

## BULLETIN #31 2020

### **Knot Another Choir is back with a vengeance, and what a great start to the Autumn term 😊**



We had a record 53 people at our Zoom session on Thursday, including 5 guests joining us from Musselburgh Scotland – brilliant! We formed a friendship with these ladies in 2015 at the Street Choir Festival held in Whitby, their choir is called The Honest Singers. They have sung with us on several occasions, we've even performed at the Feva festival together. It was great to see them join in with our Zoom. We also welcomed Maggie Jackson (soprano) this week, we hope she thoroughly enjoys singing with Knot Another Choir. Craig welcomed everyone back and said how lovely it was to see all our smiling faces, he talked about the glimpses of light ahead. It was so fantastic to see the dynamic duo back on our screens, bringing some fun back to Thursday evenings and a positive outlook into our lives. Warm glows all round?! Craig reassured everyone that the Committee are working their socks off to get a safe return to being together as a choir. We did the usual shaking hands & feet warmup to the count of 8 to 1 (does anyone else nearly fall over?) and then the funny faces to get those facial muscles working for the warmup song, "Dance to the Rhythm", complete with a few impromptu dance moves.

This term we are going to work towards doing another (award winning?) video of a song that has a great message, "*Don't Stop Me Now*" by Queen, which we will start practising next week. It's probably an understatement that recording "Get By" was a challenge for many of us, but we absolutely rose to it and came out winners of the Knaresborough's Got Talent Competition at this year's virtual FEVA Festival – fantastic!

“*Something Inside So Strong*” was the song of the night, a great gospel song written by Labi Siffre and arranged by Mark De Lisser. This song has real meaning just now – we’ll carry on singing, whatever happens because



basically there’s no keeping us down. There isn’t a Bass part for this song, so Tenors & Bass sing the same “gorgeous” part, Craig suggesting that they sing it out like that famous crooner Barry White. Sopranos and Altos sing the first chorus together in the melody, then the 2nd chorus is sung in a 3-part harmony. Craig pointed out that the words “make it” in Bar 48 (page 29) is sung as a “gospel cut”, clipped and with a rest to follow.

Craig emphasised how important it is to practice and reminded us that **all scores and parts are available to download on the Members Section of the KAC website under Autumn 2020**. So, get your audio parts on your phone and play them in the car, the shower, on your daily walks, in fact everywhere and anywhere.

**Please Note.** John is now recording all Zoom sessions so if you haven’t been able to attend you can catch up at your leisure. For those of you who find Zoom a challenge I’m sure this will be really useful. The recordings can be found in the members section of the website

**Next week (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>) we will be starting to look at “Don’t Stop Me Now”.**

**Quarantunes ....** What a lovely treat to end our first session back together. Sammy sang “*Never Enough*” from the Greatest Showman. What a beautiful voice – thanks so much Sammy. **If you’d like to do a Quarantune, please let Julie know** – be it pop rock or classical or maybe reading out a favourite poem or one you’ve written yourself. It is a great end to our weekly Zoom sessions, and you know how much Craig & Dec love doing the intro 😊.



### **Very IMPORTANT and EXCITING news**

Following our Zoom session, the Committee had a Zoom meeting to discuss next steps for KAC. Guidance about choirs returning to singing in person seems to be changing by the day but luckily, we have Craig and the committee keeping their eyes on things and talking to colleagues. We are hoping to have some exciting news about a possible trial return for being together to sing, with options for those who don’t feel able to return in person. There is still a lot to discuss and plan, but rest assured

that the safety of everyone is our priority and that everyone must feel they can make the decision they are personally comfortable with. We are all aware how important singing together is for all of us both for our mental and physical wellbeing, but only when we can do so safely and legally. **So please watch out for e mails from KAC Admin** – check your Spam inboxes in case emails end up there. Email really is the easiest way for us to get the message out to everyone so please, please check your inbox frequently. **Whatever happens, next week's session will take place by Zoom on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.**

**Getting to know you ....** Last term we started to include profiles of our lovely choirees in the Bulletin. It's such a great way to get to know everyone a bit better and maybe put a face to a name. It would be brilliant to have at least one profile each week so please get writing and forward your profile to [jbradburysharp@gmail.com](mailto:jbradburysharp@gmail.com)

**It's been a very strange 6 months .....** can you believe that our last rehearsal together was on March 12<sup>th</sup> Back then, we were excited to be nearing our charity concert in aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. Everything came to a complete stop with events that most of us could probably never imagine. We know it's been a very tough time for so many people but we are really fortunate in one very important respect – we're part of a brilliant, fantastic choir and this will help us *Get By With a Little Help From Our Friends*. Stay safe everyone and keep singing you heart out to the shower curtain, dog, garden shed door, windscreen or whatever and we hope to see you as many of you as possible at our Zoom next Thursday. Don't forget to **Keep your eyes peeled for any KAC emails.**



**Finally ...** if you haven't responded to John's e mail about **paying your fees** for this term, please could you do so as soon as possible. With our ever-growing choir, keeping track of all the money is a big time consuming job and John needs your help to keep it as easy as possible All you need to do is email john ([admin@knotanotherchoir.co.uk](mailto:admin@knotanotherchoir.co.uk)) and let him know if you want to pay by direct debit or bank transfer. If by bank transfer then the cost this term is £39 payable to Knot Another Choir CIO, Account: 52537397 Sort Code: 40-23-12

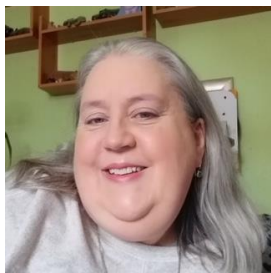
**If you know anyone who would like to join our Zoom sessions as a guest, then pass on the details sent out by John & Julie last week - £20 for a 5 week session and access to the Scores and Audio files. A bargain by any measure. Payment to be made to Knot Another Choir CIO, Account: 52537397 Sort Code: 40-23-12**

**Thanks everyone and as always stay safe and of course ....**



**Sue Creeley (Committee Member)**

## **Profiles**



### **Pauline Dawson**

Hi I'm Pauline Dawson and I live in York. I joined a choir in Knaresborough about 9 years ago – at the time my sister lived in Knaresborough – and made some great friends. Unfortunately, that choir closed, but we didn't want to split up so a group of us (myself plus current members Graham and Pippa, and former members David, Lynne and Rod) got together and KNOT was born in September 2013. We were extremely anxious no-one would turn up on the first night, but needn't have worried as from the start we were enthusiastically supported by members including Julie B-S, Julia D, Sammy and Liz C. It is great to see that KNOT continues to thrive, even through the current pandemic, and the hard work of the current committee in ensuring this is so is much appreciated!

I was born in South Wales, in Barry Island - of Gavin and Stacey fame. My Mum's family is from the area but my Dad is from York and we moved up here for his work and I've lived here ever since, other than my time at university in Durham. My Mum and Dad had 13 siblings between them, but I only have 1 younger sister, she lives in Maron Cum Grafton with her husband and 2 children. I love to indulge my nephew and niece. With him I share a love of castles, preserved railways and good food. My niece and I enjoy crafting together, a Christmas card making session is planned shortly.

At school I enjoyed singing in the choir and played the recorder and the clarinet, but then basically stopped doing anything musical and let my music reading skills etc go rusty. I currently sing with the altos, but have also sung with the tenors. Since my return to singing I have remembered the great joy singing with others brings, especially that moment when everything comes together and the exquisite sound of the harmonies causes the hairs on the back of my neck to stand up! I must be hooked as, other than Julie B-S, I think I must have the best attendance record, having not missed more than a handful of rehearsals and events in the last 7 years!

This lockdown period has been tough for everyone. I live on my own and I work for a group tour travel operator, so I have been on furlough since March. The KNOT Zoom sessions have helped immensely with keeping my spirits up! But I can't wait until we can get back together in person.



### **Lorna Warburton**

I was very lucky to join Knot Another Choir along with my two pals Janet and Lesley, back in January this year. We are sopranos and met 11 years ago singing in a choir in Harrogate.

Although you can probably tell from my accent that I'm not from round here, I have lived in Harrogate for over 30 years. I was born and grew up in Northolt, West London; though my husband says I sound like a true Eastender! After a brief couple of years living in North Norfolk as a teen, I moved to Harrogate when I was 14 when my parents bought a B&B here.

I met my husband, Ian in Harrogate, and he's not from round here either. Our son Harry was the first member of the family to be born and bred in Yorkshire! He's now 22 and studying up in Newcastle.

Before motherhood I had a few different jobs. I did bar jobs in nightclubs, worked at Euro Disney in Paris, and then in the box office at Harrogate Theatre. I had a great time and consider those to be my student years at the university of life! Once Harry was on the scene I felt I should probably start being a bit more sensible, and get myself a "proper" job. I went to night school and trained to be an Accounting Technician, and then carried on studying to become a qualified Accountant.

I've got a lot to thank singing in choirs for. I've had some fab opportunities, such as recording at Abbey Road Studios and performing in New York, and I've met people who have become really great friends. The camaraderie of singing together always gives me a lift when I've been a bit stressed, and that's why I look forward to it every week.

Thanks, Lorna

### **Items of Interest**

For your interest if you enjoy listening to excellent Youth Choirs follow the link to the live streaming of what should be an excellent virtual festival.

The Mzansi Youth Choir will be part of the Choral Celebration Network Festival.

This coming Sunday 20 September 2020 at 15h00.

A brilliant line up of South African and Youth Choirs from around the world!

<https://youtu.be/bXMaZabQwzk>

Barnsley Youth Choir

Cape Town Youth Choir

KwaZulu-Natal Youth Choir

Vancouver Youth Choir

NCA-North West Youth Choir

The South African Youth Choir (SAYC)

Storkyrkans ungdomskör - STUK

COTA Youth Choir Namibia

Moran Singers Ensemble אנסמבל זמרי מורן

KZN Midlands Youth Choir

Defrost Youth Choir

### **Make Contact**

Please feel free to contact me, my email is [jbradburysharp@gmail.com](mailto:jbradburysharp@gmail.com) or ring me on 07926027676.