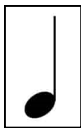




LIVERPOOL WELSH  
CHORAL

# Simply Dynamic

Magazine: June 2022



## *A note from Keith*

Our Floral Pavilion concert left me smiling like a Cheshire cat. What a great finish to our season...and what a season! This Choir is very special, full of willing singers, organisers, helpers; a choir with great resilience, spirit and positivity. And all this against so many covid-related issues which we have had to overcome - and we have! Membership is settling again, and indeed growing a little. We welcome all our new members and returnees after long breaks. We can look to the future with excitement, beginning with a 'Messiah' with top-class (I really mean this!!) soloists, a baroque orchestra in a new state-of-the-art (fantastic) concert venue (the Tung Auditorium) in November. Have a lovely summer and see you (and some of your singer friends who fancy singing with us?) in September!

Very best for the summer, whatever you are doing!



*Keith*

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

[lwcu.co.uk](http://lwcu.co.uk)

*A warm welcome to our  
new choir administrator...*

# Laura

Hello LWC! For those of you that haven't managed to meet or chat to me yet, my name is Laura and I'm your new choir administrator, working away behind the scenes to keep all things LWC in tip top shape. You may have spotted me flitting about on concert days welcoming our guests, organising tea/coffee, corralling you into line for photoshoots . . . . even being a giant door stop, holding the doors open as you walk out on stage to wow your audiences. I'm a jack of all trades, master of none, but I love being a small cog in the LWC wheel.

I found out about LWC when I booked a ticket to see you and Arpe Dolce in concert at Christmas last year. By chance, I stumbled across the job advertised on the Choir's website, and just had to apply, given that one of my hobbies is choral singing. I thought you sounded fabulous and wanted to be part of it. So here I am, at your service for all things admin!



Of a daytime, I work for the fabulous NHS, organising a team of 9 nurses and managing the administrative function for the Infection Control Team. It's been a tough time in the NHS during the Covid-19 pandemic, but we've made it through and are slowly coming out the other side. I've learned a lot during this time: not to take things for granted, to grab every opportunity that comes your way and to do what makes you happy, as life is short.

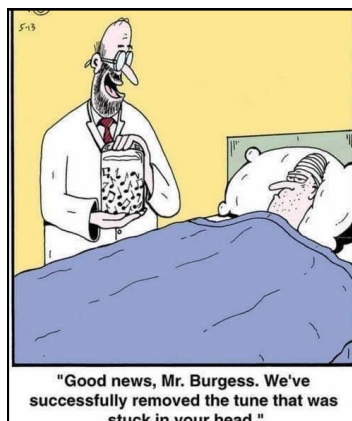
I had an interest in music from an early age. I have sung in a few choirs in my time, but my heart belongs to a small choir called the Capriccio Singers, and I have sung with them for the past 23 years. On a good day, there are only 9 of us so we are very different to the bigger choirs like LWC. They're a great bunch of people too, small but perfectly formed!

More recently I have taken up learning to play the harp. What a beautiful instrument it truly is! I remember at 4 years old, hearing an orchestra play, with the magical sound of a harp floating over the top. I knew then that one day that's what I wanted to do. I'm fortunate enough to own my own pedal harp and have an amazing teacher in Wales, whom I visit regularly for lessons. The only down side is I had to buy a bigger car to put the harp in!

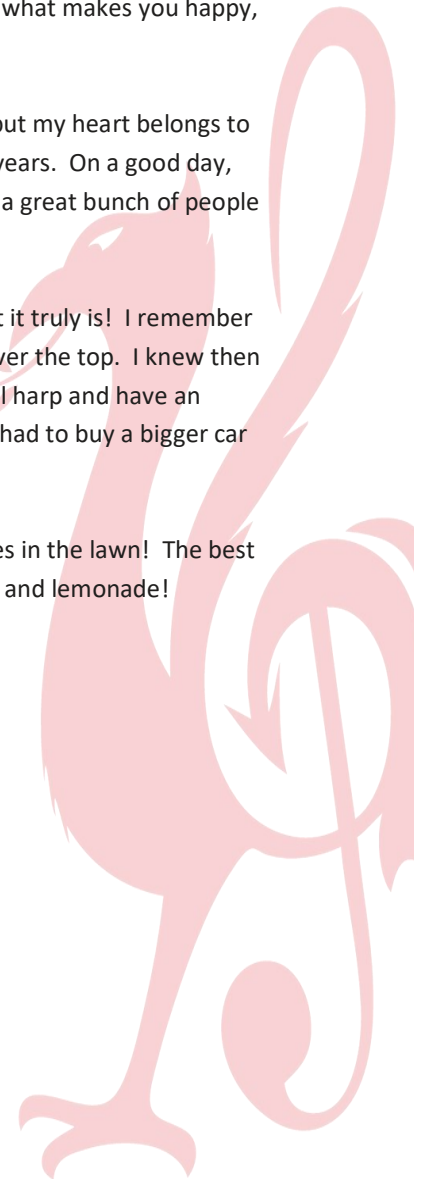
If I have any spare time left, I do enjoy a bit of gardening, especially getting the stripes in the lawn! The best bit about gardening is the refreshments taken on the patio afterwards – mine's a gin and lemonade!

Take good care of yourselves over the summer break and see you in September.

*Laura x*



"Good news, Mr. Burgess. We've successfully removed the tune that was stuck in your head."





# Our Titanic Quilt

Part of our long history was the involvement in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the Titanic in Liverpool in 1912. An extraordinary part of that involvement was the creation of a large quilt to celebrate various aspects of the great ship's maiden voyage. It was created from individual squares of material, each depicting one aspect of the doomed venture. Below is a brief summary of the details on the quilt which is to be donated to the Quilters' Guild Museum in York. Further details can be found on our website: [lwc.co.uk](http://lwc.co.uk).

The quilt was made by the members of LWC at the time. Over one hundred and twenty-seven singers returned an embroidered square to make a quilt of 85 inches by 45 inches (216 x 114 cm). The main panes in the quilt were designed and made by second Alto, Pat McCoy.

The Liverpool Welsh Choral logo is depicted in the top section of the quilt. It was hand embroidered by Soprano Pat Mitchell, a City and Guilds embroiderer. In the four corner squares she has sewn in the names of the international cities where the choir have been invited to sing: New York, Edinburgh, Dublin and Cologne.

In the middle section, the top square, surrounded by deep red, depicts one of the logos of the White Star Shipping Line. The panel below this has a royal blue surround showing the following flags: the House Flag of the White Star Line, the Blue Ensign, the Pendant of the Royal Mail, the Stars and Stripes and the French Flag. Below this the Titanic's route can be seen.

The large panel in the bottom section speaks for itself. The Choir's response to the making of this quilt showed the dedication and enthusiasm which each member contributed to the Choir's success as one of the UK's leading choirs then and now.



Many thanks to Pat for her work on this amazing piece of art and for reminding us about our Choir members' commitment and efforts in 2012!



LIVERPOOL WELSH  
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## Meet your fellow chorister - Anne Williams

*When the Choir performed in the lovely Floral Pavilion in New Brighton this May, for one member it was far from the first time she had sung there. Our very own Anne Williams had a starring role on the Wirral when she began her singing career in the seventies.*



*Anne's photo in the Floral Pavilion's 'Sparkle at The New Melody Inn Review' brochure.*

After leaving school, I studied at the Royal College of Music in Manchester for three years getting my degree and in the fourth year gained a performance diploma at the Royal Northern College of Music. While I was at college, I sang some solo parts in the "Messiah" with the Shrewsbury Choral Society and I had a cabaret spot for six weeks at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Formby. As a consequence, I was then signed by the agent Mavis White and, because I had worked continually for six weeks, I was able to get my Equity card and became an extra on many TV programmes including "Brookside" and "Coronation Street".

In 1973, I was offered a Summer Season at the Floral Pavilion, which was a great experience as each week we sang and danced our way through different scenes from popular musicals such as Kismet, and Carousel! I also had a solo spot in which I performed popular arias that I had studied at college such as *Un bel di Vedremo* and *Mio babbino caro*, amongst others. The following year I travelled to Ayr in Scotland (now with the stage name of Anne Lesley) and did a season at the Gaiety Theatre where we had guest appearances from Bob Monkhouse, Dana, Bruce Forsyth, Bill Maynard and Vince Hill among other famous names! On returning to Merseyside, I sang in many cabaret spots which Liverpoolians will remember: Allinsons, the Wooky Hollow and the Shakespeare among others where I appeared with Cannon and Ball, Little and Large, Paper Lace and was a support for the wonderful Matt Monro! I appeared on the Ken Dodd show at the Theatre Royal in St Helens and also did a performance with Les Dennis when he was just starting out and guess who was top of the bill?... 'Gerry and the Pacemakers'!



*Anne revisits the stage door she used when she was a star performer in 1973!*

Getting the bug to do some travelling, I saw an advert in the "Stage" newspaper: "Female vocalist wanted for a cruise ship". It was a Greek shipping line, and I spent the next two years collecting our passengers from New York and visiting Miami, the Bahamas, South America and most of the Caribbean islands. I also travelled around the USA for three months spending ten days in Las Vegas where, thanks to my Equity card, I was given free entry to all the dinner shows seeing many huge stars including the wonderful Perry Como and the Carpenters!

When I returned home, I met my husband, had two sons and did not sing again for a long time because we ran off-licenses and public houses. Then, three years ago, I joined St Joseph's choir in Birkenhead. Stella McGann is our MD and we realised we had been at school together all those many years ago! She persuaded me to join LWC and it has been really nice to meet different people from all over Merseyside and to make new friends! I have thoroughly enjoyed singing classical music again and challenging my sight reading skills, but it's a bit like riding a bike, you never forget!

I also sing in Stella's 3L's choir and I am a member of the Heswall Music Society. This month we are performing "Argyle Theatre Remembered" which was an Old Tyme Music Hall to which people travelled from all over the world to appear (including Charlie Chaplin). Unfortunately, it was destroyed in the blitz, but we will be reviving all the old songs this summer!



# Handel ...on the Wirral?



Many in the Choir may know this story, but it is of great interest to all of us.

George Frederick Handel gained success in England by writing operas. Unfortunately, he made an enemy of the Prince of Wales, to such an extent that the latter deliberately sabotaged his performances. As a result, Handel was made bankrupt in 1737. Unable to get past the organised opposition, in 1740 he swore he would never write another opera, and indeed never did. Instead, without friends and money, he isolated himself in his house for 24 days with a libretto based on various biblical passages. His meals were left outside the door by his servant, Job.

At the end of that period, he emerged with the score of *Messiah*, beloved of singers, musicians and audiences ever since. He could not get the new work performed in London but was offered the opportunity to put it on in Dublin.

At that period, Parkgate on the Dee, now well silted up, was then a very active harbour, from which Handel was to set off en-route for Dublin. The winds being against him, he took lodgings at 'The Golden Falcon' in Chester. He had some details to work out in the score, so asked the organist at Chester Cathedral, one Mr Barker, for choir men who could sing at sight, to try out the music. A private rehearsal was organised at the inn where he was staying. What a privilege that would have been!

One of the best singers, a printer called Janson, with a good bass voice, came to grief in the chorus '*And with his stripes we are healed.*' Handel, notoriously volatile, swore at him in four or five languages and shouted, "You shcoundrel! Tit you not tell me dat you could sing at sight?" "Yes Sir" said the printer, "and so I can, but not at *first sight!*" \*

The first performance of *Messiah* took place at the New Music Hall, Fishamble Street, Dublin, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1742. 700 people attended in a hall intended for 600. The excitement created overcame the opposition in London. Covent Garden followed, one year after the Dublin performance. The King was allegedly so moved that, on hearing the Hallelujah Chorus, he rose. The rest of the audience followed and remained standing for the length of the chorus, a custom followed to this day.

\*quoted from a letter by Dr Charles Burney, in *The Wirral Peninsula* by Norman Ellison, first published 1955

## QUIZ

1. For centuries, the Sistine Chapel jealously guarded a celebrated piece of music in 9 parts until Mozart, at the age of 14, wrote down the music from memory after hearing it only twice. What was the title of the music and who wrote it?
2. J S Bach walked 200 miles from Arnstadt to hear the playing of which Danish organist?
3. Liebestod is an operatic aria meaning 'LoveDeath'. It is sung in which opera by which protagonist?
4. Which symphonies are known by the following popular names? Titan, Pathétique, Pastoral, Farewell.
5. In which works did the following popular pieces of music originate? A stranger in paradise, A whiter shade of pale, I vow to Thee my Country.
6. The Aldeburgh Festival is dedicated mainly to the works of which composer?
7. Which is the odd one out? *Gloriana*, *Belshazzar's Feast*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Curlw River*
8. Match the forenames to the surname of these American composers:

John, Richard, Samuel, Stephen, Leonard, George, Aaron - Bernstein, Gershwin, Copland, Cage, Rogers, Barber, Sondheim

(Answers to last edition's quiz will be circulated by email.)

# The Season's Over

To the tune of 'The Party's Over' - Shirley Bassey

The Season's over;  
it's time to call it a day:  
They've taken all of your scores  
And rubbed all the marks away.  
We sang Elijah,  
And Mass in Blue.  
We learnt to sing out  
And come in right on cue...

Hazel Davies

The Season's over;  
The flyers flutter and fall:  
The hearers stood and applauded  
Cheered all the best songs,  
Lit up the Hall.  
Now you must wake up,  
Your songs must end,  
Take off your make-up,  
The Season's over...  
Next Season's coming, my friend

## What's Key for G?



**Geraldine Boocock - Cadeirydd**

Well – we made it!! And in my humble opinion we certainly did it in style!

In September last year we were still playing the *Hokey Cokey* with Covid lockdown and the new season was - shall we say - a little aspirational! The return to rehearsals was very much an on and off affair and, understandably, not all of us actually made it back in September. But not only did the return rate improve considerably as members gained Covid confidence, but the efforts of the recruitment team and of course you, the members, really bore fruit with 20 new members joining us during the course of the year.

Those early Autumn 2021 rehearsals in the shivery (well ventilated!) All Hallows Church presented some logistic difficulties but gave us all a tremendous boost and when we finally got back to Liverpool University it really felt like we were coming home. After lots of hard work by Keith, Stephen and all of you fantastic singers, the Autumn concert was a triumph and since then we have gone from strength to strength.

The Christmas concert in the beautiful St George's Hall Concert Rooms was magical. And *Mass in Blue* in March... what can I say?? Words can't do the performance justice and it will remain in our hearts and minds for a very long time as a totally uplifting emotional experience.

Our recent spring Concert at The Floral Pavilion was very different – but its varied, fun programme was exactly what we needed to bring the season to a perfect end. And, as ever, a slightly sticky afternoon rehearsal (!) was followed by a superb performance.

We're all off now – planning other things: catching up with far-flung families and friends, sailing the seas, climbing mountains and enjoying music in many other settings.

But don't forget that our stalwart Concerts team are continuing to work hard on new delights for 2022-2023. So look after your wonderful voices – and make sure you put our starting date in your diaries:

7th September 2022.

*Geraldine*

*This is the seventh 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](mailto:hazel.davies1@hotmail.com)*