



Sing in Italy

A CHORAL WORKSHOP FOR YOUR CHOIR

In the beautiful Camonica Valley, Brescia, Lombardy

You choose your length of stay

Rehearse and sing with local choirs.
Workshop programme tailored to your choir's requirements.

Budget flights to Bergamo (Orio al Serio)
or British Airways flights to Verona

Comfortable retreat-house accommodation,
all ensuite. Full board or half board

No single room supplements

Prices on application

Details from: Choirs Beyond Dover
Email: retreats@dircon.co.uk



Lake Garda, lying to the west of Verona, is well known to British visitors to Italy. Less well known is Lake Iseo, lying to the north of the city of Brescia. North of Lake Iseo is the beautiful Camonica Valley, declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO because of the unique collections of prehistoric rock inscriptions. The mountain scenery here recalls "The Sound of Music" and every small town has its own choir.

Excursions can include the grandiose county town of Brescia, with its two cathedrals, great Basilica complex of Santa Giulia, fine squares, Museums and Music Conservatory; Darfo Boario Terme, a small town famous for its spa and beautiful gardens; Pisogne, on the banks of Lake Iseo, with its famous church of Santa Maria della Neve, covered with frescoes by the local artist Romanino.

Our base for our choral workshops is the well-appointed Eremo dei Santi Pietro e Paolo, a retreat house of the diocese of Brescia. Situated in the hills of Bienno, a small town always featuring in the list of the most beautiful small towns of Italy, the house is equipped with lecture rooms and Conference hall (with audio-visual equipment), chapel, dining room, lift, bar and two cloisters.

Anthony Weaver, the Managing Director of Choirs Beyond Dover, was born in Nuneaton, Warwickshire in 1947. After reading modern languages at Cambridge and teaching French and Spanish for some years, he moved into tourism and from 1995 has run Retreats Beyond Dover, organising retreat holidays for British groups in Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Malta/Gozo and the Czech Republic.

In 2012 he joined the Gwalia Welsh Male Voice Choir, based at the London Welsh Centre, and sings baritone. In 2013 he was invited to attend the Festival of Lombardy Choirs in Breno, Camonica Valley and, once back in London, twinned the local Italian choir, Voci dalla Rocca, with the Gwalia in London. This twinning was celebrated by a successful Gwalia trip to Italy and a return visit to London by Voci dalla Rocca.

In 2016 he ran a Faith and Music retreat at the Eremo, with lectures and recitals by the renowned pianist and Bach scholar, Chiara Bertoglio from Turin, and concerts by both Voci dalla Rocca choir and the Coro Polifonico Sant Antonio Abate from Cordenons, Pordenone, Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Thanks to his fluent Italian, Anthony has made very good contacts in the towns of Breno and Bienno, as well as in Brescia and the rest of the Camonica Valley. He works closely with Maestro Piercarlo Gatti, musical director of Voci dalla Rocca and Head of Music at the Accademia Arte e Vita in Breno.

With Choirs Beyond Dover, he now hopes to share the rich musical heritage of the Valley with other British choirs, to the mutual enrichment of all.

'The beautiful building within the stunning alpine scenery, coupled with the warm, sincere and friendly staff made it very difficult to leave.'

John and Noreen Ball of Teddington