



LIVERPOOL WELSH
CHORAL

Simply Dynamic

Magazine: March 2022



A note from Keith

The buzz created amongst the choir following our successful 'Concert in Blue' is palpable, even many days later. Great for our morale, great for our confidence, great for our well-being moving forward. I know that some of you thought that 'Mass in Blue' would be too difficult to learn....well, I *never* had any doubts in the choir's ability and determination to adapt to a very different musical idiom.

Well done everyone.
This is why we all want to be involved in choral music making!

Keith



Please go to our website to see more photos and videos from our recent concerts and details of future events

lwcu.co.uk

Meet your fellow choristers - Alison Featherstone

At the beginning of last year, I found myself on a yoga mat in our local gym, next to a fellow Pilates student, Brigitta, who explained that she was a soprano in the Liverpool Welsh Choral. We found that we shared a passion for music but from different histories and perspectives. By coincidence I met one of the tenors, Ann, a friend of a friend, and before long I was persuaded to attend a striking and beautiful Liverpool Welsh Choral concert at the Philharmonic Hall: I was extremely impressed! Although very unsure whether I could dust off my rusty teenage and early twenties' musicianship, I joined an initial "live" (as opposed to "virtual") choir practice in All Hallows Church.



At first, I found the pace of rehearsal extremely challenging. The sheer number of singers was also a bit overwhelming. However, thanks to Keith's inspiration, combined with the support of my new colleagues and our trusty section leader, Mo, I passed (a bit miraculously) my audition and was able to join in that extraordinary and uplifting concert, "Great Choral Classics" last November: a moving triumph for everyone as we heralded the first stage of recovery from the pandemic.

This has been a wonderful opportunity and I am very grateful to those who have helped me to persevere, finding my listening, singing and watching skills slowly improving. It is truly a privilege to be a member of such a talented, motivated and experienced choir. Sadly, I may have to absent myself from rehearsals for a while because of home circumstances, but I shall be back.

Michael Pate



I started singing in my high school choir, where I was noticed by a local choirmaster. He asked me to join the choir at St Luke's church, Orrell, where I have stayed for 30 years. I played the piano as a child, and graduated to church organ, helping to lead St Luke's choir during a 2-year spell when the choir did not have a choral director.

I heard about LWC from Geraldine Boocock and Tony Leigh, who are both members of another choir I belong to, called the Occasional Singers. I went on the LWC website and it sounded like a choir where I could develop my musical repertoire and learn the techniques of good singing. I have enjoyed the varied repertoire so far.

I work in research administration in the NHS. I live in Orrell, a journey that takes me about three-quarters of an hour, so I try to leave rehearsal a couple of minutes before the end to get a good start!!

If you would like to appear in our next edition then please send a photo and your story to:

hazel.davies1@hotmail.com

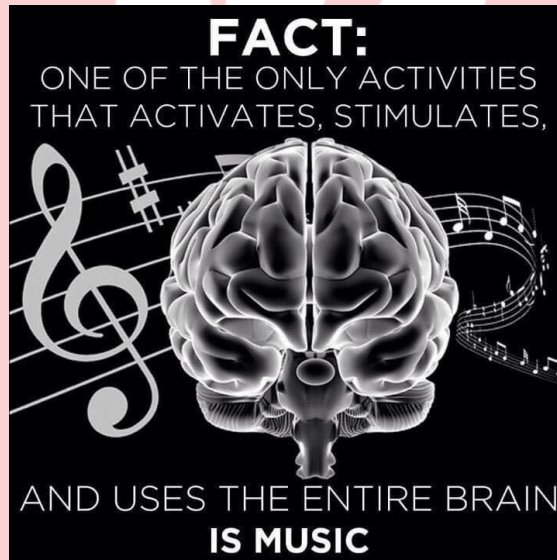
QUIZ

Can you put a name to this tragic story?

An Austrian composer, died on 15th September 1945, shot by an American soldier when he went outside to smoke a cigar his son-in-law had given him. The soldier, an army cook, was overcome by remorse and died an alcoholic ten years later.

Can you name?

An Austrian composer whose name begins with Z?
An American cellist whose name begins with Y?
A Romanian composer whose name begins with X?
An English composer both of whose names begin with W?
A Spanish composer whose name begins with V?

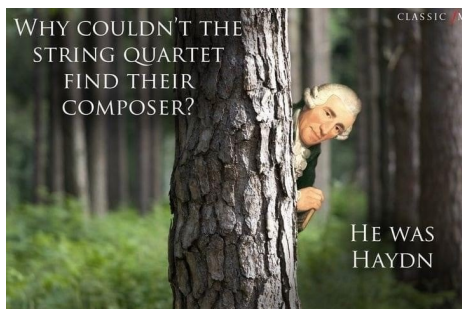


Can you put the following animals into the right piece of music?

Tortoise
Female Fox
Mice
Felines
Worms

Can you spot the odd one out in the following?

Oboe, clarinet, bassoon or cor anglais
Cellos, violin or viola
French horn, trombone, tuba or trumpet



Can you find the missing words?

"If I were a, or then again, no, Or a man who makes in a travelling show"
"Suddenly I saw and moonbeams, All around round a dream"
"Oh I love to go out fishing, in a river or a, But I don't enjoy it half as much as dancing"
"I'm leaving on a, Don't know when I'll be back again"



Prague 2014

...our last foreign tour!

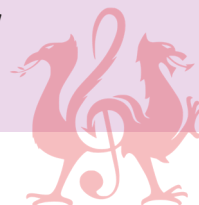


It all started two years earlier when the response to my proposal for another trip abroad met with great enthusiasm. As we had no contacts in Prague to facilitate arrangements we worked with a tour consultant called 'acfea'. There was time to plan and link our concert programme in early May 2014 with a concert called '**Prelude to Prague**'. We agreed with acfea that they would be responsible for booking flights, a hotel, concert venues following consultation and a tour of the city. Chris Williamson, who kindly edited these reminiscences, offered to help. Sarah Pumfrey, our treasurer, dealt with the financial side. The choir numbered about 120 at the time. We could not offer financial assistance, so only those who could find the time and financial commitment, plus 'groupies', made up the party. We were relieved to end with a well-balanced SATB choir. Few problems arose, except an unanticipated rise in air fares and agreeing the correct Czech pronunciation.

We took the same programme to two churches: The Church of the Holy Saviour in the centre of Prague and The Church of St John the Baptist at Treplice, about 80 kms north of the city. We were performing a very varied programme, clearly popular in Prague, for our church was full with an enthusiastic audience. LWC responded admirably. It was a pleasant occasion although unfortunately a member of the audience collapsed before we started. An LWC nurse was on hand and the patient recovered. The Treplice concert really sticks in my mind. I have never heard the choir in better voice. The Welsh National Anthem raised the roof. We performed works by Vaughan-Williams, Mathias, Elgar, Handel and Rutter. The performance of Dvorak, the sign language in the Chilcott— these created a real buzz in the audience... Stephen and Keith were inspired and we ended with a prolonged standing ovation.

Apart from the concerts, we had a tour of the city when the good weather suddenly turned into a downpour, driving a number of us into the local hostelry. There was a coach trip to Olecni Dum (Prague's Municipal House), a dinner while cruising on the Vltava River and of course time to wander as we wished. On the final night, we persuaded another choir in our hotel to join us in after-dinner singing, memorable for the decibels. It was a fine visit packed with interest and much inspirational singing. Such times are not only a joy to those able to take part but also a morale booster to the choir in general. Surely such visits make the choir more attractive and help with recruitment. Maybe it is time to think about another chance to sing abroad!!

Peter Barlow



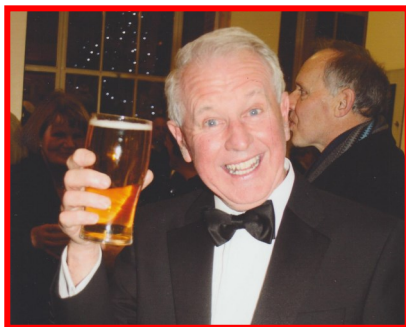
CROESO!

Simply Dynamic Magazine is dedicating this space to offer a warm welcome to those who are joining or rejoining the Choir. We hope you will soon feel at home.



Some of our new members at the end of Concert In Blue

Welcome to: Susy Ejuoneatse, Irene Fennell, Anna Welch, David McCaffrey, John McLachlan and Robert Woods who is our new Tenor / Bass singer leader!



And a very special welcome back to IFOR!

HWYL FAWR!

The following people are unfortunately unable to sing with us for the moment. We keep them in our thoughts and look forward to a time when they can take their accustomed places again.

Kay Hyland, Jean Critchley, Yvonne Pearson,
Liz Prince, Joyce Clavering,
Patricia Turton and Ioan Wardhaugh.



“Can Wolfgang come out and play?”

December QUIZ - Answers

Below are lines from well-known songs.

What are the songs and who wrote/performed them?

1. "...wait only for my boot heels to go wandering..."
Hey, Mr Tambourine Man, Bob Dylan
2. "...in his pocket is a portrait of the Queen..."
Penny Lane, The Beatles (Of course!)
3. "...we fell asleep, our goose is cooked,
our reputation is shot!"
Wake up, Little Suzy, Wake up! Everly Brothers,
by F & B Bryant
4. "...my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence."
The Sound of Silence, Paul Simon & Art Garfunkel
5. "I like the Isle of Manhattan,
Smoke on your pipe and put that in!"."
I like to be in America from *Westside Story*
by Leonard Bernstein
6. "I was born with a plastic spoon in my mouth."
Substitute, The Who
7. "...castigate each inmate, who's in late."
Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Noel Coward
8. "May the cloudy, fiery pillar lead me all my
journey through."
Guide Me, O thou Great Jehova, words by William Williams
(1717 - 1791) translated by Peter Williams
9. "My girlfriend's gone off with my car,
Gone back to her Ma and Pa,
Telling tales of drunkenness and cruelty."
Summer Afternoon, The Kinks
10. "...I'd volunteer to quit this sphere instead of you
In a minute or two."
I am so proud, sung by Pooh Bah, The Mikado
by Gilbert & Sullivan

And can you unscramble these musical terms?

CAZOTIPZI
FRONZODAS
BALANITEC
TENNADA

PIZZICATO
SFORZANDO
CANTABILE
ANDANTE

COPADA
ABOUT
VACIVE
NOSUIN

DA CAPO
RUBATO
VIVACE
UNISON

Secrets of a choir librarian!!



George has again kindly shared more of his secrets!

In the last issue George's photo showed him in 'A Funny thing happened on the way to the forum' by Stephen Sondheim in which he played the part of:
The Great Roman Captain Miles!

Can you guess the show and role George is playing in this image?

If the shoe fits.....

Concert in Blue



What's Key for G?



Geraldine Boocock - Cadeirydd

Well - wasn't that an absolutely wonderful concert? I've heard many quotes including "best ever" and "completely blown away". And in my humble, unbiased opinion - **those comments are absolutely justified!** Justified but also very well earned. I think we all worked harder at perfecting the Mass in Blue than we have for some considerable time. And why was that? A combination of things I think: The excitement of LWC's first full (fingers crossed) season for 2 years, the challenge of tackling a completely different type of work, and the sheer joy of knowing that we were doing something well! It goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway) that we couldn't have done it without our fantastic Musical Director and Accompanist. And the soloist and musicians on the night made it a magical experience. Thanks also must go to the good friends of LWC who were recruited at what felt like the eleventh hour to fill some of the Covid gaps in our ranks!

Which brings me to the other topic on our minds just now - Covid (when is it not on our minds?) Many of us - your Cadeirydd included - have succumbed to the virus in the last week or two. But it's not the beast that it was - and I'm sure we will all be back very soon to join in with rehearsals for our next fantastic concert: **Liverpool Welsh Choral in Song** at the Floral Pavilion. So to all the virally afflicted - cheer up - you are very much needed back at LWC. (But only when you're negative!!) And a cheeky little infection control tip: early LFT's in mild Covid are often negative - if you have any covid symptoms - even just a mild sore throat - do retest, and ideally get a PCR test before you could pass Covid on to friends, family - and of course fellow choristers!!

So back to a more cheerful subject: LWC has an exciting time planned over the next few months. As well as the Floral Pavilion concert we have two informal performances: the celebration to rename the Mersey Ferry Terminal in honour of Gerry Marsden on 11th May and the Merseyside Welsh Heritage Society event on 11th June. And of course we will be celebrating another very worthy cause - **ourselves** - at the social event organised by Wena on 14th May.

I really felt that at Cornerstone on 12 March there was a palpable feeling of a rebirth of our Choir.
A new dawn for LWC. Let's keep it special!

Geraldine



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This is the sixth edition of our magazine... 'Simply Dynamic'.

It is intended to be the voice of choristers, not an alternative to the Notices so please send your stories, pictures, thoughts and any (preferably favourable) comments to hazel.davies1@hotmail.com