

KNOT

ANOTHER CHOIR

BULLETIN No 13 11th April 2025

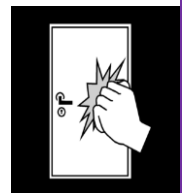


So tonight, we were in the presence of TV stars! A massive well done to everyone who gave such a great performance on BGT!

We started with “Sing Gently”. Craig reminded us that 3/4 time feels very different, so to be mindful when we see dotted Minims as that this is a whole bar.

At bar 14, tenors and basses note that your rhythm is different to the sopranos and altos, and you sing “be” on a quaver, slightly behind. Altos, note that the “sic” of “music” is on the second beat of the bar, don't anticipate it. All voices at bar 19 try not to finish “aloft” as if we're grateful it's over and we can breathe! Bar 25 is a staggered entry, try not to focus on any of the other voices concentrate on your own part. Sopranos and altos are straight in, try not to delay. Altos make sure you're ready for the first bar on the page turn at bar 32/33, it's not what you expect.

The notes in this piece are not the hard bit, it's the rhythm that is complex. Lots of practice. We're knocking on the door of the perfect sound, but nobody is answering yet!



We then sang “Like a prayer” from the beginning. Lots of breath needed here, it's slow for the choir against the soloist, and lots of long notes. Try not to expire!



Verses 1 and 2 are the same notes (different words for sopranos), the unison is **“heaven help me”** the first time and **“let the choir sing”** in the 2nd verse. Altos at bars 31 and 32 it is the same note but give bar 32 a quick scoop onto the note to give it fresh emphasis.

Craig will go over any of the parts we're not sure of next time. Again, practice at home please, we are almost there.

Have a great Easter everyone and remember that chocolate clogs the throat, so not too many eggs!!

See you in 2 weeks!

Lynne.



Thank You Lynne!

Thanks to you all for another very well attended, hardworking practice last night, there were 89 of you there . We got through a lot of work on both “Sing Gently” and “Like A Prayer”. If you weren’t able to be there, please would you watch and sing along with the recording. Please can you also learn your parts to the end of these two songs and try and start singing them without the music.

Craig asked if I’d thank you for the pieces of writing some of you sent him about what the choir means to you, and how you feel it improved your feelings of confidence and wellbeing. He’ll be taking what he received to a workshop he’s doing in Germany next week.

John and I visited the very beautiful St Barnabas Church, Weeton yesterday to have a look at where we’ll be singing, and to talk about having a raffle and refreshments. If anybody has anything suitable that they might be able to donate as raffle prizes please bring them to Julie Horsfield when we return to choir on the 24th April.

Julie Bradbury-Sharp

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 1st of February 2026.

Applying is quite a rigorous job, we can start to apply 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 so many choirs wanting to take part from all over the UK. Anyway, keep your fingers crossed and keep the 1st of February 2026 in your diaries and for the weeks in the run up to this date please don't miss practices.

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 as runners up and we received a trophy at the end of the day, we couldn't believe it as they called out our choir's name as "Knot". So, everyone please keep your fingers crossed and hope that our 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 in two coaches are very high, last year it was £1300, plus we also did a workshop before we went just to make sure we were tip top on the songs we were singing, so, our fundraising goal for this year will be to raise enough money so that there will be no cost to members.

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! If you want to do a block payment this is possible, please speak to Julie Horsfield about this.

In addition to the weekly fundraising, we have sent a request into the market inspector for us to, once again, have a charity stall at the Knaresborough Wednesday Market, we are awaiting a 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 Julie H, 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 18th May. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other people from other 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. If any of you see things that might be of interest to the choir before me please let me know.

Here is a link to the program for the whole festival.

<https://ryedalefestival.com/brochure-2025/>

You'll be able to purchase tickets for any of the events at the festival on Monday 14th April.

Sunday 20th 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 *Lux 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.

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Sunday 20th July, 3pm at Hovingham Hall



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 Battle*

Eric Whitacre takes the podium to lead one of Europe's top choirs. From Whitacre's own *Seal Lullaby* to Mose 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 22nd July, 6pm at The Wesley Centre Malton

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)



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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
VOCES8
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 VOCES8 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 + £10 + £2 (UNDER 25)

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

Eric Whitacre



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Reminder

We sent out a Muzudo survey the other day covering 3 of our forth coming events (St Barnabas, Valley Gardens and Newby Hall), if you haven't filled them all out yet then please do it ASAP so that we can plan the events and know our numbers to give to the organisers of the events.



Dates for your 2025 Diary

PLEASE NOTE

New events and changes are in red.

- ❖ 10th April Practice.
- ❖ 17th April Easter Break no choir practice, have a lovely break.
- ❖ 24th April Practice.
- ❖ 1st April Practice.
- ❖ Saturday 3rd May @ 4pm St Barnabas Church Weeton, tickets sales will be helping to raise funds for The Forget Me Not Hospice for children which is in Huddersfield. Could we wear our more formal black outfits for this event.
- ❖ Sunday 18th May Knaresborough Community Festival at St Mary's School. Come and help if you have time. Wear your choir jackets or t-shirts.
- ❖ Sunday 25th May Valley Gardens Harrogate 2pm to 4pm.
- ❖ Sunday 15th June we will perform two sets at Newby Hall at 1pm to 1-45 and 2-15pm to 3pm.
- ❖ Saturday 28th June 2pm Afternoon concert at URC Knaresborough.
- ❖ Saturday 5th July at Roundhay Park Leeds please note we will be singing at a Sunset Walk in aid of St Gemma's Hospice Leeds, timings to follow. Please note we are singing to the walkers not doing the walk ourselves.
- ❖ Sunday 13th July we will again perform two sets at Newby Hall 1pm to 1-45 and 2-15pm to 3pm.
- ❖ Saturday 20th September 2025 when we will perform as the special guests of The Dales Pop Choir at Ripon Cathedral.

- ❖ **Sunday 12th October 2025 Afternoon concert at Starbeck Methodist Church.**
- ❖ **Saturday 8th November Pre Christmas-Workshop Christ Church Harrogate.**
- ❖ **Saturday 22nd November Christmas Food and Gift Fair Ripon Cathedral.**
- ❖ **Saturday 6th December 2025 Christmas Concert at URC.**
- ❖ **Thursday 18th December 2025 Christmas Concert at Trinity Church.**

Thanks for a great term everybody, have a happy Easter.

See you back at practice on the 24th April.

Julie Bradbury-Sharp