

KNOT

ANOTHER CHOIR

BULLETIN No 1 12th January 2024



Happy New Year to everyone! I know we're all ready to hit the ground running for the exciting term ahead!

First, we would like to send sincere commiserations to Maria. Poor Maria had a nasty accident that saw her spending Christmas in hospital with a broken leg. She will be out of action for a while, so we send much love and warm wishes for a speedy recovery. We look forward to her swift return.



Making new members to the choir welcome is something KnAC excels at as I remember well from my own experience. Thursday saw 3 new members join us for their first sing, 1 Soprano, 1 Alto and 1 Bass. I'm sure they too will look forward to the exciting term ahead.

On Thursday night Craig asked the choir to share their personal favourite moments from the very busy and successful year we had in 2023. Everyone agreed "Singing in the rain" at Newby Hall was fun and that winning the Wharfedale Competitive Competition was huge!! (even if we were robbed!), Christmas Carols at The Church of Christ the Consoler at Newby Hall was a beautiful experience too. Our final concert of the year, in collaboration with the Dales Pop Choir and guest Freddie Cleary, held many special moments for everyone. It was magical with the trees and lights, hugely successful and raised an enormous amount for Yorkshire Variety – the Children's Charity.

One member mentioned how excited we were to have been asked to sing at the wedding of Craig and Gemma in August. Craig shared that we will lead with 'Lovely Day', which is a song that is fairly new to our repertoire and we have partially learned. We will finish with 'Total Praise' when the registrar has left the venue!! What an honour and how thrilled we will be to be part of this very special day.



Thursday Night Practice: There is nothing quite like Craig's warm up's to engage everyone straight away, to get the blood flowing and the memory sparking! Great fun and brilliant preparation for the hard work that follows. Everyone enthusiastically stretched, stomped, clapped, pulled faces, and breathed deeply 😊!! We sang H. E.L.L.O. articulated sounds at differing speeds and volume! Lots of tongue twisting and dancing to 'the rhythm of Life!! Phew! a great workout. Please don't forget, all the warmups we do each week are in the members section on the website and can be tapped into at any time.

Tom was absent this week and Craig introduced and thanked Chris Lloyd for coming and standing in for him.

This year sees an exciting new challenge for the choir. We will compete in the Manchester Annual Choral Competition in March. Craig explained the 12-minute set that he has arranged. This set is an acknowledgement of the amazing talents of Pop icon Whitney Houston. It is a simple, concise, and very lovely tribute that highlights her life and legacy.



We begin with a shortened version of Steal Away, a nod to her gospel roots, followed by the famous song 'I want to Dance with Somebody' that was the height of her success and then we finish with Craig's own arrangement of 'Higher Love'. In 1990 DJ Kygo brought out a single using Whitney's vocals and it was a number 1 hit. A posthumous award to Whitney. This is her great legacy.

'I want to Dance with Somebody' was the focus of Thursdays session. Craig explained that there are lots of difficult bits and pieces but what is especially great is that each part has an interesting highlight at some point in the song. As always Craig broke the song down into manageable parts explaining that each chorus has two parts. We worked through each voice section's part for the first chorus starting at bar 32. We then added the pre chorus and verse as we went along. It sounded lovely and everyone enjoyed what we achieved. Craig thanked Chris, our stand in accompanist,

for playing so beautifully. He then asked that we prepare for next week by focusing on 2 things: -

- nailing our parts that we learned tonight.
- learning our parts for the 2nd verse and 2nd Pre-Chorus.

Craig also asked that we go through 'Get by with a little help from Our Friends' in preparation for our concert on February 10th.

Craig emphasised the importance of attending as many practices as possible in preparation for the MACC. He asks that all those wishing to sing would commit to all the practices for the month before the MACC and also to attend the workshop when we'll do all our fine tuning for the event.

Finally, the last word from Craig was 'a great first rehearsal'.

Lx

Thanks so much Linda for stepping in to do the editorial.

I'm very sorry to say that Maria Cameron who usually writes our editorial broke her leg badly just before Christmas and ended up having to have surgery and a Christmas stay in hospital, not what she had in mind, I'm sure! Like Linda said we all wish Maria well and hope she is back with us very soon.

News

Happy New Year and welcome back everybody! I hope you all had a good Christmas in whatever form that took. You all looked and seemed very pleased to be back on Thursday and when we started singing 'I Wanna Dance' it was very apparent that you'd been practising hard at home.

We had three new people joining us this week, two ladies and one gentleman, they'll be having two weeks trial with us to see if they'd enjoy and would be able to commit to Knot Another Choir on a permanent basis, please say hello to them. They are Annie, who will sing soprano 2, Duncan who is a bass and Becca who will sing alto. Next week another Soprano 2 Gillian will be joining us she was poorly this week.

FYI If you miss practices while we are learning things and preparing for Manchester do watch the recording of the practice.

Our last concert of 2023 was a celebratory event at St Johns while the gorgeous tree festival was on, we sang in collaboration with The Dales Pop

Choir and Freddie Cleary, it was the first time we've done a concert with another choir, and it was a great success. This time we chose a charity close to the heart of one of our members Julie Dodsworth and we did very well, our audience was fantastic with standing room only left in the church, the charity Variety (the children's charity) does wonderful work for disadvantaged children. Thanks to all of you who baked and sold cakes, served mulled wine and mince pies helped with the staging and sound and were generally very helpful. Julie Dodsworth held a very successful raffle and tombola. As the event was so successful raising a total of £2292.50 we were able to give the church £404, which was half of our ticket sales profit.

I quickly approached the Reverend Garry Hinchcliffe and Mark Hunter Musical Director at St Johns after the concert, to ask if we might have another very similar concert at the end of this year. They have now confirmed that we can do this, the concert will be on the 19th December 2024, this is the last Thursday before Christmas again. We will decide later in the year which charity we will support for this event.

Coming Up

Our Social Evening on the 26th of January is a quiz pizza and karaoke night, it should be great fun there's 40 of you coming now. We can really relax and have a giggle. There are still tickets available if you want to invite anybody else from your own circle of friends and relatives. Any money raised will go to KnAC so do support us if you possibly can.

If you have any goodies left over from Christmas please bring them along on Thursdays, Julie H and team can then give them as raffle prizes, these will be for both the social evening and the concert on the 10th of February.

10th February Trinity Church Concert in aid of Asthma and Lung UK.

Many of you know Julie Horsfield trustee of the choir poet and amazing fundraising ideas person on our committee. Very sadly Julie lost her husband to lung disease last year, at Julies request we will be supporting Asthma+Lung UK.

The charity's vision is for a world where everyone has healthy lungs. The charity is dedicated to helping create a world where good lung health and the ability to breathe freely are a basic right enjoyed by all.

From research and campaigning to advice and support, as the nation's lung charity they are on a mission to change the way that lung health is perceived.

I hope you'll all give your support to this event as you always do! it'd be fantastic to have a really good audience, even if each of you bring just one person it will still make a good night. Tickets are still available from www.fienta.com/knac2



These are the songs we will be singing for you to practice.

SET ONE (40mins):

1. Don't Stop Believing
2. Proud
3. Deep River
4. Steal Away
5. Hello
6. Fix You
7. Stand By Me
8. Something Inside So Strong

SET TWO (40mins):

1. Simply The Best
2. Signed, Sealed, Delivered
3. Wanna Dance With Somebody
4. How Will I Know
5. One Day
6. Get By With A Little Help from My Friends
7. Brave
8. Higher Love

MACC on the 3rd of March.

We have just 7 practices and a full day workshop left before Manchester. We'll put the details on Muzodo soon so if you would like to take part in the competition you can sign up. Parts will need to be practiced well and perfected at home.

Last night Craig stipulated that if you are going to be taking part you must attend the all-day workshop on Saturday the 24th February and all the practices in February the dates are the 8th 15th 22nd and 29th, hopefully then we'll be able to give the most polished performance we've ever given.

Some of the best amateur choirs in the country will be taking part in the competition, if you look on the MACC website, you'll see videos of some previous entrants.

Choirs will be judged on the following criteria: Harmony, Musical difficulty, Intonation, Clarity of Text, Discipline, Musicality, Presentation and "Wow factor."

We will be singing a shortened version of "Steal Away", "I Want to Dance With Somebody" and "Higher Love" these will form a gorgeous medley of Whitney Houston songs.

Lynne Sharp supported by Julie and John made an appeal for us and we were lucky enough to have been granted funding from Knaresborough Town Council to fund our big day at MACC we were delighted to get this as we are very proudly a Knaresborough choir. We will be delighted to represent our town. The amount received will pay for all expenses connected with the day, this amounts to over £2,000. In light of this, transportation will be free on the buses, we have space for 64 in total on the buses, that's on a 48-seater coach and a 16-seater minibus. Seats will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Perhaps some of you might prefer to travel by train or car. The RNCM is near Manchester Piccadilly Railway Station.

I've been very busy since Christmas arranging lots of great events for this year its lovely that the event organisers want us back. If you look below in Dates for your 2024 Diary, you'll find all the details of these, along with the ones we already had in the diary.

- 1) We've been asked to sing again at York Racecourse.
- 2) Harrogate Choir Festival will take place again but this time at The Royal Hall.
- 3) We are provisionally booked to sing at both Knaresborough Castle and The Valley Gardens.
- 4) Newby Hall have invited us to sing once again in the Gardens.
- 5) We'll sing at Ripon Cathedral again in November.
- 6) In December we'll return to do a full concert at St Johns.



Dates for your 2024 Diary
SOME CHANGES PLEASE NOTE
The dates are always up to date
keep checking all the information.

- ❖ **Friday 26th January 2024 social evening for choir and guests quiz with Tico Toco pizza and Karaoke. The choir needs the support of its members from events like this. This means that we can continue to improve and develop and purchase and subsidise things for the choir e.g. jackets, staging, etc.**
- ❖ **Saturday 10th February 2024 Charity Concert at Trinity Church in aid of Asthma + British Lung UK in memory of Paul Horsfield.**
- ❖ **Saturday 24th February 2024 at Chain Lane Community Hub Knaresborough we will have an all-day workshop for those of you who are taking part in the Manchester Annual Choral Competition.**
- ❖ **Sunday March 3rd 2024 We will be competing in the The Manchester Annual Choral Competition MACC. We will leave York place Car Park at 8-00 a.m. We'll have the opportunity to give our best performance and be judged by a prestigious team of adjudicators at the Royal Northern College of Music RNCM.**
- ❖ **Thursday 21st March NO CHOIR>**
- ❖ **Sunday 24th March 2024 We have been invited to sing at York Racecourse again at the York Live Show. We will sing two sets at 11-00 a.m. and 1-00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Thursday 28th March NO CHOIR>**
- ❖ **Saturday April 13th 2024 Harrogate Community Choir Festival at The Royal Hall. There has to be a limit of 70 of us who can take part at the request of the organisers Stray Notes.**
- ❖ **Tuesday 23rd April change from normal choir night.**
- ❖ **Thursday 25th April NO CHOIR**
- ❖ **Saturday May 11th Spring Concert in aid of our Limerick Trip Trinity Church at 7pm.**
- ❖ **Thursday June 6th 2024 our coach departs from York Place Knaresborough for the Limerick Sings Festival.**
- ❖ **Sunday 30th of June 2p.m. Singing at Knaresborough Castle.**

- ❖ Sunday 14th July at 2p.m. Singing at the Valley Gardens.
- ❖ Thursday 18th July Last practice before our summer break.
- ❖ Saturday 20th July Singing at Newby Hall.
- ❖ Thursday 1st August 2024 Craig and Gemma's wedding day Knot Another Choir will be singing with the Conservatoire Contemporary Choir!!! The wedding will take place at Allerton Castle Knaresborough.
- ❖ Saturday 23rd November – Ripon Cathedral Christmas Fare
- ❖ Thursday 19th December – Christmas Concert at the Church of St Johns Knaresborough more info to follow.

And Finally

An awesome Choir is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget.



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Have a good week.

Julie