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Welcome to the September 2013 '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.

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

Composers marking anniversaries in 2014 include Robert Fayrfax (born 1464), CPE Bach (born 1714), Richard Strauss (born 1864) and William Lloyd Webber (born 1914). Also Pietro Locatelli (died 1764), Jean-Philippe Rameau (died 1764), Giacomo Meyerbeer (died 1864) and George Dyson (died 1964). Try to include them in your concert programming if possible.

British Choirs on the Net *"..as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know." Donald Rumsfeld*

British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 10 years and some of the 3,290 choir details on the site are also 10 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.

Until these changes become known to us they remain unknown unknowns, once they are known to us then we can change the details on the website so that these now-known knowns, can be made known to our readers and subscribers. If you know what is unknown to us please email us so that we can know what you know and make it known to others— thanks

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

Choirs in America and Ozchoirs

Building on the success of British Choirs on the Net I am now looking to expand the remit of Choral Guardianship and Choral education by building websites to cover choirs in America and Australia. These sites are not designed to compete with existing national choral websites but to supplement them, in the same way as British Choirs on the Net supplements the National Association of Choirs, Gerontius.net and Making Music in the UK. These sites, which are in the process of being populated can be found at www.choirsinamerica.org and www.ozchoirs.org To add your choirs to either of these listings please email philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk You can also follow us on Twitter [@choirsinamerica](https://twitter.com/choirsinamerica) and [@ozchoirs](https://twitter.com/ozchoirs)

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

Balsham Singers, Cambridge
Clarkson Singers, Wisbech
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire
The Thames Head Singers, Gloucestershire
www.choirsites.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 2600 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. These mailing addresses are collected whenever you ask for your choir to be listed or may be collected from other registers provided by the National Association of Choirs and ABCD.

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

It is understood that some of the mailings may not be of interest to all the choirs, particularly if you are not a choir that tours or takes part in competitions, but I hope over the course of the year you will find something useful in the mailings. During 2012 mailings were sent out on behalf of choir tour companies, Disney, Isle of Man, Cork and Kenmare Choral Festivals, BBC Singers, The Sixteen, Eric Whitacre and Australian Voices, to name a few.

The mailing list is not just for big organizations however. 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.

WeddingSingers This is a site which lists soloists, choirs, barbershop and gospel groups who are looking for work performing at weddings www.weddingsingers.org.uk

VocalBroker This is a site which lists vocal soloists seeking work with Choral Societies and Choruses on the Oratorio or concert platform. It is not an agency and the Societies negotiate directly with singers with Vocalbroker taking no commission. They are all experienced singers and choral societies, and choruses are asked to consider these singers when selecting voices for concerts.
www.vocalbroker.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum This is a new 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. There are currently 267 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 1100 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 small website associated with Colcanto Associates. This has now become a facebook group. By moving it from a static website to a facebook group we hope it will be used by a wider audience.

The group was created to help choristers find previous friends who they used to sing with but have now lost contact. It is also used to help find information about defunct choirs and help people find relatives who may have sung with these choirs. It is not designed as a choral dating agency but if that happens - congratulations! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/157147511132581/?fref=ts>

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

The Hermitage Ensemble of St Petersburg 2014 UK Tour - seeking concert venues

The Hermitage Ensemble, one of Petersburg's finest choral groups, tour the UK every year giving concerts mainly in churches. Whilst they normally give concerts in cathedrals and large churches they often sing in village churches because they love performing in intimate, atmospheric spaces. So even if your largest church can seat only a small number of people please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Ensemble is a professional a cappella group of five male singers with a countertenor and two of the richest bass voices for which Russian choral music is justly famous. They sing music to suit all tastes, including sacred music and Russian folk songs. As you will see from the singers' biographies in the attached leaflet, when they are not touring the world they sing in St Petersburg's finest cathedrals and concert venues : http://hermitage.seenworks.com/Hermitage_2014UK.pdf

All concerts the Ensemble gave on their 2013 UK tour were sold out.

The Ensemble has several vacant dates next April and May and would be delighted to consider giving a concert for you. Their performance fee would be negotiable according to the seating capacity of your church and the number of people who attend the concert. If you would like one of the churches in your benefice to host a fundraising concert by a Russian Orthodox choral group during spring 2014, please feel welcome to contact us for more information

If you would like to talk to a person here in England who has organised ten Hermitage Ensemble concerts for his local churches, please contact Peter Lewis: 01823 451162 or email onthequantocks@yahoo.co.uk (Broomfield parish church, Quantock Hills. West Somerset).

Sinfini Music –Choral Spotlight

Hello,

I'm writing from Sinfini Music, the new online magazine for all classical music fans. I wanted to let you know that we've recently published our Spotlight: Choral which is packed with everything you need to inspire your choir. <http://sinfinimusic.com/uk/features/spotlights/choral/>

With a captivating performance from star vocal ensemble Stile Antico, stirring manifestos from the leading lights in choral including Eric Whitacre and Gareth Malone, plus useful guides and playlists, our Spotlight is guaranteed to inject a shot of passion and boost your choir's standards. And in case you're looking to recruit new members to your choir, we've even got a Wallchart highlighting the health benefits of singing!

Finally, start warming up your vocal chords and please do pass this on to anyone who already loves to sing or is interested in getting started.

Many thanks.

Best regards
The team at Sinfini Music

The Sixteen's Choral Pilgrimage 2013

In 2013 The Sixteen will present its most far-reaching Choral Pilgrimage tour yet, encompassing 35 concerts across the UK and Ireland. The tour, entitled The Queen of Heaven, will see Harry Christophers CBE and his choir perform music in churches and cathedrals for which it was written.

An unmissable new version of Allegri's Miserere is one highlight of this year's programme, which also features stunning music by the 'Prince of Music' Palestrina, as well another brilliant yet contrasting setting of the Miserere by James Macmillan.

Conductor Harry Christophers says: 'For our 13th Choral Pilgrimage, I have decided to look at the music of three composers who, although separated by centuries, are unique in their devotion to the Church. We really do have a wealth of simply glorious music for you which I have no doubt will enrich all our lives'.

Ticket prices range from £10 - £40. Most concerts can be booked online at www.ncem.co.uk. Alternatively call 01904 651485 to book, or for more information visit www.thesixteen.com

The Boyan Ensemble of Kiev Tour 2013

On their first visit to Britain in 1992, the Boyan Ensemble was hailed "A Musical Sensation". The Press reported an ecstatic audience response that remains undiminished, and resulted in a demand for the choir's return each year – in 2013, we celebrate their 21st concert tour of Great Britain.

Arriving from Poland directly after a performance of Orthodox Liturgy for the Włodawa Festival of Three Cultures, Boyan Ensemble looks forward to greeting its fans with a thrilling showcase of sacred and secular works displaying the virtuosity *capella* singing for which it is renowned.

Boyan's repertoire embraces Ukrainian, Russian, Georgian, Bulgarian, other Slavonic and Western-European sacred and classical music, including vocal-symphonic works, operatic choruses, medieval chants, the renowned chants of the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves and a vast array of traditional folk songs

Most concerts can be booked online at <http://www.vocalclassics.co.uk/boyan/tour2013.htm>

Concert details for both tours can also be found at www.concertfinder.co.uk

Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD) Auction 2013 is now open.

Treat yourselves and get a musical bargain with *abcd's AUCTION 2013!* A host of wonderful resources at less than normal cost. Bid to:

Commission your very own new piece from a leading composer

Buy a workshop from one of a team of the UK's best choral educators

Get a special deal on sheet music and other resources

Win a cut-price holiday

Just a few highlights include commissions from Cecilia McDowall, Will Todd and Douglas Coombes, children's books from BaBa Productions and a unique specially produced conductor's score of Britten's *War Requiem*.

Why not join up with other choirs to spread the cost of an item? If you would like to join with another choir to commission a new work, get in touch with the office, who will put you in touch with other interested choirs.

Help *abcd* raise money towards its training programme by bidding for a bargain! The Auction is now open and will close on New Years Eve 2013. [Click here](#) to see all the Promises and make your bid.



How much would it cost for your choir to embark on a European concert tour?

Wouldn't it be good to know the answer?

It's simple...make an enquiry, we'll provide you with a tailor-made quotation and you'll be prepared to launch your 2014 concert tour!

With a host of European destinations to choose from, along with venues to suit a variety of repertoire styles, we'll work with you to create a tailor-made itinerary that meets both the performance and leisure objectives of your group.

You'll find over 20 destinations featured on our website www.rayburntours.com along with venues, excursions and accommodation centres to inspire your performance travel dreams.

We are ABTA bonded and are holders of an ATOL license. You can remain confident that your choir are travelling in safe hands.

It's always good to see what other groups have to say about their experience of travelling with Rayburn Tours; Ruth Kaufman from London Forest Choir shares her thoughts following their recent concert tour of the Rhineland.

"It gave us everything we were looking for - good excursions, good food, good concert venues, lovely audiences, and a great opportunity for the choir to come together, both socially and musically."

Want to hear more about the experiences of other groups? You might like to read about [Bracknell Choral Society's](#) recent tour of Belgium, and how it brought their 81 members together through a series of performances they will never forget! This was certainly a trip that surpassed their expectations...

Don't just think about it - now's the time to find out how easy it could be to make your choir's 2014/2015 performance dreams a reality!

Visit www.rayburntours.com, make an [online enquiry](#), email info@rayburntours.com or call 01332 347828 to speak to one of our specialist concert tour consultants.