_Shakespeare_Choral/2016_03_Shakespeare_Choral.aspx

For more details contact

Ben Speelman <bspeelman@halleonardmgb.com>

Hal Leonard MGB Limited
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Covent Garden
London WC2E 8QH



Rayburn Tours are Friends of Choir of the Year 2016!

As Rayburn Tours enter their 51st year, the team are looking forward to helping more ensembles travel to exciting destinations and perform in fantastic venues, making their performance dreams a reality. Encouraging the ambitions of passionate musicians and providing them with special performance opportunities is at the heart of what Rayburn Tours do. This is why they're thrilled to announce that they will be 'friends of Choir of the Year' for a second year!

Choir of the Year offers choirs of varying experience levels the chance to perform to large audiences in renowned venues across the UK and Ireland, opening up a range of exciting performance, broad-cast and recording opportunities for its leading choirs. With only a few spaces remaining for this year's auditions, register now to be a part of this national event!



This year, Choir of the Year are teaming up with the Association of British Choral Directors to run a series of choral masterclasses. Open to choirs and conductors of varying abilities, these master-classes are designed for choirs that want to grow and develop in order to reach 'the next level'. So if your choir would benefit from some support, expert advice and ideas for technical improvement, this pro-gramme is for you!

After the masterclass, choirs will be invited to watch a Choir of the Year audition session free of charge. This is a great chance for choirs to consoli-date their learning, hear a variety of choirs perform, listen to the judges' feedback and take part in a massed vocal workshop!

365 Tips for a More Successful Choir

In 2011 when I was kindly asked to write the introduction to the highly successful "The Survival of Your Choir" by composer and choral Director Tim Knight, I wrote;

"It is no longer sufficient just to have a choir or web site and to expect that choir to be successful and to survive. Even if the aim of the choir is simply to share a love of singing, you are in competition for members, audience, funding and identity."

Five years later that competition is even more intense, so it is timely that Tim Knight has now published a follow up book "365 tips for a more successful choir". As well as tips on the old favourites of concert programming, funding and publicity and recruitment there are newly expanded information on social media, touring and the legalities of running a choir.

Once again I would highly recommend this invaluable book.



365 tips for a more successful choir

A FOLLOW UP TO THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL 'SURVIVAL OF YOUR
CHOIR' BOOK

Tim Knight

For a copy contact Spartan Press www.spartanpress.co.uk, email
sales@spartanpress.co.uk Tel: 01528 544770

For copies of the original "Survival of your Choir" book email mail@timknightmusic.com or
Telephone 0788 796 0813

Lacock Residential Courses

If it's not already too late, Happy New Year! We have just published details of the two courses later in the summer on the Lacock web site, www.lacock.org. The first is the long-awaited Monteverdi Vespers week with JanJoost van Elburg in Ludlow in the middle of August. Two other distinguished Amsterdam-based musicians will make up the team of leaders: the baroque violinist Daniel Boothe will coach the instrumentalists and act as concertmaster in the performance, and Timothy Nelson, a keyboard player who is now also making waves as an opera producer and designer will play the organ and act as an assistant conductor.

This will be JanJoost's third Monteverdi Vespers for us, following the Lacock performances of 1999 and 2007. Both those were memorable events, and very well subscribed with many late-appliers having to be turned away, so let us know soon if you are thinking of joining us. To end the season, The Trogir Music Week with Erik Van Nevel will be entirely dedicated to Heinrich Schütz, a great composer neglected by Lacock courses for woefully long. The choir will be joined by a small ensemble of 17th century instrument – cornetts, sackbuts and others of that ilk – and Lacock scholars will sing some of Schütz's smaller scale works; all of which should make a thrilling programme along the lines of the Monteverdi Vespers.

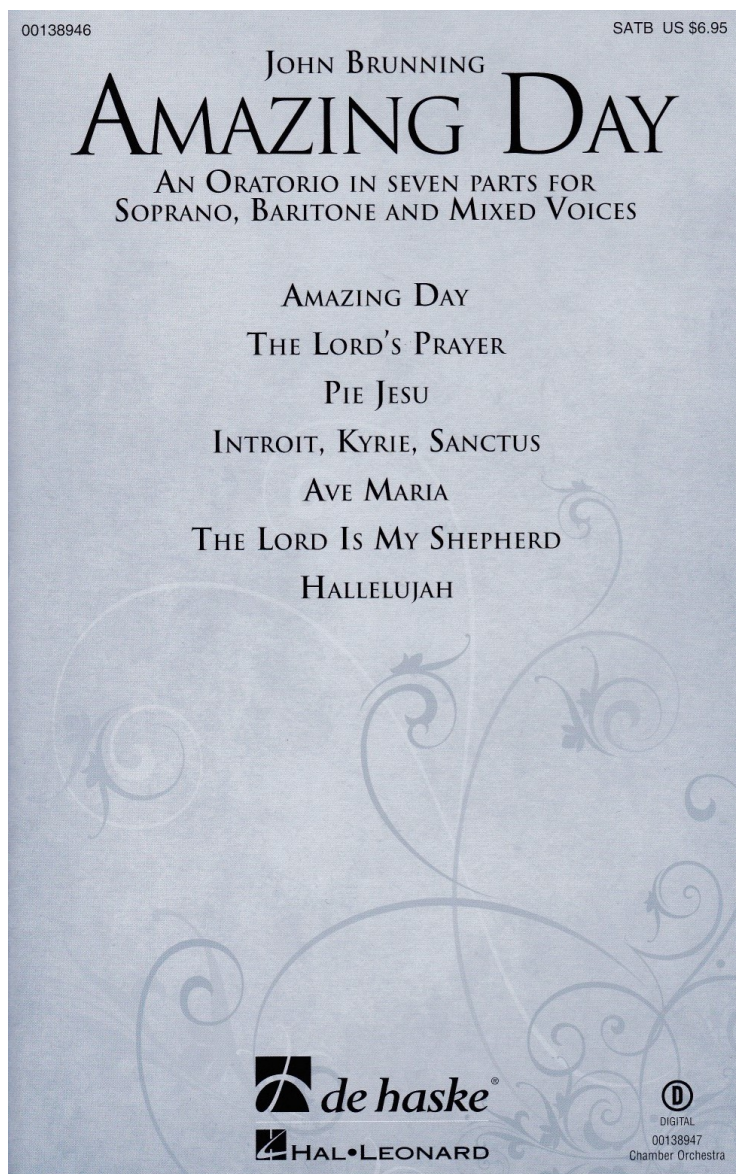
Of the courses that we announced in the last newsletter, the week with Justin Doyle in Tobago has had far more takers than we had expected, with almost thirty now in the party. A couple more sopranos would perfect the balance. Ghislaine Morgan's Voice Workshop in Corsham in early April is more or less full. We like to keep the numbers down to about a couple of dozen so that every participant can have a certain amount of individual attention. Robert Hollingworth's course in Venice later in April – sacred and secular music by both Gabriellis – is also well subscribed with strong ten-or and bass sections; there is room for two more sopranos.

Patrick Craig's week at Monteconero has room for altos and tenors.

The bring-a-man scheme that we cooked up last time has already been a great success and so will be continued. Anyone on our mailing list enrolling for a course may bring a man free of charge, provided he is not on the mailing list and fulfils the criteria for the course.

We hope to see you sometime in 2016, Andrew, Lucy and Gog Cantax House, Lacock, Chippenham SN15 2JZ www.lacock.org

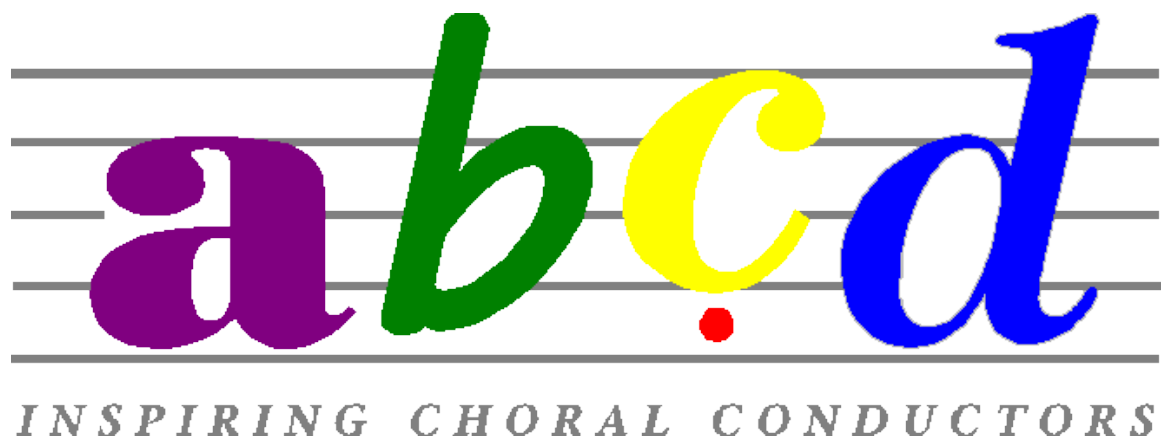
Amazing Day is an uplifting work by John Brunning, whose dual careers as both a composer and presenter on Classic FM have run in parallel for many years. *Amazing Day* is his largest scale work to date (32 minutes approx.), and its inspirational message and many beautiful melodies will suit most choirs and enchant audiences. While the *Pie Jesu* is the best known of the movements, with many recordings available by artists as diverse as The King's Singers and All Angels, the *Ave Maria* was also featured on Katherine Jenkins's recent album *Daydream*.



I wanted to create a work that would be widely accessible and convey a positive and uplifting message”, says John. “I look forward to many more performances of *Amazing Day* and trust performing it brings the same sense of joy I experienced whilst composing it”.

You can hear the complete work, purchase *Amazing Day* and read much more about John's music at www.johnbrunning.com





Association of British Choral Directors 31st Annual Convention

26-28 August 2016 - University of Winchester

This year's Convention takes us back to a popular location, the city of Winchester. It promises to be an inspiring weekend, offering a broad range of choices for choral leaders of all kinds. Besides the usual sessions on technique, repertoire, and the voice, two key threads run through a total of 30 options: our interaction with *the broader choral 'world'* and *women as choral leaders*. Just a few of the highlights on offer include:

- ☐ Masterclasses with Professor John Dickson and Alice Farnham for Intermediate and Advanced level conductors and a conducting refresher session with Catherine Beddison
- ☐ An expanded number of repertoire sessions, covering an even wider range of music
- ☐ Final plenary session with international conductor Sian Edwards on the Fauré Requiem
- ☐ Helen Hampton, leader of the Popchoir movement leads a session on taking Pop seriously
- ☐ Mark Smith on beat stress: do less, achieve more!
- ☐ Sessions with distinguished panellists, ranging from the topic of singing and well-being to women as choral leaders and composers
- ☐ Christmas comes early! Carols old and new with Jo McNally and Jonathan Willcocks
- ☐ Ann-Marie Speed, Deborah Miles-Johnson and Jo Bywater lead sessions on the science of the voice and choral sound in both adult and young choirs
- ☐ Our ever-popular and expanding trade exhibition
- ☐ Young Conductors' Course running from 26-28 August
- ☐ Pre-Convention Conducting Course running from 25-26 August

Keep an eye on the **Convention page of the ABCD website for more details - and put the dates in your diary now!**

www.abcd.org.uk

London Sangerstevne 2016 (13 -15 May 2016) - Non-Competitive International Choral Festival open to all Youth and Adult Choirs.

Now in its twelfth year running, the London Sangerstevne is reputed for its fun and convivial atmosphere, and each year attracts hundreds of singers from around the world. Sangerstevne 2016 will take place on the weekend of 13th – 15th May. Participating choirs are invited to present a pro-gramme of their choice in one of four public concerts at the Saturday Main Festival which will be held on 14th May at St Sepulchre-without-Newgate in the City of London, with the option to sing in fringe concerts organised in other London concert venues on Friday 15th and Sunday 17th May.

Places for this popular event are limited and going fast, so book early to secure your choir performance slot. Apply today at www.londonsangerstevne.org.uk/register

New Gareth Malone TV programme

Following on from last year's *The Naked Choir*, Gareth Malone, the choirmaster at the heart of award-winning series like *Sing While You Work* and *The Choir: Military Wives*, is once more on a mission to find the best of Britain's undiscovered choirs or singing groups for a new BBC2 show.

Last year, we celebrated the skill of groups singing modern a cappella; **this year we want to open the series up to groups who represent the full range of musical styles and genres.** We're also happy to be approached by those who have yet to establish or become part of a group of their own.

We're looking for creative, dynamic and unique groups and people, from across the U.K., of all different shapes and sizes, from all walks of life, who are willing (with Gareth's help) to push their vocal abilities, meet their full potential, and become the best they can possibly be.

Over the course of the series, groups will be allocated contact time with Gareth, who will offer his own expert and enthusiastic guidance, advice and encouragement. To round off the series, the groups will showcase what they've learned, in front of a panel of musical experts. Impress this panel and you could see your group rewarded with the honorary title of Britain's best amateur choir.

This is going to be a warm, inspiring series, where the singing groups' musical talent needs to be matched by their heart and enthusiasm, as well as their ability to be creative, inventive and celebrate their love of music and singing.

Details of how to get in touch can be found on the poster. All applications must be received by **April 15th 2016** and entrants under 18 must have permission from their parent/guardian to apply.

If you have any questions then please get in touch via sing@twentytwenty.tv or **0207 424 7758**

Twenty Twenty Productions Limited. Reg. Office: Warner House, 98 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8WB. Reg. in England. Company No: 03231683.

Welcome to Club Europe Group Travel

With over 30 years' experience, Club Europe are industry leaders in group travel for both UK and international students. We are specialists in school music tours, school performance tours, school ski trips as well as a wide range of curriculum-focused educational school trips. In addition, we specialise in music tours for all kinds of adult performing groups.

We create unique musical experiences on our [school music tours](#), action-packed [school ski trips](#) to the best slopes Europe has to offer and wonderful sometimes multi-destination [European student travel tours](#) that offer amazing cultural and educational opportunities.

The safety of our students and staff has always been a priority for us at Club Europe. We do everything we can to ensure you have a safe, happy, trouble-free school travel experience. All our student travel tours are carefully researched and planned and tailor-made to suit each group's specific requirements.

More details at <http://club-europe.co.uk/music-tours/>

Helicon Arts

Helicon Arts are running two choral singing holidays this summer at the beautiful Pousada de Vila Viçosa, a restored convent in Alentejo, Portugal.

The details are in the attached pdf, and we would be very grateful if you could pass it along to your members.

Secular Choral Course with Mary King

12-19 August 2016

This course will be our fourth led by renowned vocal coach and broadcaster Mary King (C4's Operatunity, Musicality). We'll be singing a lighter selection of choral music, including classical, jazz, popular, folk, and musical theatre, ending the week with a public performance.

Sacred Choral Course with Ivor Setterfield

20-27 August 2016

Our nineteenth annual choral course with esteemed conductor Ivor Setterfield (BBC Maestro, C5 The Singing Estate). Repertoire will focus on sacred choral works from ancient to modern for SATB choir, and will build up to a public concert at the end of the week in a local church.

Full details about both of these courses are on our website, at www.heliconarts.co.uk

Music Summer Schools 2016

The Summer Schools Directory is the UK's leading online directory listing a huge range of UK and international music summer schools. For details of the latest Choral music summer workshops and courses visit ;

<http://www.summer-schools.info/search.php?keyword=choral&opt=0>



Sing for Pleasure announces dates for 2016 training weekend in the West Midlands

National choral charity Sing for Pleasure has confirmed that its training event in the West Midlands for conductors, vocal leaders and singers will run on 4 and 5 June at Walsall's Forest Arts Centre.

The following opportunities are being offered during the weekend:

- Highly respected conductor training courses, graded from Foundation through Intermediate 1 and 2 to Advanced level; combining practical study with podium time for individuals to work with the skills they have learnt during sessions, these courses cater for all levels of ability and experience, and those who want to try their hand at conducting for the first time are particularly welcome.
- For community choir members with little or no experience of music theory or sightreading, the charity's Musicianship for Singers course at Foundation level is the perfect introduction to musicianship skills; designed specifically from a singer's perspective rather than an instrumentalist's, tuition focuses on working through practical examples using simple repertoire to illustrate key musical elements and boosting singers' overall confidence.

Manvinder Rattan, Sing for Pleasure's Head of Conductor Training, commented: "Positive feedback from past students at our training events is consistently high, with some 99% rating our tuition as excellent."

"Many also remark on the incredibly supportive, friendly atmosphere at our events and how this has made a big contribution to their learning experience."

For more information about the weekend, including timings, course fees and how to apply, visit: www.singforpleasure.org.uk/events/currentlistings/

OneStage gear up for biggest year yet!

This year promises to be our busiest yet, arranging 100 bespoke concert tours from February through to November with performances in all four corners of Europe, from Riga to Madrid, Edinburgh to Dubrovnik. Not forgetting all the points in between, where choirs will sing in some of Europe's most wonderful venues such as Prague's St Vitus Cathedral, Paris' Notre Dame, or St Mark's Basilica in Venice.

We've teamed up with more festivals than ever in 2017, including 'We are Singing Festival' in Croatia, the 'Baltic Choral Fest' in Estonia and Latvia, and on the Iberian peninsula the 'Lisbon Youth Music Festival' and 'Cantonigros' festival in Catalonia. There are many different competitive and non-competitive possibilities, just contact us for an informal discussion.

Last year's "big trip giveaway" to celebrate our 15th anniversary was such a resounding success, that we are delighted to announce the next familiarisation trip, which will run from 23-26 October 2016.



Our voyage of discovery will begin in Vienna, exploring the beautiful region of Western Hungary (Sopron, Győr, etc) and stretching down to the shores of Lake Balaton, the largest and warmest freshwater lake in Central Europe. An area with some outstanding natural sights, historic spa towns, and of course a distinguished musical heritage, as we follow in the footsteps of Haydn.

The trip will take in many of the concert possibilities for all types of ensemble, as well as staying in some beautiful hotels. We invite you to sample the flavour of local traditions, food and drink of the region with OneStage!

Participation in the trip is by invitation, and places are completely free of charge and include flights from a selection of UK airports, all accommodation and transport, and fully planned itinerary.

To be in with a chance of winning a free place, you can complete the simple form on our website at www.onestage.co.uk/about/competition, or better still come to Music Education Expo on 25 and 26 February and visit Stand D9 to find out more. Online entries close on 20th April, winners will be notified by 22nd April. For further details call us on 0208 568 5486/ 0121 240 2972 or email tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk