

KNOT

ANOTHER CHOIR

BULLETIN No 5 11th February 2024

I read somewhere that studies suggest that the average Brit spends the equivalent of four and a half months of our life talking about the weather!! Is that hard to believe? Scary, surprising, or just plain ridiculous? The vagaries of our weather were apparent to me this week. At the beginning of the week, I walked the snowdrop trail at Goldsborough Hall in mild, wet weather. On Wednesday for the first time this year, I hung my washing on the line to dry and it was a lovely sunny day. Then on Thursday I had to battle to drive through heavy snow to get to practice! Is it any wonder it's a topic of conversation daily? Thank you to everyone who braved the inclement weather and yucky driving conditions to turn out for practice on Thursday night, especially those of you who came long distances.



Thursday night practice



It was Craig's birthday and the practice got off to a lively start with a rousing (if not slightly quirky) version of Happy Birthday for Craig. Thank you to all those who contributed to his present, Julie B-S had purchased a lovely Azendi leather bracelet, and he loved it. Tom was our accompanist this week.

Warm Up

We started the warmup with stretching to capture air in our hands to bring into our bodies, right to the end of our fingertips. We then isolated body parts and moved them in opposite/different directions. It's quite tricky to hide your face behind a single blade of grass but everyone gave it their best shot, Craigs view was certainly interesting! This action was followed by singing 'Lean forward and lean backward to the left to the right'! Sometimes the body just does not follow instructions well, and signals get crossed and confused! I felt a bit





like a 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' but not one inch of my body was stiff or cold when we finished!

Asthma & Lung Uk Charity Concert 10th February

Many of the songs for this first performance of the year are firm favourites that we know well, and Craig felt these could be practiced ourselves at home. We did run through Proud, Deep River, Hello and the long version of Steal Away. One or two pointers for future events as particular attention was given to: -

Don't Stop Believing

- Craig went through the difference in the meaning of the hand signals and gestures he uses to indicate what he wants us to do - one hand open that we will push it into the air, fingers together means clicks, hands open means clap, arm overhead and finger indicates the way we move, hands rolling means a repeat of a section/phrase/chorus. **Basically, watch Craig carefully at all times for any changes in direction or any extras.**
- In practice at home look very carefully at which lyrics you join up with the melody on.
- Important that we sing the lyrics so they really tell the story.
- Please come in confidently on the notes at the beginning of Smokey room, Cheap perfume, Share the night.
- Remember the differences between the first time in the verse when we sing 'ni-i-ight' and second 'ni-i-i--i-ight'.
- Altos to blast out their Ni-i-i-i-ight.
- Really sing out during the Bridge (bar 53)
- Remember no guitar solo from bar 89/97 just straight into the final 3 choruses of 'Don't Stop Believing'.
- **Watch Craig carefully and follow his signals.**

Note for then new Basses - Take a good look at the Bass part in the song section on the website. Because there were no parts for Basses on the original scores of Deep River and Steal Away, Craig put the Bass part in. It's in note form on each song on the website.

Hello - This was sung so well considering we hadn't done it for such a long time. Craig complemented each section on their singing. It was suggested that the Sopranos practice singing their tricky rhythm in Verse 2 on their own at home, against all the sections, against the Tenor section only. This is something that we can all do to learn our part.

Set 2 - Most of the songs in this set have been practiced/performed recently so we concentrated on I Wanna Dance with Somebody and Brave.

I Wanna Dance with Somebody

- This will be our first chance to sing this song to an audience, a good opportunity to get on further in our journey with this song. Singing the song live at this concert allows us to learn so much from the process and is a good experience before we perform it at the MACC.
- Remember bar 24 when the Sopranos sing 'When the night falls', is followed in the first instance by 'the loneliness calls'. In Bar 57 and 89 it changes to 'my lonely heart calls'.
- The second verse was sung with confidence and strength, just what Craig wanted to hear. Craig asked that the Alto part comes in really strongly through the line from bar 50 with 'wind up feelin down'.
- Let the Ah's in Pre-Chorus 2 light our faces up as if it was Christmas morning and keep the ooh, oh ghostly and atmospheric.
- The score is not written correctly in bar 95, there should be more space for the part written for the Bass line. The other parts should be written in their line just above the last letter of 'somebody' in the Bass line. This makes a huge difference to how we sing this.

Saturday Night

What a wonderful evening in support of a charity that is important to many people in the choir and, in particular, to our dear Julie Horsfield and her family. Julie's strength and courage in introducing the evening was amazing and filled with so much love and emotion. We were all so proud and happy to be there.

An audience that included the new lady Mayor of Knaresborough, Hannah Gostlow, who knew the choir of old but had not seen us singing as a larger choir in recent years. Everybody joined in enthusiastically in the 'Danger Men at Work' warm up, and then settled to listen to the first set which was filled with many firm favourites in our repertoire. There was a half time break with tea, coffee and gorgeous cakes in the church hall and then straight into the second half with a flourish. Craig told the audience about our upcoming performance at the Manchester Annual Choral Competition and explained that we were making the most of an opportunity to sing 'I Wanna Dance With Somebody' to a live audience. We all know how challenging this song is and what an important part of our set, in homage to Whitney Houston, it is. Everyone was nervous and excited but wow! how surprised and delighted were we when we finished! Obviously still things to work on but for a first run through in a public setting we did so well. In the words of one of our songs, we do know what we've done today to make us feel Proud! The remainder of the set went very well, and the audience left on a high note!!(forgive the pun!)

Huge thanks to Craig for the incredible generosity of spirit, unfailing enthusiasm and supreme professionalism, to Tom for his amazing piano accompaniment, to Julie and John and the rest of the committee for their unfailing hard work, to all the bakers and raffle prize givers, tea makers, coffee mixers and stage builders. As always, sincere thanks to our friends and family who came along to support us too.

At the end of an exhilarating evening, I was standing beside an elegant lady waiting at the exit while the staging was being taken out of the church. This lady told me it was her first time to hear us sing and that she had been moved to tears a number of times throughout the evening. She thought it must be wonderful to be part of such an amazing choir. Good job everyone!!

Linda

Thanks Linda,

Just to reiterate what a wonderful evening we had, a special well done to Julie Horsfield for her fantastic speech, your family looked so proud of you. The concert, raffle, refreshments, merchandise etc raised £875 for Asthma and Lung UK what a fantastic amount.

Everybody worked together like a well-oiled machine, setting up and clearing up, serving refreshments, but most of all singing with such joy, you all made it a very special night.

I received an email this morning from a member of the audience who had wanted to see us sing again after hearing us at Christmas at St Johns Tree Festival she said:

Felix and I are sat this morning saying what a wonderful evening we all had last night. Absolutely tremendous warmth and joy from your choir with everyone singing their hearts out.

One of my friends was remembering her late husband on their 45th wedding anniversary and was really moved by the singing as well as Julies tribute at the beginning. When I asked her along I had no idea, and she was so glad she came. Another friend attending, had also been widowed at 49. So, joy for them both, last night was really important. You never know who you're singing to, do you?

This week we'll have our practice on Tuesday 13th of February not Thursday 15th of February.



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

- ❖ **Tuesday 13th February – Practice night instead of Thursday 15th**
- ❖ **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 have you got your ticket this is the link. www.fienta.com/macc**
- ❖ **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 at Trinity Church Spring Concert to raise funds for our Limerick Trip.**
- ❖ **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

The reason that you dance and sing is to make the audience feel like they're dancing and singing.

As long as you're having fun with it and giving 100 percent. They're gonna feel that.

Heath Ledger

Have a good week.

Julie