

KNOT

ANOTHER CHOIR

BULLETIN No 4 2nd February 2024

February, in some eyes, is a nondescript month. It falls midway between the Winter solstice and the Spring equinox. I have to say I really look forward to February, to me it's a really hopeful month when we can look forward with anticipation to the days lengthening, more 🌞 sunshine and the all-important signs of Spring. Studies have shown that it is the rarest month to be born in and it's not uncommon for people born in February to excel as painters, musicians, writers or to work in other creative professions. If you're born in Feb you're keeping good company with the likes of Steve Jobs, Jennifer Aniston, Michael Jordan, John Bradbury-Sharp, and Julie Bradbury-Sharp who's birthday is just a day before our very own Craig Antony Lees! Happy Birthday Julie and Craig!

For the choir, this February is a busy month. There are two important events to look forward to. We have the concert on the 10th, at our very own Holy Trinity church. We will be fundraising in support of Asthma + Lung Uk Charity. Their work is vitally important, from research and campaigning to amazing support and advice. Sincere thanks to the choir committee for taking the opportunity to highlight the work of this Charity.

The workshop on Saturday the 24th will be another fantastic day. Lots of hard work, lots of fun and laughter and as always greatly inspiring and motivating. This term the workshop is a time of critical preparation for the thrilling and eagerly anticipated Manchester Annual Choral Competition.

Thursday Night -

There was a warm hello to Tom, so happy to see him back with us.

Warm Up:-

A firm favourite started the session, H E L L O, this always gets us going. It was followed by the complicated tongue twisting 'Danger men at work' this is a verbal test with 'many a slip twixt cup and lip.' but it's great fun when we meet the challenge of keeping up with Craig! I was reminded of the concert when Craig involved the audience in the warmup session. My family in the audience enjoyed all the twists and turns. After, they remarked that Craig was like the Pied Piper with everyone joyfully following in a merry vocal and physical dance!!

I Wanna Dance with Somebody

This is an amazing song. Craig shared the story of how he first read the score when it was sent to him by Akin Amusan. He was surprised and excited because every verse and chorus had changes, the key changes were complex, it had an A Capella part and there were changes of tempo throughout. Every time he thought he had heard it all something else popped up to surprise him. We will sing this arrangement and ensure the audience hears and feels every surprise. It's so exciting, so challenging and, in Craig's words, shows what we, as a choir, are capable of.

One or two pointers: -

- Pre-Chorus 3 - there is a change in bar 91 for the Sopranos. It has changed from 4 beats into 3 (the semi-breve note becomes a dotted minim followed by a crotchet rest), this will allow the Sopranos time to snatch a breath and enable them to reach the top note of the key change, in bar 93, with extra air in the lungs and extra energy.
- using a head tilt and eyebrow lift while practicing (not performing) to help remember pattern and change. (Bars 90 to 94)
- Interlude - remember the difference between bars 94 /95 and 95/96. Don't get distracted here.
- emphasis on consonants here and less on vowels. (Bars 94 to 101)
- every section to drop their jaw to make it easier to sing out notes, bar 99 for basses and bar 113 for other parts.
- Craig thanked everyone for their really great preparation for the rehearsal. He said the fact that we are getting on so quickly is a testament to how we have gone home and listened to our parts. This makes his job so much easier and to have achieved so much in only two in depth sessions is amazing. Really well done everyone.

Get By with a Little Help From My Friends: -

We finished the practice by going right through this song. We managed the shoulder lifts and jazz hands with great aplomb.

Homework :-

- Keep up the really great work.
- Keep listening and practicing your part against other parts
- Go over the bridge section at home.

And finally, Craig said 'really good rehearsal, really good vocals.'

Linda x

Thank you, Linda.



Another great practice and it was very apparent last night just how hard you have all been working. We had a new gentleman in the basses last night, he said that when we broke into four parts he got goosebumps: that's quite a compliment.

Apologies came from Craig last night; he was so very sorry for needing to ask for a practice to be changed. Craig had a mix up on his dates, thinking he was flying on the Friday night the 16th to do a workshop in Ireland, but he was flying out on the Thursday evening of the 15th. So, we have had to move our usual practice night from Thursday the 15th to Tuesday the 13th February. We're very sorry if this causes inconvenience to any of you who have other commitments on Tuesday evenings.



Please would you all fill in the Muzudo survey, just to let us know if you can attend on Tuesday the 13th, John will be recording the session as usual.

Coming Up

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

80 of you have now signed up to take part, which is amazing! Craig has chosen a particularly beautiful set; it seems ages since we last performed just before Christmas 2023. I'm sure the concert will be a great success; we'd like a fantastic audience so please send this link to your friends and families to encourage them to get their tickets. www.fienta.com/knac2

We will, once again, need a team of you to put our staging up please. We'll be able to get into Church for 5pm. It'll be the first time we have put up our own staging at Trinity Church. If you or members of your family are prepared to help, please speak to Julie or John.



These are the songs we will be singing at the concert.

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

Cake Stall



A cake stall always does wonders for the money we can raise. We have some fabulous bakers in the choir, please offer your services to Chris Pyle, Morag Caunt etc.

Raffle

Julie Horsfield will run the raffle if you have prize donations please bring them on Thursday evening.

The Manchester Annual Choral Competition

Numbers have grown yet again and there are now an amazing 89 of you wanting to sing in Manchester. 85 of you will go on two coaches, the rest of you will make your own way there. The coaches will be at the York Place Car park for 7-30



a.m., we'd like to leave promptly by 7-45a.m as we want to be at the RNCM by 9-30a.m.

All day parking at York Place is just £1-60.

When we arrive, we will be allocated time to practice our getting on and off the stage. Our warmup will take place in the Carol Nash Room from 11-00 to 11-20. At 11-20 we will go to Studio 8 where we have been given a space to leave our belongings safely. We'll then go to line up backstage in readiness for our performance, there will be stewards to send us in the right direction.

We are second to take part, our slot is 11-30 to 11-45 a.m. I think this is great as once we have sung, we can relax to watch everybody else's performances and thoroughly enjoy the day.

Craig would like everybody who is taking part in the competition to attend our all-day workshop on Saturday the 24th February, this will be held at Chain Lane Community Hub, Knaresborough. The cost will be the same as usual, which is £25. We can as always offer concessions, please email me or have a quiet word on Thursday evenings if the cost is too high for you. If you are not one of the 89 taking part in the competition, you do not have to attend the workshop. This is the link to get a ticket and book your place. <https://fienta.com/macc>

Craig would also like those of us taking part to be at as many of the practices in February as is possible, the dates are the 1st, 8th, 13th, 22nd and 29th.

These are the full details of the MACC day and who else is taking part

40 mins before stage Choir meets MACC volunteer at registration desk (main entrance atrium)	30 mins before stage Warm-up (Carol Nash Room)	10 minutes before stage Drop bags (Studio 8) and line up backstage	RNCM Stage Time	
			10:20	10:30
			10:35	10:45
			10:50	11:00
			11:05	11:15
			11:20	11:30
			11:35	11:45
			11:50	12:00
			12:05	12:15
			12:15	12:30
			11:00 - 11:15	Welcome and Intro
			11:15 - 11:30	Xavarian College Concert Choir (80)
			11:30 - 11:45	Knot Another Choir (85)
			11:45 - 12:00	Insole Community Choir (35)
			12:00 - 12:15	Vocal Highs (40)
			12:15 - 12:30	Fab Choir (40)

11:50	12:00	12:20	12:30 - 12:45	Break
12:05	12:15	12:35	12:45 - 13:00	Cheshire Acapella (30)
12:20	12:20	12:50	13:00 - 13:15	Manchester University Barbershop Singers (32)
12:35	12:45	13:05	13:15 - 13:30	Lux Acapella (47)
12:50	13:00	13:20	13:30 - 13:45	Dales Community Pop Choir (50)
13:05	13:15	13:35	13:45 - 14:00	Break
13:20	13:30	13:50	14:00 - 14:15	Break
13:35	13:45	14:05	14:15 - 14:30	Break
13:50	14:00	14:20	14:30 - 14:45	Cor Dewi Sant
14:05	14:15	14:35	14:45 - 15:00	Rainbow Connection (45)
14:20	14:30	14:50	15:00 - 15:15	Lodge Moor Children's Choir (50)
14:35	14:45	15:05	15:15 - 15:30	Gem Connection (40)
14:50	15:00	15:20	15:30 - 15:45	Break
15:05	15:15	15:35	15:45 - 16:00	Beaconsfield High Chamber Choir (17)
15:20	15:30	15:50	16:00 - 16:15	SC Choirs - Dynamic Voices (40)
15:35	15:45	16:05	16:15 - 16:30	Harris Academy Chobham Junior Choir (40)
15:50	16:00	16:20	16:30 - 16:45	Brighton Gay Men's Chorus
16:05	16:15	16:35	16:45 - 17:00	Break (Judges confer & extra seats put out)
16:20	16:30	16:50	17:00 - 17:15	Performance (Cor Ysgol y Strade)
16:35	16:45	17:05	17:15 - 17:30	Thanks & results
16:50	17:00	17:20	17:30 - 17:45	Winners performance & close

The following choirs are doing an informal sing at the Manchester Museum (M13 9PL), only a 5–10-minute walk from the RNCM. Please check with the information desk for the performance times.

Cor Ysgol y Strade
Gem Connection
Harris Academy Chobham
Cor Dewi Sant
Beaconsfield High
Lux Acapella
Vocal Highs
Dales Community Pop Choir
Fab Choir

The staging and the auditorium are fantastic, we'll have plenty of room to move. I'll do a plan as always, I've already started work on this.

We are 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. Keep practicing hard everybody, keep going over the recordings and sound files.

Our lovely friends from the Dales Community Pop Choir are taking part in the competition too, they'll be singing after lunch at 1-30 p.m.

There is a café serving sandwiches, pizzas, cakes and snacks and a coffee shop is available all day. You could take a packed lunch or eat out if that suits you better, it'll be quite a long day.

Forthcoming Events at Starbeck Methodist Church.

On the 11th February at 2-30 Knaresborough Silver Band will be performing.

On the 9th March at 7-30 p.m Kaminari UK Taiko Drummers will give a spectacular performance.

Harrogate Wellbeing Choir. Volunteering Opportunity for singers.

Would any of our fabulous KnAC members with a little free time to give on a Wednesday afternoon, be prepared to help this superb local mental health charitable initiative that deserves and could really benefit from some support.

We would really welcome a few volunteers to help boost our numbers and voices while the choir gets itself established- can you help?

If you would be interested please contact Simon Thomson husband of Jenny Thomson (alto) email address is: SJTho@aol.com or the conductor of the Wellbeing Choir Lucy Coleman lucycoleman100@gmail.com

The Harrogate Wellbeing Choir is a Free and inclusive community choir, its open to adults in the local Harrogate area with lived or current experience of mental ill health. Rehearsals are supportive and friendly in a relaxed environment, with tea and coffee provided.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays in term time, 1-30 to 3-00 p.m at St Peters Church, Cambridge Road Harrogate HG1 1PB. This is opposite the Cenotaph.

The Coming Year

We have performances planned for nearly every month in 2024 which is fantastic. Put them in your diaries or on your calendars.



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

- ❖ **Saturday 10th February 2024 7pm for 7.30pm start Charity Concert at Trinity Church in aid of Asthma + British Lung UK**
- ❖ **Saturday 24th February 2024 11am- 4pm 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 7.45 a.m. We'll have the opportunity to give our best performance and be judged by a prestigious team of adjudicators at the 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 10-30 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 as space is needed to accommodate a big audience.**
- ❖ **Tuesday 23rd April change from normal choir night.**
- ❖ **Thursday 25th April NO CHOIR**
- ❖ **Saturday May 11th 7pm for 7.30pm Spring Concert in aid of our Limerick Trip Trinity Church.**
- ❖ **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.**
- ❖ **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**

- ❖ **NEW Saturday 7th December 7pm We are delighted to be returning to sing at Knaresborough United Reformed Church (URC).**
- ❖ **Thursday 19th December 7pm for 7.30pm Christmas Concert at the Church of St Johns Knaresborough in aid of Henshaws.**

And Finally

Muscians don't just entertain and help sell food and drinks.

We also spread love, joy,

kindness, passion, positive energy, strength, confidence,

optimism, faith, communication,

hope, inspiration, and healing.

Have a good week.

Julie