

# KNOT

## ANOTHER CHOIR

### BULLETIN No 12 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

How lovely to come to choir on a sunny day, one of many we've had recently. As Craig said, it did seem ages since we were last together, must be because we love it so much that a week off feels too long! The newly resurfaced car park looks amazing.



We started on our new song, Like A Prayer. The big thing here according to Craig is to sing like a maniac (but not like John Wayne!)



We started with the 3<sup>rd</sup> chorus, please sing Hugh not **you** in the line "I wanna take **you** there", but like Hugh is being electrocuted (for want of a better description, wobble a bit!) and come straight off on there. And on I, a bit of a grunt like you're throwing up! I won't tell the full story for those not there tonight you can watch the video! This chorus is the same for other times we sing it, but on this third run through it, it's double, running straight into chorus 4.



We went to the bridge next, which has a gospel feel to it. "Just like a prayer, I'll take you there" to be sung staccato, "it's like a dream to me" smoother or legato, running the "to me" as a slide rather than picking the notes out individually. This is repeated 4 times in total. Altos please note a change from the score, on "just like a prayer", on the "a" please sing a D rather than repeating the C as written, please change this on your copies.

Back to the reprise, where sopranos have the tune and all the other voices support with the woah's. Practice your own part here so you're not put off by anyone else! Please work on this at home if you weren't at practice or didn't feel confident with it.

We then went to the outro. Another change to the score for the altos, please ignore the quaver G before the last note and sing in the same rhythm as everyone else. Tenors have an awkward jump at bar 106, this is a 4th (“Away in a manger” Craig says, “on Ilkla Moor B'ah tat” I was taught, clearly a cultural divide). Please be confident on your last note, it may not be what you expect, sopranos split here, and altos drop back down a note.

The main take away for me from tonight was being confident as we move from section to section, where they join is sometimes a bit tricky!

From electrocution to vomit in one night, not something I'll forget easily!

See you next week.

Lynne

### **Thank You Lynne!**

Wow!! What a fantastic rehearsal tonight with an amazing turnout of 89, please can we keep up these numbers and not let them drop over the course of the term. We are delighted to have welcomed a new young lady member this week.

It's great to be starting with yet another song that will, I am sure, become an absolute showstopper. Day one and we're already on to the choreo!! We'll be absolutely fine as long as we're not asked to do that turning, shimmying and clapping extravaganza that we saw at Craig's concert with the LC Pop Choir. Don't know about the rest of you but step and clap is about my limit. I used to say, “I can sing or I can dance but doing them both simultaneously is a bit of a challenge.” Now we just crack on with it and ‘usually’ all clap in the right place, at the right time.

Please remember to contact Julie BS if you're ever going to be away from practice for whatever reason. We do recognise that everyone cannot be at every rehearsal but please try to give a real commitment to the choir.

## Exciting News Flash

We will soon be able to start the process of applying for us to enter into the Manchester Choral Festival(MACC) again in 2026, the competition will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2026. Applying is quite a rigorous job, we can start to do this from the 1st of May 2025 and I hope we can get in, it isn't a foregone conclusion that we get a place as there are many choirs wanting to take part. Anyway keep your fingers crossed and keep the 1<sup>st</sup> of February in your diaries and the weeks in the run up to this date.

For those of you who weren't in the choir in March 2024, it was an absolutely fabulous day when we competed against other amazing choirs from across the country. As we had very limited experience in competitions, we were absolutely blown away and amazed to be announced runners up. So, everyone please keep your fingers crossed and hope that the application will be successful. With this event in mind, I'll move onto the part about :-

## FUNDRAISING

As you can imagine the costs involved in transporting the choir to Manchester are very high, so, our fundraising goal for this year will be to raise enough money so that there will be no cost to members, like last year we will need two coaches. So please, please, please **EVERYONE** take part in our fundraising activities each week for £1 as any shortfall in costs will have to be met by those participating in the event. If you forget your cash, we now take card payments so there's really no escape!!! LOL!

In addition to the weekly fundraising, I have sent a request in to the market inspector in Knaresborough for us to, once again, have a charity stall at the Wednesday Market, I am awaiting her response to this. We'll do our usual tombola and also, if you can knit perhaps small items e.g. baby clothes, socks, beanie hats etc or do any other crafts that we would be able to sell on the stall, please have a word with me, or any other member of the committee.

## Invitations

We have been invited, once again, to take part in the Knaresborough Community Festival run by Knaresborough Connectors, this year it's being held at St. Mary's Primary School on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other people from community groups whilst doing some fundraising for the choir. We had lots of fun at this event last year.



More information to follow.



I'm so excited to inform you that Eric Whitacre will be the musician in residence at The Ryedale Festival in July. We can hear him speak about his work, see him conducting The National Youth Choir of Scotland and take part in a workshop singing "Sing Gently" and "The Seal Lullaby" with others which will be great fun.

Perhaps you'd like to take part in one or all of the events below.

Thanks so much to Hilary Sawyer KnAC Soprano for telling me about the festival.

Here is a link to the program for the whole festival  
<https://ryedalefestival.com/brochure-2025/>

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1-30pm at All Saints Church, Hovingham**

#### ERIC WHITACRE IN CONVERSATION

Katy Hamilton interviewer



One of the world's most celebrated choral composers offers a fascinating glimpse into his creative world. In this intimate conversation with Katy Hamilton, he shares insights into his music, inspirations and artistic journey, and tells the stories behind some of his most beloved works.

£6 • £2 (UNDER 25)

#### 'A REALLY GOOD POEM IS FULL OF MUSIC' - MEET ERIC WHITACRE

One of the most successful composers of our time, Eric Whitacre has transformed choral music with his distinctive voice and innovative spirit. Known for rich harmonies and transcendent soundscapes, he has captivated audiences worldwide, bridging the gap between contemporary and classical traditions.

Raised in Nevada, Eric's path to music was unconventional, beginning as a self-taught musician before his talent flourished in formal studies. His early choral works, including *Luce Aurumque*, *Sleep* and *The Seal Lullaby* quickly

became staples of the repertoire, loved for their atmospheric beauty and imaginative response to poetry. As he reminds us, 'a really good poem is full of music.'

As a Festival Artist in Residence, Whitacre will conduct some of his most famous works but also lead workshops for singers and offer insights into his creative process. Whether experiencing his music in performance or hearing from him directly, audiences and participants have a rare chance to engage with one of today's most visionary artists.

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 3pm at Hovingham Hall



34 3pm  
Hovingham Hall

### NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF SCOTLAND ERIC WHITACRE CONDUCTOR

**Whitacre Lux Aurumque**  
**Whitacre Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine**  
**Whitacre A Boy and a Girl**  
**Whitacre Hurr**  
**Whitacre All Seems Beautiful to Me**  
**Whitacre The Seal Lullaby**  
**Whitacre Sing Gently**  
**JS Bach arr. London Come sweet death**  
**Moses Hogan Elijah Rock**  
**Moses Hogan Joshua Fit the Battie**

Eric Whitacre takes the podium to lead one of Europe's top choirs. From Whitacre's own *Seal Lullaby* to Moses Hogan's arrangements of African American spirituals, this collaboration promises an inspiring blend of emotion, innovation and vocal brilliance.

£24 • £20 • £2 (UNDER 25)

## Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 6pm at The Wesley Centre Malton

40 6pm  
Wesley Centre, Malton

### SING WITH ERIC WHITACRE

All are welcome at this one-hour choral workshop led by Grammy-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre. Music will be provided and repertoire includes *Sing Gently* and *The Seal Lullaby*.

'Harmonising with strangers was a deeply felt, primitive refresher course in community. We experienced, full force, the fundamental urge to just get along...inspiring' - *LA Times*

£10 • £2 (UNDER 25)



## Wednesday 23rd July, 8pm at St Lawrence's Church, York

WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY CONTINUED

8pm  
St Lawrence's Church, York

### ERIC WHITACRE – THE SACRED VEIL

Eric Whitacre conductor  
VOCESS  
Joely Koos cello  
Christopher Glynn piano

**Eric Whitacre The Sacred Veil**

What if our departed loved ones are not truly gone, but closer than we think? A deeply moving collaboration between Eric Whitacre and poet Charles Anthony Silvestri, *The Sacred Veil* explores the fragile lines between birth, love and loss. Its poignant story charts Silvestri falling in love with his wife Julie, the arrival of their children, and Julie's death from ovarian cancer at the age of 36.

Performed by the incomparable VOCESS under Whitacre's direction, and presented in association with the cancer charity Maggie's, this is music of breathtaking beauty and emotional depth - a tribute to the power of memory and the enduring presence of those we have lost.



'heartbreaking but also bracing...plenty of tears flowed in the audience, but Whitacre's tender, subtle score gave listeners a metaphorical blanket to hold'  
*Los Angeles Times*

£22 • £18 • £2 (UNDER 25)

This concert lasts approximately one hour, with no interval.  
Presented in association with Maggie's Yorkshire, Breyone's home of cancer care.



Eric Whitacre

## The Daytones

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of April The Daytones are holding a concert at **Gracious Street Methodist Church** to raise funds for St. Michael's Hospice. The concert includes a pie'n'pea supper for just £9. Perhaps a good crowd of us will be able to attend. The gentlemen are great fun as you will remember from the Choir Festival at Royal Hall. You can purchase tickets from the office at Gracious Street Methodist Church they are open much of the time.

### Daytones Harmony Chorus



"We entertain with songs and banter!"  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, 5pm  
followed by a pie'n'pea supper at



a concert raising funds for  
**Saint Michael's Hospice**

North Yorkshire Hospice Care is a registered charity in England and Wales (118905)  
Tickets, priced **£9**, are available from Chorus members and  
Gracious Street Methodist Church.

## Reminder

Can I just give a gentle reminder about the talking when Craig is trying to work with other sections. Once the session has started, there is no need to chatter comment or interrupt things Craig has said. It can be very off

putting for those who are trying to see how their part fits in with the rest of the song, we all need to concentrate hard especially when we're learning something new.

In addition to this, could we make another little request that chairs are not moved after they have been set up, they are positioned with health and safety in mind so that we do not block the aisles or the fire exit.

Many thanks for your support.



## Dates for your 2025 Diary

PLEASE NOTE

*New events and changes are in red.*

- ❖ **10<sup>th</sup> April Practice.**
- ❖ **17<sup>th</sup> April Easter Break no choir practice.**
- ❖ **24<sup>th</sup> April Practice**
- ❖ **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May St Barnabas Church Weeton, tickets sales will be helping to raise funds for The Forget Me Not Hospice for children.**
- ❖ **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May Knaresborough Community Festival at St Mary's School.**
- ❖ **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May Valley Gardens Harrogate 2pm to 4pm.**
- ❖ **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June we will perform two sets at Newby Hall at 1pm to 1-45 and 2-15pm to 3pm.**
- ❖ **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2pm Afternoon concert at URC Knaresborough.**
- ❖ **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July at Roundhay Park Leeds we will be singing at a Sunset Walk in aid of St Gemma's Hospice Leeds, timings to follow.**
- ❖ **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July we will again perform two sets at Newby Hall 1pm to 1-45 and 2-15pm to 3pm.**
- ❖ **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 when we will perform as the special guests of The Dales Pop Choir at Ripon Cathedral.**
- ❖ **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025 Afternoon concert at Starbeck Methodist Church.**

- ❖ **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November Pre Christmas-Workshop Christ Church Harrogate.**
- ❖ **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Christmas Food and Gift Fair Ripon Cathedral.**
- ❖ **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Christmas Concert at URC.**
- ❖ **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Christmas Concert at Trinity Church.**

**And Finally,**

**On behalf of the committee, may I thank you all for your ongoing commitment to our choir.**

**But most of all:**

**Be happy, be healthy – take care**

**Julie H**