



Chorister Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the November 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.

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 Brandenburg Cruise, Grenville Jones, Helicon Arts, Merchant Voices, St Martin in the Fields, North London Chorus, London Concert Choir, One Stage Choir Tours, Isle of Man Festival of Choirs 215, the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education, Thames Philharmonic Choir and Gareth Malone's The Naked Choir.

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 philliptolley@colcanto.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 1,200 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.

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'.

Concertfinder 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

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
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

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 International Choral Festivals We were recently advised that a Choral Festival in London listed on the Website appears fraudulent. This was discovered when a choir who had paid an deposit to the festival had not been able to contact the organisers. They therefore contacted the Royal College of Music and were advised that the festival did not exist. The festival listing has been annotated as appropriate. The listing page does carry a warning advising choirs to check the validity of the festival as much as possible before parting with money. This is just a timely reminder.



NATIONAL
YOUTH
CHOIRS
GREAT BRITAIN

NYCGB Fellowship Programme

Applications are now being accepted for the NYCGB Fellowship Programme 2016-17.

Open to singers aged 22-25, the programme offers outstanding professional development through performance engagements, recording work, tours and residencies, masterclasses and professional mentoring.

[Click here](#) for more information and the application process. The closing date is 30 November.

A Choir in Every Care Home

This new initiative, funded by the Baring Foundation, explores how singing could feature regularly in care homes across the country. It is a unique collaboration between 30 national organisations from the worlds of adult social care, music and healthcare research. It is being led by Live Music Now, Sound Sense and the Sidney De Haan Research Centre.

Two surveys have been created to gather views about music in care homes and examples of good practice. The first is for anyone working within a care home (or similar). Please [click here](#) to take this survey. The second survey is for those who lead singing for older people in care, or who manage such singing leaders. Please [click here](#) to take this survey.

Any information in response to the questions would be very much appreciated. It should take 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and you're welcome to skip questions. The closing date is 6 November and all complete surveys will be entered into a prize draw. [Click here](#) for more information.



World Choral Symposium 2017

The next [World Symposium on Choral Music](#) takes place in Barcelona from 22-29 July 2017, with the theme 'The Colours of Peace'. Applications are still open for choirs wanting to be considered to be one of the 24 invited choirs; [click here](#) to download a form. Applications close on 1 November. Applications are also open for proposals for workshops and lectures; [click here](#) for more information. The closing date is 1 December.



DEEP HARMONY

Bath based choir man Grenville Jones has just published his first novel. **Deep Harmony** it is, of course all about a choir!

ALL ABOUT A CHOIR

In a review, publisher Gold Wind said;

“This is Modern fiction at its best, *Deep Harmony*, will have you laughing and crying from beginning to end, as it shares an entertaining and completely unanticipated insight into what life is like in a Cornish choir.”

Grenville is known as Bath's Mr Music through his leadership of seven local choirs and over 500 singers. These include the famous Bath Male Choir who made a big impression on the BBC Last Choir Standing Series a few years ago. In past years he has raised many thousands of pounds for local community organisations. This year he has staged two concerts in Bath Abbey with Aled Jones and The King's Singers to support the Three Ways School in Bath for young people with special needs and raised £1,500 for Nepal Earthquake families

He is also the founder and driving force behind the Goldies Charity, not a choir but an organisation that through its fun daytime singing sessions now brightens the lives of thousands of older people across Southern England and Wales and has seen him interviewed on TV and radio across the World.

Deep Harmony tells the story of The Verlis Singers, in Cornwall, not too heavily disguised as the city of Truro. The conductor Gavin James excels. But his personal life couldn't be more different. His wife of almost two decades has been having an affair. His business is failing and he's in debt up to his ears. Luckily for him, though, the singers in this Cornish choir love him for his musical expertise, his stoical commitment and the way he's taking the choir from strength to strength. Made up of an eclectic collection of colourful characters, the story takes its reader on a fascinating journey. Spanning the Cornish coast to Poland, this is no ordinary tale of your average choir. There's deceit, treachery, forbidden love and a catastrophic rise to media fame. Will the choir ever get over the devastating news that's knocked them all sideways? Will they finally get to Krakow and show Poland what they're made of? Or has the time come for them to sing their last hymn? Says Grenville, who is incidentally Patron of the Cornwall Community Choirs; “Having stood in front of choirs for some many years at thousands of rehearsals, singing workshops and hundreds of concerts, I have seen lives unfold and change. Romance, heartache sorrow and joy and never far away although I should point out of course, that *Deep Harmony* is of course fiction!”

Grenville wrote the 360 page paperback over five years whilst on holidays around Europe and it is on sale locally at The Silver Shop in Union Passage, Bath or online from Kindle and Amazon. 25% of all sales will go towards his Goldies charity and readers can hear The Verlis Singers perform some of the pieces from **Deep Harmony** on www.verlis-singers.org.uk

www.grenvillejones.biz

The Community and Youth Music Library [CYML]

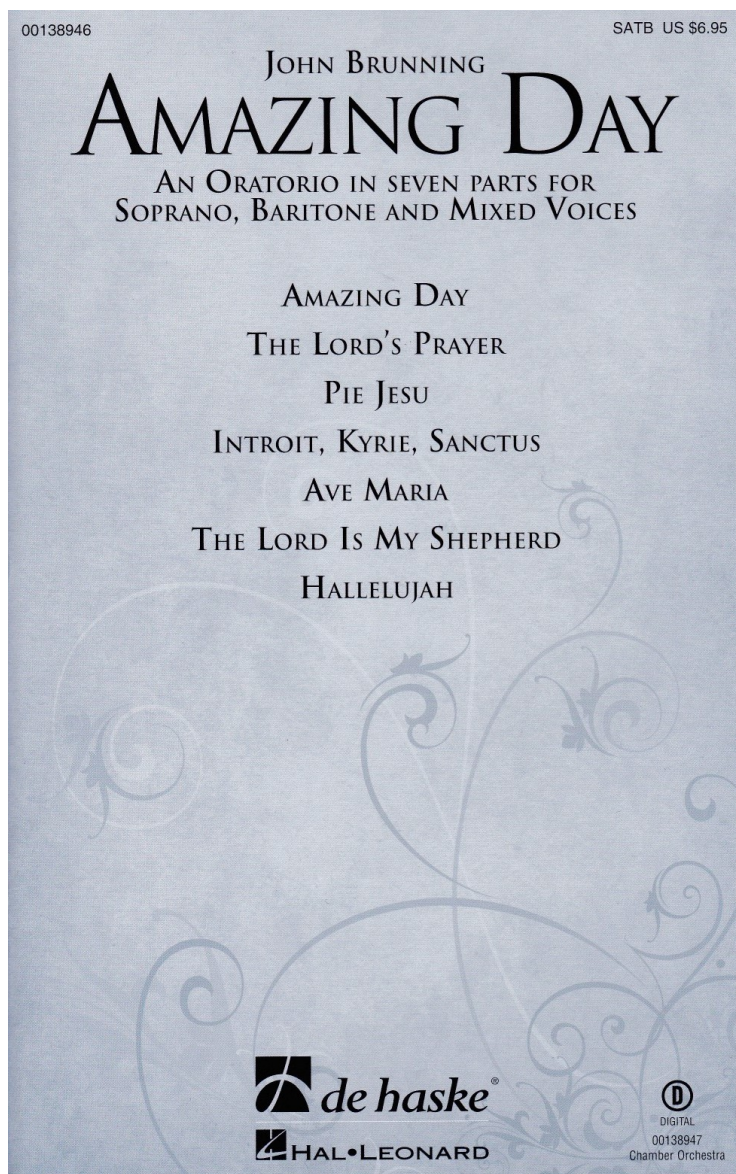
The Community and Youth Music Library [CYML] is a large collection of music sets for use by groups throughout UK. It comprises sets of vocal scores for over 350 major choral works, 700 sets of orchestral parts (including accompaniments for choral works) and more than 1000 wind band sets, as well as opera vocal scores (including Gilbert & Sullivan), and smaller-scale choral works (part-songs, madrigals, anthems etc.). Complete catalogues can be viewed on the CYML web site at www.cymlibrary.org.uk .

CYML is a company limited by guarantee and is also a registered charity. Modest fees are charged for loans per month: - Choral works from £15.00, Part-songs, madrigals, anthems etc. at £8.00, orchestral sets at £40.00, and Wind band sets at £6.00 (Please check the website, e-mail or telephone for full details). CYML is located at Hornsey Library in Haringey, North London. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement, and we can be contacted by e-mail: cymlibrary@gmail.com, telephone: 020 3602 5214, or in writing: addressed to: Community and Youth Music Library, Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, London N8 9JA. CYML is staffed usually on Tuesdays and Fridays by one of our directors, Peter Smith, our part-time music librarian, Ceri Mann and volunteers.

If your choir has choral music it no longer uses or you need storage for, please contact us and we would be happy to discuss adding it to our catalogue. In that way, it will continue to be used. Sets of music withdrawn from CYML stock are available for disposal free of charge apart from costs of delivery – lists of currently available music can be e-mailed on request.

Latest news from CYML: – The library has added over 120 new titles to its stock in the last 2 years. These include Aesop's fables (Chilcott), Out of the ruins (Nyman), Opera choruses (ed. Rutter), The Passing of the Year (Dove), O Magnum mysterium (Lauridsen), Song for Athene (Tavener), I thank you God (Whitacre), Bohemian rhapsody (Queen), Fairytale of New York (Pogues/MacGowan), Chorus for Doris (Stockhausen), Agnus Dei (Penderecki). We have also been able to add extra copies to existing sets including: The armed man (Jenkins), Spanish serenade (Elgar), Messiah – Watkins Shaw (Handel), Christmas Oratorio (Bach) and many others. This has been largely achieved through generous donations from choirs, libraries and private individuals, to all of whom we owe our gratitude. For details of all titles in our catalogue, please visit our website www.cymlibrary.org.uk

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



Brandenburg Choral Festival of London

COME AND SING – AT SEA

The Brandenburg Choral Festival of London is now in its 6th year. Presenting over 100 concerts a year in some of central London's most stunning venues, including St Martin-in-the-Fields, we include choirs from all over the UK. Current details are available at www.brandenburg.org.uk

Next year, we are thrilled to present the inaugural [Brandenburg Cruise](#).

We have teamed up with the prestigious Voyages to Antiquity to create a very special Come and Sing experience culminating in a performance on board the [MV Aegean Odyssey](#), moored in the beautiful Italian city of Ravenna. The trip runs from May 9 to May 22 2016 from Athens to Venice via the Ionian and Adriatic Seas calling in at some wonderful heritage and cultural stops along the way. We will be joining the ship as a discrete group. Our Choral Workshops will be a great addition to the schedule

- ☐ Delivered by Voyages to Antiquity
- ☐ Singing every day
- ☐ Directed by Brandenburg Artistic Director, Bob Porter
- ☐ Bespoke repertoire selected by participants
- ☐ Final concert whilst moored in Ravenna
- ☐ \$100 on-board credit for Brandenburg guests
- ☐ Special Brandenburg social events

You will only be able to take advantage of the Brandenburg elements of the cruise if you book using the code word **BRANDENBURG**

You can see more details at <http://www.brandenburg.org.uk/cruise/>

Any questions - or to go ahead with a booking - please get in touch with me at this, my personal email address bob@brandenburg.org.uk

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

Music Summer Schools 2016

Are you looking for the perfect music summer school?

The Summer Schools Directory www.summer-schools.info 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

The Capital Arts Children's Choir is currently on 'Pledge Music' to raise funds for its CD 'Heroes' for Help For Heroes. One of the exclusive pledges is a recording opportunity for choirs to record at the Abbey Road Studios, London. You may be aware that when hiring the Abbey Road Studios clients have to pay for a day's hire, close to £3,000. It is not possible just to hire for a few hours.

We have an exclusive on Pledge Music for choirs to record for two hours including editing and mixing. The cost will be just £750 including VAT. The choir will be given a CD of the recording at the end of the session.

Kathleen Shanks .. Capital Arts ..Tel: 07885 232414



World Choir Games - Sochi 2016 — Pre/Post Concert Tour to St.Petersburg

Are you going to Sochi next year to participate in the 9th World Choir Games? Then you can combine it with a pre- or post concert tour to St.Petersburg, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Please, contact us at info@oltontravelrussia.com to book your trip!

July 3/17, Sunday

Upon arrival in St.Petersburg you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel for **dinner** and overnight.

July 4/18, Monday

In the morning you will have the **city tour**, during which you will see Nevsky Prospect, Isaac's square with St.Isaac's Cathedral, Bronze Horseman, the Spit of Basil's Island and other famous sights. In the afternoon you will drive to **Peterhof** where you will visit **the Grand palace and Lower park** with its 150 fountains. This day you will have **dinner** in the hotel.

July 4/18, Sunday

After breakfast in the hotel you will have the guided tour of the **Hermitage Museum** where you will see the reception quarters of the Winter Palace and the highlights of Western European art collection. This night you will give a **concert in St. Peter's Lutheran Cathedral** followed by **dinner** in the St.Petersburg restaurant.

July 5/19, Monday

After breakfast in the hotel you will be transferred to the airport.

The price is from 281 USD per person

OLTON Travel Russia

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*I am currently in the process of a protracted house move to **Wales** and this has inevitably caused 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 links, normal service will be resumed.