

KNOT

ANOTHER CHOIR

BULLETIN No 9 9th March 2024

“Wow” and “Impressive’, two words that will no doubt be etched into all our brains when recalling the Manchester Annual Choral Competition of 2024! Not only because these were the first words the judge used in response to our performance, but I do believe they effectively describe the whole experience across the day.

WOW!

The competition was not solely focused on who would be the winning choir but was about allowing all participants the satisfaction of singing to a high standard and having the opportunity to experience and enjoy the diversity of performances from other amateur choirs of all ages and styles. A whole day totally immersed in such magnificent music was incredible. The MACC backstage team kept this juggernaut of a competition running along so smoothly without any major hitches, an amazing feat!! It was a true pleasure to be part of such a prestigious competition. Our wonderful Knot Another Choir of 85 was the biggest choir by far.



The auditorium in the Royal Northern College of Music had wonderful acoustics. Never having sung in such a huge space it was slightly unnerving at first to have so much standing room! Regardless, we rose to the occasion and gave an exceptional performance and followed sage advice to live in the ‘now’ and have a wonderful experience to always remember!



We were competing against phenomenal choirs, with amazing sound. There was acapella, barbershop, community choirs, chamber choirs and of course the very endearing children's choirs. Every performance saw participants singing their hearts out and giving their all. The delivery and high standard moved us all in so many ways, nobody envied the judges role of having to decide a winner. It really was beyond comprehending because each choir gave something special in their performance.

The final part of the day when the results were delivered, was delightfully shocking. It left most of us speechless for a few seconds before we broke out into cheers of surprise and excitement! Sitting behind Craig, Tom and Julie as this unfolded was fantastic to observe. They all nearly fell off their seats in confusion and then delight! How proud we all were to realise Craigs marvellous direction, Tom's sensitive playing, and our passionate singing was recognised and acknowledged.



Thursday Night Practice

It was great to have our lovely Declan and his cheeky smile with us for the evening!

We completed a shaky, shaky warm up that was a combination of moving, counting and breathing skills. A real wakeup call with full on energy from everyone!



Craig talked to us about our performance in Manchester and said “you absolutely deserved that award for so many reasons, for all of that hard work you have put in since the beginning of the year. It was not an easy programme; it was a very difficult programme. It was a cohesive programme that brought together all the things that you really do well”. We may not have truly believed this before the competition, but we certainly do now.

Julie then shared that she had emailed the MACC team thanking them for a fabulous day. They responded by saying our performance was an ‘absolute knockout’. Julie had a copy of the Runners Up plaque made for Craig and it was received amid huge applause.



We then began learning the very beautiful song ‘Can't help falling in Love’ in preparation for a special wedding in August! It has 5 parts and does have complicated harmonies. As we are singing acapella we took the time to go through the first 16 bars for each section in detail.



For homework this week Craig has asked that we go through sections A and B and revisit what we covered tonight (bars 1 to 16).

Finally

Did you know there were amazing views of the across the length of the UK on Sunday evening. As we were celebrating on the bus home from the competition there was a colourful display in the night sky. Was this the universe acknowledging our award? My whimsical nature likes to think so :)



Ciao for now,

Linda x

Thanks Linda

Manchester 3rd March MACC

Well, what an experience that was! So much planning.... seeking out the event, asking Craig if he'd be prepared to take on the challenge, applying to take part complete with a bio about us, along with photos and recordings of our songs. Many thanks to Lynne Sharp for making a successful application to Knaresborough Council for funding, this paid for the coaches and professional fees for Craig and Tom.

We asked if you'd keep your attendance up in February in the run up to the event, you were excellent at this thank you! what a thoroughly conscientious choir you've become! We had an especially great day at the workshop at Chain Lane when most of you going to Manchester were there.

We had to set off very early on Sunday, but you were all so keen all arriving in good time, in your smart new jackets, it was the first time we'd worn them en masse. When we arrived in reception at The RNCM you all looked amazing like a professional choir.

Our performance was beautiful we sang very well you all looked so happy, and the adjudicator gave us a very encouraging analysis we will get written feedback in the next couple of weeks. The day was then free to network with other choirs (everybody was so friendly), walk into the city, or go back into the auditorium to see the other choirs perform. There were some amazing performances. I hope you enjoyed whatever you did and that you'll remember the day very fondly.

At the end of the day we went back to see the award ceremony, I didn't think, as it was the first time we'd entered that we were in with a chance of being placed, how wrong I was! They called out Knot first, do they mean us we wondered? There couldn't be another Knot. Anyway, Craig Tom and I tramped down to the stage, I grabbed Toms arm so that I didn't fall down the stairs. I spoke to the lady adjudicator and thanked her she said our performance had been very moving. I don't think I've felt as happy in a long time, its lasted all week too. A massive thanks as always goes to Craig for his wonderful leadership and enthusiasm getting us up to this standard, and thanks to you all for practicing and working so hard to prepare for the competition.

Here's a poem written by our Knot Another laureate Julie Horsfield about her recollections of the day.

Off T' Competition

Off we went to Manchester,
On t'coach, in order t'sing
Dint quite know what they'd make o'us,
When they 'erd are voices ring.

It were strange to be ovver t' Pennines,
Really out o' are comfort zone,
But it were quite exciting,
To be far away from 'ome.

Happened that we were second up
So on to t' stage we bobbed,
We came reet after t'other choir,
That with Total Praise we was robbed.

We stood and listened carefully
T' wot judges 'ad t' say.
When first word out o' 'is mouth were WOW,
We were chuffed for rest o' day.

Craig were proper proud of us,
In 'is normal sartorial fashion.
We 'eard the words we wanted to 'ear,
That we'd really sung wi' passion.

After we'd 'ad summat t' eight
We sat 'n' listened t' rest
Knowing that at least we could say
We'd done are very best.

Then came time o' reckoning,
When so many folk were great
We all were there, holding us breath.
I were 'olding the 'and of mi mate.

Judge then rambled on a bit,
About who exactly got wot.
Then we 'eard it loud and clear
That the award were going to Knot.

Who the 'ell is Knot we thought,
Were it someone we' 'adn't seen
Then Craig 'n' Julie realised
It were us that they did mean.

We shouted and cheered like gud 'uns,
And so did all the rest.
It goes to prove officially,
That Knot is quite simply the best.

March 2024

24th March York Racecourse.

So sorry we have had to cancel this visit as only 30 odd of you signed up on Muzodo to take part probably you're all doing things in the run up to Easter. FYI - regardless of how many of you go to things our professional costs are still the same.

May 11th

This is our Spring Concert, please could I make a special request that we all work hard to pull in a good crowd. At our last concert audience numbers were somewhat down. Now we're a multi award winning choir I'm sure everybody will want to see what we're all about, with over 100 in the choir we should be able to attract a big crowd, so please start asking around now, you could ask your friends at the WI, your fitness group, your church, old pals, or ask your friends that you know in other choirs. On this

occasion we'll be raising money for KnAC for our Limerick Fund. I'll have some posters and flyers ready soon.



Dates for your 2024 Diary
SOME CHANGES PLEASE NOTE
New events are in red ink.

- ❖ Thursday 21st March NO CHOIR
- ❖ **** CANCELLED **** Sunday 24th March 2024. Unfortunately, due to a poor response signing up to sing (probably as its Eastertime) at York Racecourse.
- ❖ Thursday 28th March NO CHOIR
- ❖ Saturday April 13th 2024 Harrogate Community Choir Festival at The Royal Hall. The organisers only required a limit of 70 of us to take part as space is limited to accommodate a big audience. Could we encourage a few more sopranos to sign up we have 22 at the moment. We have a few too many altos 27 so I'll have to pick a couple of names out of a hat for them to level the sops and altos up.
- ❖ Saturday 20th April Knaresborough Community Festival at St John's School. – **THIS IS NOT A PERFORMANCE, it is a Knaresborough Connectors event to show the public what is going on in Knaresborough, we will give out leaflets, do a tombola and tell the general public about KnAC.**
- ❖ 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. Times to be confirmed.

- ❖ **Thursday 12th September – Return to choir this gives you time to take a holiday after NYCC schools have gone back on the 2nd September.**
- ❖ **Saturday 9th November – All day preparation for Christmas Workshop @ Christ Church Harrogate.**
- ❖ **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 Henshaw's Arts and Crafts.**

And Finally,

Friends who sing together stay together.

Have a good weekend.

Julie