



BULLETIN #16 2020

Hi Choir,

I hope you had a pleasant Easter and I hope you're coming to terms with the idea of spending another three weeks in lockdown?

We had another great Zoom session on Thursday, we sang Beautiful Day and then moved on to do further work on Symphony and Simply the Best, our new songs. This week 42 of you joined in, it's worth attending these lively sessions, as even though we're not singing with each other, Craig is still able to teach us some of the finer points of our songs that we can then practise in our own time. We'll hopefully return to choir with a good memory of the things we've learnt in these lockdown weeks.

When we're at practice normally we just feel so together. "Getting online" has highlighted what our core values are: inclusivity, community, love of music and shared experiences. We've realised that for a lot of that, it doesn't require us to be in the same room. Of course, it isn't the same as being in a sea of voices, feeling buoyed by the waves of sound around us. We all miss the energy of that human connection we have when singing in harmony. Sometimes, at pre-corona rehearsals, we sang together, and the blending of harmonies was wonderful. We cannot do that online, but we are still singing together. For many of us it feels like an age since we were together, but we will be back.

At the end of our session this week we were given a touching performance of an Irish lament called "Erin Shore" played in D on the English Wheatstone Aeola Baritone concertina by Andy Atherton. Andy is a very committed member of the choir, he sings tenor. I'm hoping to get some more offers in the coming weeks to do a little something either vocally or instrumentally at the end of our Zoom sessions.

If you'd still like to join these sessions but are being put off by the technology, please just give John a ring and he'll be happy to help you; just ring this number 07926027676.

When Craig joined us in September 2019, we had 38 signed up members of Knot Another Choir. Week on week new people arrived having heard about Craig and the choir. When we had to stop practising due to government instruction, we had 81 members signed up, we experienced such an amazing growth in just over six months. So as a result of that rapid growth I think there are lots of you who don't know each other's names or anything about each other, so I'm asking different people to write a little piece about themselves. I'm trialling it this week and have asked Will and Jay Eastwood if they'll test this for me. From there on in please feel free to send me a little biog about yourself, preferably with a photo.

Will and Jay Eastwood



Jay - If choir were a classroom, I am the student that sits at the back misbehaving and getting into trouble. Unfortunately, as I am approaching one of those big "0" birthdays and am as blind as a bat, my irritation with the glasses I need to read the lyrics tempers all my misdemeanours and means I sit at the front of the soprano rows so I can see whilst trying to curb my wayward antics. For a bit of a rebel, I studied law before spending 10 years as a police officer and then the tables turned as I worked as a teacher being a role model to year 6 primary kids before joining the local authority where my team supports young people with SEN.

I started playing the violin around 8 years old and played in Sheffield youth orchestra. Will and the kids played brass so I made the switch to the cornet which is a work in progress.

I started singing when, as a teacher with some music knowledge, I was pushed into leading singing assemblies and took willing kids to the Young voices concerts. My singing claim to fame disaster is judging auditions for a year 6 school play in a Leeds school and following allocation of key singing roles, was approached by a very well-known TV actress because I didn't give her daughter the lead.

My twins went off to university a year last September and I have reverted back to my teenage self, out every evening spending time on my interests and hobbies, with sport (badminton, body combat, attack, pump, cycling), music or walking taking all my spare moments. This led us to joining a choir. Knot Another choir is a long way from home but having sampled a whole range of choirs, far and near, I have learned 2 things: - I am not made for traditional choral singing and KAC is the best choir by miles.

Will - If choir were a farmyard, I would be a sheep. Life is one constant food graze and the outdoors is the place for me. To help all this along, I love to cook and am starting to find time for gardening and growing my own ingredients in the field behind my house.

I'm not great at sitting still so always looking at ways of passing time with my wife (and dog). We walk together, dance Ceroc together, play badminton unsuccessfully together, go to the gym together and now sing together which is the icing on the cake.

I live in the ideal place for almost all of my favourite things on a beautiful hillside in a small hamlet called Pockley near Helmsley. We are surrounded by farms and when I can, I help out with the lambing. It is a bit of a trek to Knaresborough but since Julie and I take it in turns to cook for the four of us before choir about once a month, what more can anyone ask for. I play the tuba with Bilsdale brass band and my music faux pas occurred on Remembrance Sunday when as a 12 year old boy marching with a tuba bigger than me, at a crossroads, the wind picked me up and blew me down the wrong street so I had to run to catch everyone up, get back in step and keep those oompahs going. Not an easy task.

I have four kids, the youngest twins 20 this year, both at uni but coming back to keep me on my toes far too often. They are both home at the moment sampling my new healthy cooking regime with pizza a staple standby for them as dessert.

You will find me in the bass section or in the kitchen making coffee.

On Thursday it was World Voice Day as a very kind gesture and because Craig's work patterns have obviously changed, he has very generously given choir members and their friends and families the offer of 1:1 lessons with him at a reduced rate. I'm very pleased that some of you have already booked your lessons, well done!

This is Craig's letter;

Dear Choir Members,

I hope you are all healthy and well.

Tomorrow (April 16th) is International World Voice Day! To celebrate, I have decided to offer online lessons at £35 this being 50% off my usual fee. I will be donating a small percentage of the lesson fee to the British Voice Association (BVA). This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who'd be interested on working on your voice in a 1:1 lesson with me.

I'll be conducting the sessions via Zoom and taking payment via Paypal and BACS.

I am available to teach 7 days a week 9:00am - 8:00pm.

Regards.

Craig.



Make Contact

Please feel free to contact me, my email is jbradburysharp@gmail.com or ring me on 07926027676.