



The Orpheus Voice

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER!



Photo: Phill Wallis

It was a cracking afternoon Christmas concert at the URC, High Street on 15th December, enjoyed by performers and audience alike. Don't we look good in our new blue scarves? Just wait till the men get their bow ties to match!

The children of Park Junior School Choir obviously relished singing 'Frosty the Snowman' in Mark's wonderful arrangement of Hollywood Christmas songs, and did very well in all their solo items, especially considering the lack of rehearsal time. Thank you to their choir leader Laura Bazeley and Headteacher

David Tebbutt for their support and enthusiasm for our second joint venture.

The children also helped out with our 'visual aids' for the 'Gloucestershire Wassail' (see below) and carried in Cath's magnificent boar's head.

The audience enjoyed their opportunity to sing several carols with us and I'm sure many of them were also singing along to the Hollywood songs.

The concert made a profit of £271.31, down on last year, although it was still a good-sized audience given the atrocious weather conditions. Our president was amazed by how many people came, commenting that he wouldn't have turned out that afternoon if he hadn't had to!



Photo: Bee Tovey

Dates for your diary

Saturday 18th May 2019, 7.30 pm
Rutter's Magnificat
and Vivaldi's Gloria
with Michelle Todd (soprano)
and the Orpheus Players
St Barnabas Church
College Street, Wellingborough
Adults: £9 • Friends £7 •
students £5 • 12 and under: free

Saturday 6th July 2019

Summer Concert

of light music

Holy Trinity Church, Denford
Kettering, NN14 4ED
Time and ticket prices tbc

COME AND SING

Our Come and Sing event on Saturday 19th January proved to be very enjoyable and successful.

Most choir members were present (though there was a sad lack of basses—where were you gentlemen?) and we had 12 visitors: five sopranos, four altos, one tenor and two bass. Some had previously sung with the St Cecilia Singers, which sadly folded before Christmas after 75 years.

Mark chose one of the easier choruses from Rutter's 'Magnificat' which virtually everyone was tackling for the first time, before letting us have a good sing of the more familiar 'Gloria' choruses.

So far the visiting tenor has returned, bringing his wife with him. Maybe more will follow.

AN INTERVIEW WITH - THREE GENERATIONS OF THE SAME FAMILY!



Not many choirs can claim to have three generations of the same family singing with them at the same time!

Ruth Rignall and her daughter Chloe (who will be 16 in March) came along to our Come and Sing event last May and decided to join mum and grandmother Jean Tussler in the sopranos. Chloe is actually the fourth person in the family to sing with the choir as her grandfather was also a member.

Jean: are you from Wellingborough originally?

I was born and brought up in Moulton village.

Where did you go to school?

I went to the Girls High School in Northampton.

What did you do when you left school?

I did secretarial work and moved to Wellingborough in the early 1950s.

When did you join the choir?

My husband Brett and I joined the Orpheus in 1986 when Alan Chesters was leading it. Brett sang bass.

Do you have any special memories of your time with the choir?

I have enjoyed all of it, but a highlight was singing at the Albert Hall.

What are your interests outside the choir?

I love gardens but now I enjoy trips to see them rather than digging!

ooOoo

Ruth: where did you go to school?

I went to Park Junior School and then to Wrenn School. I still go to Wrenn each week to NMPAT music classes on Saturday mornings with my children.

Is it strange coming back to Park Junior School for rehearsals?

It is a bit strange being in the school. It's a lot smaller than it seemed when I was there decades ago! I remember when crossing the length of the hall seemed an adventure! I don't remember comfy chairs either!

What did you do when you left school?

I did a degree in silversmithing and jewellery at Loughborough University, then went on to do an MPhil at the Royal College of Art. I am now mainly self-employed, designing and making knitted and felted textiles, but I also work in community education in the art and heritage sectors.

Whose idea was it for you and Chloe to come along to the Come and Sing event?

Chloe and I were waiting to join Mum singing once Chloe was old enough.

What are your other interests?

I enjoy travelling and exploring new places. I mainly travel to Germany as my husband works there and I really love Dusseldorf. It's a lovely city with great parks, shops and art galleries. Last summer we were in Berlin which was fascinating and moving for its 20th century history. One reason I love knitting is I can just travel with it and carry on in most places. The pieces I have just finished for an exhibition were knitted in five different countries. I really enjoy colder places rather than the sun, so I loved Iceland and Finland when we went there a few years ago. In Finland we visited friends who used to live in Wellingborough. After a long beautiful bus ride we got off in deep snow at the side of a forest and walked to their wooden house hidden in the trees, very different!

ooOoo

Chloe: where do you go to school and what subjects are you studying?

I go to Huxlow Science College and next year I plan to study health and social care.

Do you sing in a youth choir?

I sing in the school choir and soon will be singing with them at the Wembley

Arena at an event called Voice in a Million. It's an amazing event with choirs from many different schools. There will be 5000 of us singing pop songs and songs from the latest Disney films. It's to raise money for the Charity Adoption UK.

What are your other interests?

I enjoy ballet and play the violin.

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I know all members of the choir will agree that the standard of singing has improved no end under Mark's direction, and I hope everyone is keen to ensure that this continues.

Those of you who were able to attend the AGM will recall that I said that we were going to try hard to start rehearsals promptly at 7.30. I am very pleased that everyone has made an effort to get to rehearsals in good time over the last few weeks and we have been able to start punctually. Thank you all very much.

This does mean that, when Mark feels we've done enough, he is able to let us finish a few minutes earlier.

Another step to ensure we achieve a high standard of singing at our concerts is that we will also be asking that you to endeavour to attend at least 70% of the rehearsals for each concert. Your section reps have always recorded attendance so they will carry on doing this.

In order to help Mark in preparing the choir for our concerts we will also be asking you to confirm, so far as you are able, whether you will or will not be able to sing in each concert well in advance.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all those who have recently joined the choir. It is good to see some new faces, and to hear new voices.

And finally, thanks to all of you for continuing to sing and support the choir.

Keith Jones

THE ARMED MAN: A MASS FOR PEACE, THE CASTLE THEATRE NOV. 2018



We joined four other local choirs on Remembrance Sunday last year to perform Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man' at The Castle Theatre. The concert was organised by Jon Rees of Earl's Barton Music, who conducted.

The event raised £2,000 for the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough, and £158 was donated to the Wellingborough Saturday Morning Music Centre which provided some of the instruments for the orchestra.

Music Quiz

It's snowing as I'm writing this so here's a quiz with a wintry theme!

1. What well-known song from the 1949 film 'Neptune's Daughter', which won an Oscar for the Best Original Song, has been attracting criticism recently from the #MeToo movement?
2. What is the next line in this 1969 song written by George Harrison? 'Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter/ Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear' . . .
3. 'The snow is snowing and the wind it is blowing/ But I can weather the storm' are lines from 'I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm' by Irving Berlin, but can you name the 1937 musical from which it comes?
4. The 'Gloucestershire Wassail' that we sang in our Christmas concert was part of a suite called 'Folk Songs for the Four Seasons' composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1949 for what well-known national organisation?
5. In 2003 a New Zealand singer recorded 'River of Dreams', a song adapted from Vivaldi's 'Winter' from 'The Four Seasons' on her album 'Pure'. It reached no. 1 in the UK classical charts. Who was she?
6. What song written by Mike Batt and Tim Rice was a hit for David Essex, reaching no. 2 in the UK singles chart in January 1983?
7. By what name is Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 also known?
8. Who recorded the first vocal version of Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride'?
9. What were the Mamas and the Papas doing on a winter's day when all the leaves were brown, and the sky was grey?
10. Which English pop singer had hits in the 1960s with 'Venus in Blue Jeans' and 'Go Away Little Girl'?

Answers on page 4

www.orpheuschoir.info

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Reception for the Niort choir and Szentendre Orchestra

It was in November 1990 that we last performed Vivaldi's 'Gloria' (though we did learn it at a Come and Sing day with Jonathan Sheldon and sang the opening chorus in our Choral Classics concert in 2007).

We were joined by La Chorale des amis de l'Ecole Normale de Niort (later the La Chorale André Léculeur) and the Szentendre Chamber Orchestra from Hungary. The orchestra had played for our concerts in France in May 1988, when we sang the Requiems of Fauré and Brahms in Niort, Parthenay and Angers Cathedral.

We gave two performances of the Gloria, the first in Rothwell Parish Church and the second in Weavers Sports Centre the following evening, both conducted by our MD, Alan Chesters. Also on the programme

were parts I and VI of Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio'. Incidentally, the tickets were priced £3.50 which would be approximately £10 today, so our ticket price of £9 for the forthcoming concert in May seems reasonable!

The reception for our visitors was held at Weavers School. Recognise the lady at the head of the table? See page 2!

Former chairman Walter Olney is seated on the left and the lady in the flowery dress is Margaret Robinson, who was the choir secretary for 17 years. Seated next to her is Dr Philip Nicholas, and you may just be able to make out the president of the French Choir, Claude Quetin, behind Margaret, in the jacket and tie, with his arm on the back of his chair.

Answers to the quiz

1. 'Baby It's Cold Outside' London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult.
2. 'Here comes the sun'
3. 'On the Avenue' starring Dick Powell, Alice Faye, Madeleine Carroll and George Barbier
4. The National Federation of Women's Institutes. The suite was first performed at the Royal Albert Hall in June 1950, sung by 3,000 WI members with the
5. Hayley Westenra
6. 'A Winter's Tale'
7. 'Winter Daydreams' or 'Winter Dreams'
8. The Andrews Sisters
9. 'California Dreamin' (or alternatively 'been for a walk')
10. Mark Wynter

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle raised £263 for choir funds. A big thankyou to Rita and Wendy for organising it and to everyone who contributed prizes.

WELCOME . . .

. . . to sopranos: Elaine Gubbins, Ruth and Chloe Rignall, and Cheryl Worthington, altos: Jenny Ludlow and Margaret Wright, tenor: Keith Gubbins, and basses: Jonathan Kahn and Peter Neve.

WELCOME BACK . . .

. . . to Vivian Venn (tenor)

Don't forget, if you have any news items, articles or suggestions for the newsletter, please email them to the editor, Maureen Williams:



maureen@thejetty.eclipse.co.uk

The Orpheus Choir is supported by:

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