

Chorister Col Canto Associates Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the November 2017 'Chorister' Newsletter

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0 L T O N T R A V







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.

Music and Life in general

Since the last Newsletter in July life has become even more interesting. I started off attending a concert of music by Eric Whitacre at St David's Hall in Cardiff. This was a great occasion as was the pre-concert talk. Synonymous with Eric's music is his use of social media in his performances. This was never more evident that the final piece of the concert called 'Deep Field'. Before we attended the concert we were advised to download the 'Deep Field' app onto our mobile phones. This is a series of images taken from the Hubble Telescope. We all sat with our phones in hand in a darkened theatre and Eric then brought everybody in at the appropriate place so that the audience was watching exactly the same images as the music was being played by the orchestra. So not only was our sense of hearing being used but also our sense of sight — and the use of mobile phones, instead of a distraction, became part of the performance.

Soon after I joined my colleagues of the Abertillery Male Voice Choir on a trip to France. We had been invited to represent Wales at the InterCeltique Festival 2017 in Lorient. The trip itself was a success but very tiring. We had 5 nights where we performed in the finale of the stadium show with pipers and dancers (thinks Edinburgh Tattoo). The problem was the finale did not start till 12 midnight and on the last night 1 o'clock in the morning. In addition during the week we had a hour procession through Lorient and a number of smaller concerts at smaller venues including the 'Welsh Tent' and a wonderful church. Once the novelty of the big stadium show wore off, which in my case was by the third night then the show became a bit of a chore although we obviously continued to give of our best. The smaller concerts were the most fun and obviously featured the choir in their own right, rather than as part of a larger production. Unfortunately I had to miss the last Stadium show and church concert as I had what I assumed was a chest infection.

So we arrived back in Wales have represented our county (in my case adopted county) and gained plenty of plaudits. The day after we returned I went to A&E to get my chest infection checked out only to be told that I had had a couple of heart attacks!

A day later I had a couple of stents fitted and I am currently going through a cardiac rehab programme. Although it was shock at the time I could have been worse. I could have been stuck in France or worse caused a helicopter visit to Brittany Ferries while at sea.

Pleased to say that I am recovering well.

British Choirs on the Net

Following an audit of British Choirs on the Net, which has taken nearly six months, we have checked websites and email addresses, removed dead links and choirs which no longer seem to exist. We have also in the process found a number of new choirs and therefore we now 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. British Choirs on the Net is only as useful as the information held on it..

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. If you are interested in having a website fro your choir please visit www.choirsites.co.uk

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 Mailing Services

British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 2850 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.

The mailing list is not just for big organizations however. For instance there are over 350 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 349 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.

For details of how the mailing lists is compiled and used please visit www.choirs.org.uk/mailings.html

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, reqest new music and music exchanges, and discuss other choral related issues. There are currently over 1,500 members and membership is by invitation. <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts</u>

We also have a presence on Twitter at <u>www.twitter.com/britishchoirs</u> with over 1,500 followers.

Concertfinder (on line choral concert diary)

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

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).

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 All Saints Chorus, West Ham Nova, Bristol www.choirsites.co.uk

The National Choral Organisation Investing in choral futures



Sing for Pleasure reveals its Young Conducting Scholars for 2017-18 National choral charity Sing for Pleasure is delighted to announce the recipients of scholarship places on its critically acclaimed Young Conductors' Programme for the coming academic year.

After a rigorous selection process, those chosen to benefit from a year's fully funded tuition in choral conducting with the charity are:

- Ben Turner (who is currently studying for a BMus degree at King's College, London),
- Hannah Mears-Young (also studying for a music degree at the University of Glasgow, and choral scholar with the University Chapel Choir),
- Jasmine Batson (who is studying Primary Education with Music at the University of Reading)
- Olivia Shotton (who gained a degree in music from the University of Sheffield this year, and is currently working as a freelance musician).

All four scholars are set to embark on their tuition next month at the charity's training weekend in Bolton; during their 12-month placement they will work towards Sing for Pleasure's Advanced Level accreditation, conducting complex a capella and orchestrally accompanied works, with an endorsement towards the ABRSM Diploma in Choral Conducting should they choose to pursue this option in the future.

Manvinder Rattan, Sing for Pleasure's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, commented: "We are delighted to be helping Ben, Hannah, Jasmine and Olivia kickstart their choral conducting careers through the high-quality learning experience that SfP delivers. We also find that our scholars also give so much back to the organisation; most retain close links with us and are like a breath of fresh air, offering new ideas for the charity's future development with a level of enthusiasm that younger generations possess."

The Young Conductors' Programme was launched in 2013, in line with the charity's mission to invest in choral futures across the country; to date, 21 scholars have been supported in developing a career in the field.

PRESS RELEASE: Messiah 4 Grenfell raises nearly £6K

Entrepreneurial professional musician David Meacock is celebrating the success of his *Messiah 4 Grenfell* having exceeded all expectations, and doubling his previous best for similar events, by raising nearly $\pounds 6,000 - \pounds 5,753$ to be precise – to help survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire get back on their feet via the *Family Action* Charity. The benefit concert took place in Holy Trinity Church, known as the Promers' church as it's just opposite the Royal Albert Hall which hosts the BBC Promenade Concerts.

To paraphrase Churchill, David was the Chairman of the event's Organising Committee consisting of two with one sending permanent apologies! As well as conducting the 260 strong choir and nearly 30 piece orchestra, he relinquished the podium to Malcolm Hicks, who for many years played the organ for the Last Night of the Proms, to also sing the tenor solos. The soprano solos were sung by Wigmore Hall cloak-room girl Milly Forrest, who in the Summer made national media headlines after taking over at short notice to sing there to rave reviews and is currently a postgraduate at the Royal College of Music.

David said afterwards: "With such a massive chorus gathered together, it was a great privilege to have the reliability and comradery of such an enthusiastic orchestra, continuo team, soloists and conducting help from Malcolm. We had a tremendous range of dynamic ranging from the more thoughtful introvert movements to the thunderously exhilarating *Halleluiah Chorus* which must have been heard at South Kensington tube station!!!"

David Holmes CBE, Family Action's Chief Executive said

"We would like to say a huge thank you to David Meacock for choosing Family Action to distribute the money he has raised. These funds will allow us to continue to help people through our Grenfell Tower Grants Service To date we have given 246 grants totalling £318,000 to families and individuals affected by the terrible fire in June. Those grants have met a wide range of needs from replacing items destroyed by the fire such as toys, clothes, furniture and IT equipment to specialist items to enable people to go back to work or to continue their studies. We have also given money to help cover additional travel and child-care costs or to help with large phone bills so that people can keep in touch with relatives. We have also given grants to people who really need a short break away from the area. We will ensure that all of the money raised by David will go to people affected by the fire."

British Choirs on the Net and its mailing service were very pleased to be part of Messiah 4 Grenfell promotion which raised such a fabulous amount of money for such a good cause.

Dear Choral Managers,

IFCM has launched its **3rd IFCM International Competition for Choral Composition**, a competition dedicated to choral compositions a cappella.

The entry fee is only US\$25.00! The prizes are US\$ 5,000 for first, US\$ 2,500 for second and US\$ 1,000 for third. An IFCM Award Certificate and a plaque will also be awarded to the selected composers. Entries must arrive by the <u>online entry form</u> no later than **1st December 2017**.

We would like to ask you to distribute this <u>downloadable flyer</u> among your choral network. Thank you so much for your support!

If flyer does not load please visit <u>http://ifcm.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/</u> IFCM_Composition_Competition_2017.pdf



Celebrating the human voice in all its glory: the London A Cappella Festival returns for its ninth year 24 – 27 January 2018

The London A Cappella Festival 2018 is back, bringing together the best a cappella talent from across the globe.

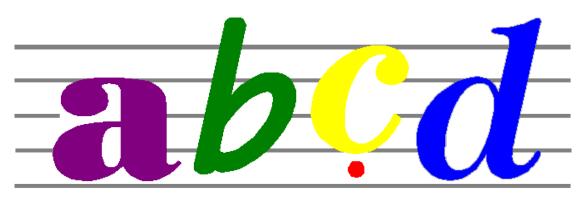
Curated by The Swingles and Ikon Arts Management, the London A Cappella Festival has grown to be one of the country's most-loved and eagerly awaited celebrations of the human voice. Hot on the heels of hit a cappella shows 'Pitch Perfect', 'Sing It: Ultimate A Cappella' and 'Pitch Battle', a cappella is now more popular than ever, and the London A Cappella Festival features a star-studded line up of international headliners and vocal supergroups, for four days jam-packed with headline acts, free showcase performances, talks, interactive pop-ups, workshops led by industry experts, and LACF Kids.

From incredible beatboxing and awe-inspiring throat singing, to sublime Renaissance polyphony and toe-tapping jazz favourites, the London A Cappella Festival is set to showcase the outstanding variety of vocal talent from across the world.

Highlights - Global jazz superstars New York Voices (performance and workshop) - Leading exponents of Renaissance sacred music The Tallis Scholars - Internationally acclaimed Tuvan throat singers Huun-Huur-Tu (performance and workshop) - World Beatbox Champions The Beatbox Collective (performance and workshop) - Award-winning vocal sextet Estonian Voices - All-female powerhouse Musae - Festival co-hosts and favourites The Swingles - Invigorating All Things Vocal Workshop series for singers of all ages and abilities

The festival also sees the return of the hugely popular LACF Kids on Saturday 27 January, bursting with events for the next generation of a cappella singers to enjoy, featuring performances from UK Looping Beatbox Champion OxBox and Voice Festival 2016 Champions The Bristol Suspensions, as well as workshops from British a cappella ensemble Apollo5 and National Youth Choirs of Great Britain's Deputy Music Director Esther Jones.

London A Cappella Festival welcomes the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, the most inspiring organisation for young singers in the UK, as its Festival Partner. NYCGB will give a range of workshops and performances throughout the festival.



INSPIRING CHORAL CONDUCTORS

Herbert Howells at 125 - a celebration across the Humber

Sat 4th Nov 2017 - Sun 12th Nov 2017

Rare performances of choral music by Howells and his contemporaries, a chamber concert, and a choral workshop with Paul Spicer offer something for everyone during this celebration of Herbert Howells' 125th birthday across the Humber. Chamber Concert, 4th November, 7.30pm, Frodingham Parish Hall, Scunthorpe Including music for voice,

Visit <u>https://www.abcd.org.uk/events/345/Herbert+Howells+at+125+-</u> +a+celebration+across+the+Humber

Choral Conducting Workshop with Barnaby Smith

Saturday 11th November 2017

As part of the inaugural Gresham Centre Festival, the VCM Foundation hosts a choral conducting workshop with the artistic director of VOCES8, Barnaby Smith.

abcd members will receive a discounted price on presentation of a discount code - contact our Training Manager on <u>penny.homer@abcd.org.uk</u> for more details!

Visit <u>https://www.abcd.org.uk/events/354/</u> Choral+Conducting+Workshop+with+Barnaby+Smith

For full information, see <u>www.abcd.org.uk/events</u> or contact the **abcd** Training Manager Penny Homer on <u>penny.homer@abcd.org.uk</u>.



18th October 2017

THREE REASONS TO SING: A LONGER, HAPPIER & HEALTHIER LIFE SAYS THE BACH CHOIR IN ITS 142ND SEASON

UK MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADOPT CHOIR SINGING

There is a growing body of evidence which shows that singing as part of a group can have a range of health benefits says The Bach Choir, one of Britain's best.

"The benefits of singing – in particular singing in a choir or group – are plentiful and scientifically proven," says David Hill, Musical Director of The Bach Choir and Principal Conductor of Yale Schola Cantorum.

Nick Stewart, from Oxford Brookes University, who led a recent study into the benefits of singings, says: "Research has already suggested that joining a choir could be a cost-effective way to improve your well-being. Yet we know surprisingly little about how the well-being effects of choral singing are brought about."

Dr Julia Palmer, London-based NHS Consultant Psychiatrist and Bach Choir member, comments: "The social, emotional and physical benefits of communal singing are increasingly well known, with the result that choirs are springing up across mental health services in the UK. A mental health community choir based in Harrow, North West London, has proved incredibly popular; I have sung with it and found it tremendously enjoyable; I remember singing Hello Dolly with gusto! Likewise The Bach Choir's Outreach Programme engages primary school children in singing, and it is heartening to see their enthusiasm and uninhibited enjoyment."

World famous baritone soloist, Roderick Williams, who has performed with The Bach Choir, comments: "Sharing an active musical experience with fellow singers is uplifting in a way that is difficult to describe to anyone unfortunate enough not to have tried it and The Bach Choir is the perfect place to find a particular blend of enthusiasm, passion, discipline and the pursuit of excellence. But, above all, it's huge fun."

Singing in a choir can boost your mental health, a new study has found. Researchers carried out an online survey of people who sang in choirs, sang alone, or played team sports. All three activities yielded high levels of psychological well-being - but choristers stood out as experiencing the greatest benefit.

ITV news anchor, Alastair Stewart OBE, says of the Choir: "The Bach Choir is simply magnificent: constantly attracting new talent and always displaying the beautiful merit of music for practitioners and audiences. One of the finest".



Alistair Stewart ITV

Besides its clear health giving qualities there are other important human issues that centre on singing. Singing in groups is an important human activity with all sorts of benefits says the distinguished philosopher, **Roger Scruton**. Speaking on a recent BBC Radio 4 programme about choirs, he said: "Choral singing is one of the things that defines Europe from the rest of the world. It is unique to Europe. It's not about ethnicity or tribalism but it is about nationality, about this place."



Philosopher Roger Scruton

Research shows that there are physical improvements brought about by singing.

It exercises the lungs, and tones the intercostal muscles and diaphragm; can improve sleep; improves aerobic capacity, which benefits the heart and circulation, and decreases muscle tension; improves posture; can improve mental alertness; opens up sinuses and respiratory tubes; releases pain relieving endorphins; boosts the immune system and helps fight disease; and can help reduce anger, depression, and anxiety.

Emotional improvements that singing fosters:

Increases self-esteem and confidence; increases feelings of wellbeing; enhances mood; reduces stress; is spiritually uplifting; increases positive feelings; encourages creativity; can be energising; evokes positive emotions; and increases understanding and empathy between cultures.

Social benefits of singing:

Facilitates meeting new people; brings people together and encourages a sense of community; offers a forum for fun and laughter; provides support; provides a safe environment to learn new skills.

Choir singing, previously best known in church is becoming increasingly popular, boosted by TV programmes such as Gareth Malone's The Choir which follows the choirmaster.

While the feel-good effects of singing have long been recognised, there is growing evidence that it can have a positive impact on a range of physical and psychological conditions, leading to campaigns for singing on prescription.

In a number of studies experts claimed that joining a choir could improve symptoms of Parkinson's, depression and lung disease.

Swedish research has suggested that singing not only increases oxygen levels in the blood but triggers the release of "happy" hormones such as oxytocin, which is thought to help lower stress levels and blood pressure.

Previous studies have found that a group of singers actually synchronise their heartbeats. Further research needs to be carried out to establish why singing in a group has such powerful effect. At the moment it is speculative, but it could be that singing in a group gives us something that we have lost as a society.

For more information please contact Julian Roup of The Bach Choir on 07970 563958 or email pr@thebachchoir.org.uk

The Bach Choir Outreach programme:

The Choir's pioneering Outreach programme has, for the past seven years, focused on providing opportunities for children who do not have immediate access to musical education. The Choir works closely with the Tri-borough Music Hub in order to ascertain which schools would be best suited. Through workshops, rehearsals, and performances, The Bach Choir's Outreach Programme offers the benefits of singing to over 700 participants.

New Choral Music from Boosey & Hawkes: Jenkins, Arnesen and more

Symphonic Adiemus: Adiemus for SATB

On 29 September, Decca releases Sir Karl Jenkins Symphonic Adiemus. After many requests from choirs across the globe, *Symphonic Adiemus* brings together some of the most iconic moments from the *Adiemus* series in a new, enriched sound transforming the works from female vocalists and ensemble to **full SATB choir and orchestra for the first time**. CDs (including a limited edition of signed copies) are now available for pre-order: <u>https://lnk.to/KJSAPR</u> The complete vocal score and individual movement choral leaflets are now available for pre-order: <u>http://tinyurl.com/ydxoogu4</u>

Sir Karl will perform the work in concerts in London, Birmingham and Manchester in the coming months: a very limited number of tickets are available at http://tinyurl.com/yce36ald

• A reduced-orchestra version is in preparation and will be available for performance in early 2018

B&H signs Kim André Arnesen

Norwegian choral composer Kim André Arnesens music has already found popularity with choirs around the world and with audiences on TV and on youtube, where many of his works have had hundreds of thousands of views.

Boosey & Hawkes first release is *My Flame the Song*, click on audio visual here <u>http://tinyurl.com/y8j2qcnl</u> to listen. Further releases will follow in the coming months, including his popular Flight Song <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUvE6i1l2do</u>.

Choral sampler

Boosey & Hawkes new Contemporary Choral Series CD sampler is now ready. It features 73 audio clips of works by 19 composers, including recent releases from James MacMillan, Karl Jenkins, Will Todd, Henryk Górecki and more. The sampler can be explored online or requested at www.boosey.com/CCSsampler

If you have any queries about any of our choral music, we are always happy to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch by replying to Emma Kerr <emma.kerr@boosey.com>

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 27 January 2018

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity that promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD).

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 is **The power of words**. Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the state, can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme for HMD 2018 explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day.

For HMD 2018, HMDT has produced a set of song sheets which explores music from groups targeted during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides which followed in Cambodia and Rwanda. Each song sheet provides music and lyrics as well as some background information about the genocide. This is an exciting opportunity for your choir or music group to learn music from a different culture and bring communities together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2018. Visit HMDT's website to download the song sheets: hmd.org.uk/songs



2018 Courses

Finding your Voice in English Folk Song

Mon 29 January - Thu 1 February Tutor: Hazel Askew

There are a wealth of traditional English folk songs, from lyrical tales of love and loss to ancient dark ballads, jolly tales of sailors and pirates to fantastical tales of the supernatural! Spend the course finding your inner folk singer and exploring stylistic techniques, listening to archive recordings of traditional singers and creating your own vocal harmonies. Workshops will be taught as a class with lots of opportunity for working in smaller groups and learning useful tools for solo singing, and we'll be working alongside the Building a Folk Band course so there will be the chance for collaboration. No previous experience of singing folk songs is required and songs will be learnt by ear with texts provided. The fee also includes a ticket to Laurel Swift and Hazel Askew's concert on Tuesday 30 January. http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=1944

Madsongs and Particles

Fri 9 - Sun 11 March Tutor: Peter Broadbent

We are delighted to welcome back Peter Broadbent for another choral weekend. This year we will enjoy madrigals from the Renaissance by Morley, Tomkins and Monteverdi and part-songs and opera choruses by Mozart, Brahms, Verdi, Sullivan and Rutter. A weekend of love, life and humour not to be missed!

http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=1973

The Benslow Baroque Opera: Rameau's Les Indes Galantes

Mon 9 - Sun 15 April Tutors: Dionysios Kyropoulos, Julian Perkins, Judy Tarling, Henrik Persson, Andrew Radley

Our Baroque Opera Project returns in 2018 with Rameau's Les Indes Galantes. We are delighted to welcome back Dionysios Kyropoulos, a specialist in historical acting and Baroque opera, for this production, which will feature scenes from this colourful and vibrant work (complete with an earthquake and volcanic eruption!). Our team of tutors is led by the musical duo of Julian Perkins and Judy Tarling, with Henrik Persson providing the all-important continuo tuition, and Andrew Radley, our vocal coach. We are seeking competent Baroque players with period instruments at A=415 (flutes, oboes, bassoons, trumpet, strings and continuo) and choral singers who are able to learn their lines before the course, and in early 2018 we will be auditioning singers – who must be of a professional standard – for the solo roles. The course begins at 4pm on the Monday and will culminate with a semi-staged performance in French in front of a public audience on the evening of Saturday 14 April. http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=1983



2018 Courses

A Chance to Sing: The Fabulous Gershwins

Fri 18 - Sun 20 May Tutor: Roger Moon

Once again Roger Moon will lead from the piano an enjoyable weekend of group singing. Two brothers as unlike as potatoes and tomatoes, who together and separately were among the very greatest of that great era of songwriting talent. One flamboyant, one studious; one working to a good age after the other's tragic early death. No need to be able to read music, although experienced singers have enjoyed the weekend as do beginners and returners: but if you expect a very serious course you might find more of a sing-song! As always, the only prerequisite is a sense of humour. One session will cover other music for a change, and may include participants' requests if made in advance. http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2008

Choral Weekend with Jonathan Willcocks

Fri 13 - Sun 15 July Tutor: Jonathan Willcocks

We are delighted to welcome distinguished conductor and composer Jonathan Willlcocks to direct this course, which will focus on a range of European sacred choral music, including works by Bruckner, Fauré, Mozart and Rachmaninov, together with Jonathan's own choral music. Please note that you must already have reasonable experience of choral singing to get the most from this course, which is not for beginners.

http://www.benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2049