



Chorister Col Canto Associates twitter @britishchoirs

Welcome to the October 2016 'Chorister' Newsletter

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

Exeter Philharmonic Choir was founded in the autumn of 1846 (they have a 1906 publication celebrating its diamond jubilee), and they imagine this must make it one of the longest established choirs in the country, though they know it is not the oldest. EPC is about to embark on its 170th Season, and they would very much like to know how many other still-existing choirs are older than 1846. If you choir was founded before 1846 please email Raymond Calcraft, EPC Director of Music (1988-2003) email: rpcalcrafft@gmail.com

An interesting issue that has come up is whether Choirs who are registered charities themselves can raised money for other charities. This question has come about because on occasions I send out mailings to choirs on behalf of charities such as the Heart Foundation and Water Aid. I have been advised by a choir, that is a registered charity, that it cannot raise money for another charity.

Having spoken to my colleagues at Making Music I can confirm this is correct. If you are a charity, you are supposed to only work towards your charitable objectives – so if you fundraise for someone else, does that fulfil your charitable objective of education or public enjoyment of music (or whatever they are – go and check!)? If you're raising funds for a cancer charity, that is unlikely to be featured in your charitable objectives.

The way to get around that is that the money should not go through your accounts – if you shake a sealed bucket that Cancer Research have given you and give it straight to them after the concert, then that money is not in your charity's account. What you should not do is sell all the tickets, bank the money and then pass that money to another charity with completely different objectives – unless that is specified in your own charitable objectives, which, generally speaking, it isn't.

The other way of supporting other charities is by donating your time for free – i.e. performing at their events or fundraisers etc.

Phillip Tolley

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



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

One of the most successful sections of British Choirs on the Net is the vacancies page. We have been particularly successful at placing new Musical Directors candidates as the following endorsements shows:

Thank you very much for posting our role (Lemon Tuesday MD, Rickmansworth). We received some great candidates from Choirs on the Net and are in the process of appointing, so please could you take down the advert?

We would certainly recommend you - and use your services again.

*regards
Helen Webb
Chair - Lemon Tuesday Female Choir.*

Concertfinder & British Choirs on the Net

Concertfinder is a free online choral 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. 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. So far during 2016 we have sent out mailings for the Addison Singers, Temple Music Foundation, Wimbledon Choral Society, Hal Leonards, St Martin in the Fields, LEPR, and Gareth Malone.

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 mailing to London Choirs on behalf of other London Choirs.

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 1,350 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.

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
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire
The Thames Head Singers, Gloucestershire
Nova, Bristol

www.choirsites.co.uk

New Subscription Advertiser



MontyQ

elegant
dresses
for
choirs

www.montyqfashion.com

We are pleased to welcome MontyQfashion as a subscription advertiser to British Choirs on the Net. MontyQfashion, based in Swansea, specializes in sophisticated ladies fashion with an emphasis on formal and special occasion maxi dresses which aim to accentuate and celebrate the beauty and sensuality of the female figure. In the past they have supplied various choirs with their designs including Military Wives Choir, Black Sheep Harmony, A Choired, The Chorus of Opera Cork and Cantus Amici Nottingham.

www.montyqfashion.com

The Summer Schools Directory 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. So why not get searching? <http://www.summer-schools.info/music/>



Northern Choir Conducting Competition, June 6th – 9th 2017 in Svendborg, Fyn, Denmark

The 2nd north European competition (the first was in June 2014) for young classical choir conductors, born in 1980 or later, takes place in Svendborg, Fyn, Denmark during 6th – 9th of June 2017.

The competition consists of 3 rounds with 1) a small concert performance with a semi-professional choir (about 35 members), 2) a rehearsing situation (corresponding to 3rd or 4th rehearsal, with an amateur choir (around 45 members)), 3) a concert performance with a top professional chamber ensemble from the Danish Broadcasting (18 members) and 4) a final round with rehearsal and concert with the chamber ensemble, including a new composed Danish work (NOT with danish text!).

The repertoire: from late renaissance to contemporary choir music, including Scandinavian, British and German works.

Prizes: First prize: 3000 euro

Second prize: 2000 euro

Third prize: 1000 euro

+ possibilities for the finalists for further concerts in DK/ Scandinavia.

15 participants will be selected in the light of original sound-/video recordings by an international jury, consisting of 5 members (3 danish and 2 international choir conductors).

The competition is limited to participants from Scandinavia, incl. Greenland and the Faroe Islands, UK, Ireland, Northern Germany, incl. Berlin, and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Date for application: 15th of January 2017.

Final accept for participation: primo March 2017, where the exact repertoire also will be announced.

Further information will follow from medio September 2016

Contact: Povl Balslev (musikfidus@gmail.com) (head of the Jury and SyngSydfyn Festival)
Inger Allan (ingerallan@gmail.com) (head of Administration and SyngSydfyn Festiv.)

Please have a look at www.syngsydfyn.dk and our Facebook profile

Svendborg, July 14th 2016

Inger Allan



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www.facebook.dk/syngsydfyn

Arr./org.: SyngSydfyn Festival 2017, Sankt Jørgens Vej 67, 5700 Svendborg, Denmark •
www.syngsydfyn.dk

Winning Composer is “burning bright” for Cornwall’s International Choral Festival



Winning Composer Clive Smith flanked by Adjudicator Dr Alan Bullard, Festival President Col. Edward Bolitho and the Celtic Male Ensemble - photo Phil Monkton.

William Blake’s famous poem “The Tyger” provided the inspiration for the winning piece of new music among dozens of UK entries for Cornwall’s 2017 International Male Choral Festival.

The biennial Festival’s hotly-contested Composers’ Competition came to its finale at Truro and Penwith College on Saturday (September 24) with plaudits for Clive Smith of South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, and a rousing first performance of his new work by Alastair Taylor’s “Celtic Male Ensemble”.

Clive, a first-time entrant of the Cornish competition, is a multi-award-winning musician, musical director and composer who studied Piano and Composition at the Royal College of Music. He has worked with both children’s and adult choirs at home and abroad and is currently the regular Musical Director of Grammaticus and The Swift Singers.

“It’s been wonderful to see the growing reputation of the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival and now to be part of this prestigious event is a tremendous honour,” Clive said. “The highlight of 2016 for me in winning this competition is hearing my work performed live for the very first time and here, in Truro.”

Clive was presented with the £1000 first prize and the Harold & Thelma Miller Trophy by Dr Roy Wales, the founding Festival Director and now Vice-President in a ceremony hosted by Festival President and Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, Col. Edward Bolitho OBE.

The Composers’ event, ahead of the Festival which runs from 27 April to May 1 2017, was open to all contenders living and resident in the UK with an aim to encourage talent and seek out top original works for male choirs of any age or background.

The number and high quality of entries gave adjudicator and renowned composer, Dr Alan Bullard, a hard job with this year’s Competition and as well as Clive Smith’s winning entry he awarded another three as Highly Commended.

“The standard was excellent and it was close run thing between a number of the compositions,” he said, “but Clive Smith has given The Tyger a rhythmic and colourful setting, with effective contrast. It won’t be easy to sing or play but there’s no doubt that a confident performance of this song will raise the roof!”

The 2017 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival will see around 60 choirs converging on Cornwall, with 2000 singers of all ages and nationalities including Australians and Americans, Russians and Europeans, Welsh, Scottish, English and Cornish.

Festival Director Rob Elliott said, "Our list of choirs is now complete and the great news is that we've got many more of the larger choirs coming in 2017 than we've ever had before, and also many more choirs who are joining our Festival for the first time. It's all very exciting and we can't wait to welcome them all to this wonderful part of the world."

The choirs will be bringing their own cultures and songs to entertain an estimated 45,000 people in theatres, churches, gardens, and castles from Bude to Land's End and Porthleven to Saltash.

For more information on the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival, or for anyone wishing to offer support, visit <http://www.cimcf.uk> or contact Rob Elliott - rob@cimcf.uk



Winning composer Clive Smith with Alastair Taylor, far right, and the Celtic Male Ensemble – photo Phil Monkton

ENDS

Photographs:- all by Phil Monkton and free to use - name check appreciated.



WILL YOU SING YOUR HEART OUT?

What does singing give you? Fun, friendship, freedom? And that's just the start. Singing is powerful stuff, that's for sure.

But now your singing could give even more. Because you and your choir could transform the lives of vulnerable and isolated older people – by putting on a *Sing Your Heart Out* event, in aid of Royal Voluntary Service. You don't have to do anything different. You just have to do what you love best – sing!

You might decide to sing for your other colleagues as they come into work in the morning or at lunchtime, and hold a collection. You might have a concert coming up that could raise funds for Royal Voluntary Service. Or you might be looking for the perfect excuse to put on a performance and show the world how much you love to sing – well here it is! And we'll send you a *Sing Your Heart Out* fundraising kit to make it all happen.

We need your singing power because a million older people in the UK haven't spoken to anyone in a month – not friends, not family, not even neighbours. Royal Voluntary Service exists to make older people's lives better by giving them someone to talk to, the chance to go out into the community or a hot meal.

Your work singing group or choir brings people together and gives them something to look forward to. Now your choir can do all these things for isolated older people, and have loads of fun doing it. All you need to do is choose your favourite songs, sing them at the top of your voices and raise money – think raffles, tickets, collections, refreshments. Please say you will!

Our partner Music in Offices (musicinoffices.co.uk) are also offering interested companies a one off 60 minute workshop open to as many people as possible and at a special discounted rate of £150, please contact tessa@musicinoffices.com to find out more

You can sign up now at singyourheartout.org.uk Or, if you'd simply like to know more, please email me jessica@thevirtualmarketer.org.uk or phone me on 07745 683723.

Here's to singing loud and proud and transforming lives!

Festival EUROPA CANTAT XX
27.07 - 05.08.2018 in Tallinn, Estonia

EUROPA CANTAT is an international choir festival that brings together more than 3000 singers, conductors, composers and choral managers coming from Europe and beyond for 10 days of singing delight. EUROPA CANTAT is really a festival for everyone!

The festival offers you the chance to

- attend different workshops for choirs and singers, with a duration of 4 to 8 days
- sing and hear all vocal genres: classical, folk, jazz, musical, opera and vocal pop
- discover rare jewels of choral music
- work together with leading choral conductors
- sing at beginner's, average or advanced level
- join the special conductors' or composers' program
- join our special "training-on-the-job" program for young managers, the Youth Event Management Programme YEMP
- take part in the daily 'Open Singing' with all participants and visitors
- join a workshop while your children are entertained
- discover the unique cultural heritage of Tallinn and Estonia
- get to know other choirs and singers from many different countries!

The Conductors' and Composers' Program offers warm-ups, seminars, reading sessions, workshops, lectures, round-table discussions and composers' showcase.

Open Singing is a singing event where EVERYBODY is invited to sing. The repertoire is international, in different styles and languages.

As a side-program, we welcome everybody to visit our MUSIC EXPO, where publishers, international festival organisers and music managers from all over the world invite you to see their products and to become familiar with the services they offer.

The programme of the festival should be published in June 2017. Sign up for our newsletter to get the latest updates – www.ectallinn2018.ee!



Club Europe Concert Tours is the UK's leading choir tour operator, creating wonderful tailor-made choir tours to destinations across UK, Europe and beyond. All our tours combine the chance to perform in wonderful venues with a fun-packed cultural excursion programme. All our music team are musicians themselves and love to suggest suitable destinations and offer friendly support to choir directors in the planning of their tour.

- Excellent value tailor-made choir tours to a wide range of destinations
- Support and advice from a very experienced, musically knowledgeable music team
- Amazing and unique choice of performing venues
- Great audiences thanks to our comprehensive pre-tour publicity
- Unrivalled knowledge and network of contacts in venues, excursions and hotels across the world

We pride ourselves on our personal, dedicated approach and would love to help you plan your choir's next tour.

Call our friendly music team on Freephone 0800 496 4996 or email us at travel@club-europe.co.uk.

Concours du 46^{ème} Florilège Vocal de Tours

Le programme général, le bulletin d'inscription et le règlement du concours 2017 peuvent être consultés et téléchargés sur le site Internet du *Florilège vocal de Tours*.

Les inscriptions au Concours International de chant choral doivent être adressées par lettre recommandée au plus tard **le 12 novembre 2016** (cachet de la poste faisant foi).

[Accès au site Internet](#)

Competitions of the 46th *Florilège Vocal de Tours* (France)

The outline programme, the entry form and the competition rules 2017 can be consulted and downloaded on the website of the *Florilège vocal de Tours*.

Entries for the International Choral Music Competition should be sent by registered letter **by November 12th, 2016** at the latest (the postmark will be accepted as valid).

[Access to the Website](#)



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Calling all Singers! Be part of an exciting new performing opportunity in London

Award-winning choir composer/director Helen Yeomans is bringing her acclaimed show One World to London in 2018 and invites singers to audition to join the One World Choir. This theatrically-inspired musical show - a tapestry of original music, spoken word and percussion - focuses on the crossroads at which we presently stand as a human race. If it feels like we're reaching the tipping point then this show will replace fear with hope for a better future. Powerful and moving, One World has been debuted in the South West to critical acclaim:

One World is an original production from Helen Yeomans, incorporating original songs and arrangements, spoken word, choreography and percussion. With artistic input from Catherine Wilcox (choreographer with Glorious Chorus) this is a beautifully crafted theatrically-inspired musical show which has left audiences on their feet. The theme for the programme centres on the idea of imminent human evolutionary change anticipated by several ancient cultures around the world. The show tracks some of the key milestones of the last 2,000 years, including industrialization, colonialism and the degradation of the natural world, inviting the audience to reflect on both the past and the future. The production is designed to be profoundly moving, ultimately leaving the audience with a sense of hope and positivity for the future.

"The concert on Saturday was one of the most moving musical events I've ever experienced." Anne Ridgely, Amnesty International

"It broke my heart open ! It woke me up to my own sense of purpose and shifted a gear." Susannah Uren

Auditions will be held in spring/summer 2017 and rehearsals commence in September'17. If you feel passionate about the themes in One World and are a confident singer/performer then this is a perfect artistic opportunity.

For all information, watch video highlights of the show and register to be part of the One World choir visit <http://www.helenyeomans.co.uk/one-world>



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

2016/17 scholars confirmed for Sing for Pleasure's Young Conductors Programme

National choral charity Sing for Pleasure has announced the names of those awarded scholarships for its acclaimed Young Conductors Programme this year. They are: Bethan Williams, Jennifer Sterling, Roland Mander and Timothy Coleman.

Under the guidance of Manvinder Rattan, the charity's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, the scholars will now embark on a full year's tuition, comprising attendance at three weekend courses interspersed with personalised learning and support, which culminates in a highly immersive week of training in August 2017 at the Sing for Pleasure Summer School, held at Keele University in Staffordshire. During the year, they will be striving to attain Advanced level in the charity's graded conducting courses; at this level, they can expect to master conducting complex *a capella* and orchestrally accompanied works. The Advanced course at Summer School level also qualifies participants to take the LRSM Diploma in Choral Conducting.

Manvinder Rattan commented: "Based on past experience, our Young Conductors Programme really can provide a launchpad for greater opportunities in the last twelve months alone, two of our past scholars, Jack Apperley and Tomos Watkins, have been offered places on prestigious Masters in Choral Conducting degree courses, and many alumni are reaping the benefits of our training in their chosen career paths. We're delighted to be working with this year's cohort, and guiding them to help shape the nation's choral future."

Bethan Williams is a University of York Music graduate, now working in London as a professional soprano and conductor. She sings with various ensembles and also performs as soloist for choirs across the UK, whilst running her community choir in Kingston.

Jennifer Sterling was a chorister at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, attending the specialist music school in earlier years before gaining a music scholarship at George Watson's College. She also obtained a degree in music at The University of York before returning to Edinburgh where she now works as a freelance musician, performing regularly and teaching a number of individuals, singing groups and choirs.

Roland Mander studied as a pianist at the University of Huddersfield, though he has also been singing in choirs for as long as he can remember. Combining both of these aspects as an accompanist quickly developed into taking occasional rehearsals, and he now works with a diverse range of groups, where he shares his passion for choral music with others.

Timothy Coleman hails from Aberdeen and, having originally studied PPE at Merton College, Oxford, he is now a freelance tenor and conductor based in the city. He has previously sung with the Choir of New College, Oxford, and has just finished a year working as one of the National Youth Choir's Fellows.