

Simply Dynamic

Magazine: April 2023

LIVERPOOL WELSH CHORAL



A word from Wena

Dear all,

Just a few thoughts from me. Our last concert 'Voices Together' was a wonderful partnership between ourselves and the Liverpool University Chamber Choir. Youth joined with experience and together we made an amazing sound! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

For those who have come to the Welsh reading sessions, I hope you feel confident now that you can concentrate on the music and worry less about correct pronunciation. This coming term we will be working on the Welsh national anthem. It's a very powerful anthem, which deserves to be sung from the heart, not with heads buried in copies. If you struggle with Welsh words, please come at 6-15 on a Wednesday to the room opposite to our normal rehearsal room, where we shall have some fun learning '**Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau**'.



X Wena



Please go to our website to see more photos and videos from our recent concerts and Coronation Sing evening!

lwcu.co.uk

Meet your fellow chorister - Andrew Bailey



Hi, my name is Andrew Bailey and I've been a bass with LWC for 14 years. What's the saying? Time flies when you're having fun and what an enjoyable 14 years they've been!

My choral singing 'journey' started at a young age. My parents both sang with the local Wolverhampton Civic Choir and music and the choir, formed the backdrop to my childhood. I learned to play the piano from the age of 7 and always enjoyed singing at school. Once I'd found my bass voice, Mum encouraged me to join the Civic Choir. I loved the experience and learned a lot during a short time.

I left home for Liverpool University in 2000 to study Architecture, my other great passion! I quickly joined the University choir and within the first term I had performed both the *Faure* and *Mozart Requiem*, no mean feat! Over the coming years I sang as often as time allowed, but ultimately singing took a back seat to the all-consuming demands of studying Architecture and student life in general.

Only after completing my training and qualifying as an Architect in 2008 (and finding myself with actual spare time!) did my desire for singing re-ignite. Via a chance family connection to George Jones, our librarian, I ended up auditioning for LWC and the rest is history. I've had the privilege to perform in some fantastic concerts over the years. There are far too many to mention but particularly memorable highlights have included the spectacular Titanic Experience at the Anglican Cathedral and a joint performance of *Carmina Burana* with Birmingham Festival Chorus.

Singing remains a great pleasure for me and whilst it's sometimes, if not always, a struggle for me to get to choir rehearsals on time from work in Manchester (where I'm currently busy with the Manchester Town Hall project), it's worth the effort. It's a great way to unwind after a taxing day and a distraction from life's woes...

Long may it continue!

Best Wishes,
Andrew



Coronation Sing



Wasn't our Coronation sing splendid?? Yes, the following Saturday in the Abbey was pretty good, but didn't we have a smashing time that Wednesday evening!

We were delighted to welcome so many old LWC friends, it was a real reunion, and we're hoping that some of them will be re-joining us. We were actively pushing next year's prospectus and who can resist the delights awaiting us in 2023-24?

We were also very pleased to have so many guests, all of them excellent singers. So, if you persuaded someone to join us, it's now your job to get to work on them to come again!!!



Keith started us off with some Royal themed vocal exercises to get us all in the mood. And then we were straight into the proper Coronation stuff: We raised the roof with *Zadok* - including the Vivats - after a bit of a discussion about the exact wording!

I Was Glad – and we certainly were! And then the National Anthem – but we ARE a Welsh choir so of course we had to finish with *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*! And didn't that raise the roof! (A shame that Bryn couldn't hear us).



We then toasted the new King Charles III, and of course, we also toasted ourselves! And we had a lovely chat with our old and new friends. We were especially pleased that many of our guests stayed until the second half to swell the ranks for Mozart. And they certainly did us proud.

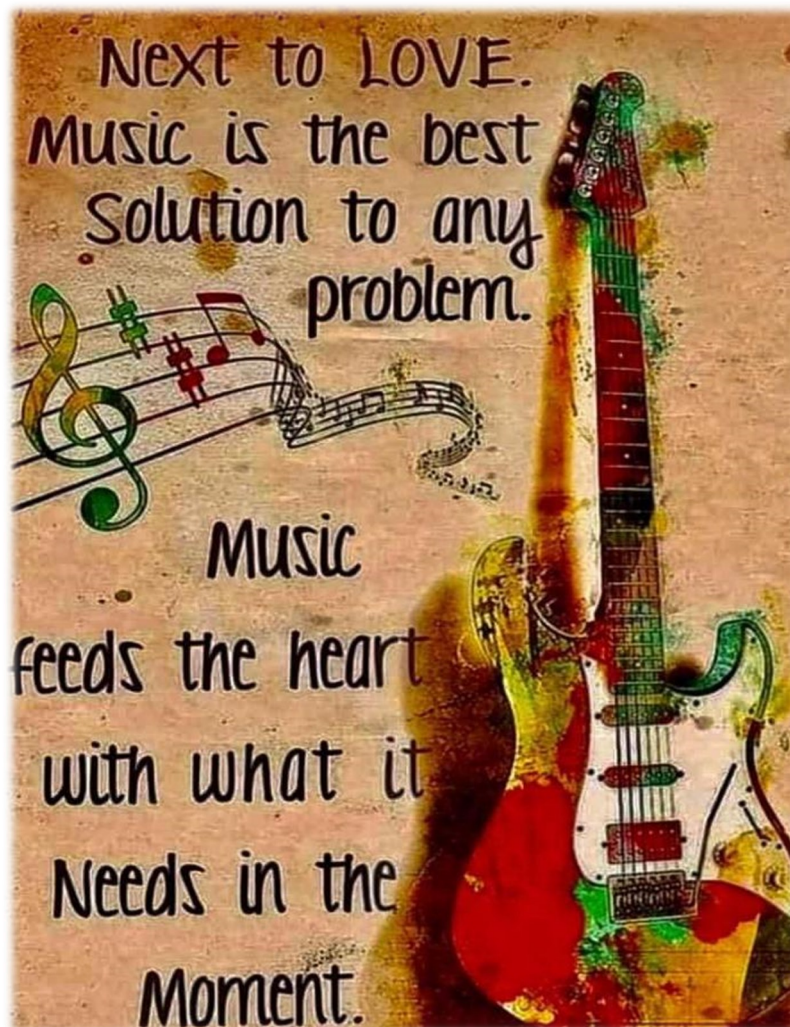
PS: I **must** congratulate our very strong Tenor section on their royal themed headgear – very appropriate (their singing wasn't bad either!)

Geraldine

April's QUIZ



1. What are the English names for the following musical works:
Le Quattro Stagioni
Orphee aux Enfers
La Fanciulla del West
Die Schopfung
Noches en los Jardines de España.
2. What pen name was used by George Bernard Shaw for his reviews and articles in *The Star* (1889-1897)
3. *The Christmas Oratorio*, by J.S.Bach, is composed of 6 cantatas, for performance at the end of the year. For which day was each of them intended?
4. What is a Tetralogy?
5. A flute a bec is more generally known as what?
6. Johnie Dankworth sadly died on 6th February 2010, on the 40th anniversary of the first concert of the musical foundation he jointly set up in 1969. What was the foundation?
7. John's wife, Dame Cleo Laine, has received many accolades for her wonderful singing. What were her birth names?
8. How many countries (approximately) have adopted 'God Save the King' as their National Anthem?



BEHIND THE SCENES

Meet our Membership Faculty

LWC is a marvellous entity. We turn up, week after week to join in glorious song; we practise hard to make perfect; we present the result of our labours to a discerning audience: and it all happens by magic!! Publicity organised. Tick! Orchestra and soloists turn up. Tick! Choir needs catered for. Tick! In reality a lot of hard planning and meticulous work goes on behind the scenes all year long.

In the last edition of *Simply Dynamic!*, the Community Liaison Group was highlighted. This time, it's the turn of **the Membership Faculty**. 'Faculty' seems a grand name for a sub-committee, but it was chosen to indicate a grouping of groups. Before Lockdown, each small group worked separately and came together in huge meetings that went on for hours, repeating much of the work. Geraldine and Stella made use of the enforced pause to streamline the process, bringing each group into one of four Faculties, which work semi-autonomously. The Faculty Leader reports to the Executive Committee to finalise decisions. A streamlined organisation makes it so much easier for everyone to contribute.



Angela



Stella



Sheila

The Membership Faculty deals with attendance, recruitment, data protection, uniform and platform/stage management. Our members at the moment are: Angela Case, the Membership Secretary; Stella McGann, recruitment and GDPR and Sheila Hamilton, who deals with Choir Uniform, not-so-ordinary members Alison Shead, Anne Williams and Ioan Wardhaugh and of course, our indispensable Choir Administrator, Laura McGuffe. The Faculty basically handles all matters which in any way affect the choir membership, from a prospective new member's initial enquiry, through their first audition, their first concert, right through to congratulating them on landmark years of service! In fact it is this group who organised the Coronation event!

We hear of choirs all over the country whose numbers are decreasing, causing some to close. However, Liverpool Welsh Choral has been fortunate to see over twenty new members joining. It seems now as though there is rarely a week where there isn't an enquiry, a new face appearing, an audition or a new member being presented with a badge. At our last concert, approximately one third of our singers had joined since our return after lockdown. We're continually advertising for new members and planning ways to bring people in. The attendance register, under the eagle eye of Angela is now kept electronically and this helps us keep all our information together, so that we can track the number of voices in each section, and their eligibility for concerts. Angela is of course also our platform manager, whose seemingly unflappable nature gets us all seated in the right place for our concerts - and aren't we looking just splendid on the photos of our recent Tung appearances?

Do you have an idea, or a constructive comment related in any way to our choir's membership? Please feel free to approach any one of the Membership Faculty - or come and join us!

Stella McGann



Ioan



Alison



Anne

The Chinese Youth Orchestra

- and the Pagoda



All those choir members who took part in the Spirit of Liverpool Concert in 2018 were astounded by the skill and enthusiasm of the Chinese Youth Orchestra, who joined us. Many of the instruments were strange to us, but the sounds they produced were haunting and unforgettable. The struggle to learn the Chinese words was all worthwhile as we were entranced by our accompaniment.

The good news is that this wonderful orchestra is to join us again on 21st October in the Tung Auditorium.

The bad news is that the place where this orchestra practises, the Chinese Cultural Centre - the Pagoda, is about to be closed in cost-cutting measures implemented by the Council. Many community organisations use the 40-year-old centre and its closure would be a huge loss to the area. Liverpool has the oldest and one of the largest community of people of Chinese heritage in Europe. Its links to the City and to the University are very strong. The Tung Auditorium itself was named after a Chinese benefactor.



Many people, including the MP and local Councillor, have argued for its continuance, but unless a regular source of income is found, the site may fall victim to development. The BBC Singers managed to get a reprieve. Let's hope something similar will happen for the Pagoda.



QUIZ - January's answers!

1. Can you find 15 words associated with the piano in the following table?

U	B	F	V	G	R	A	N	D
A	S	O	L	O	G	A	T	E
O	R	E	G	N	I	F	C	A
E	P	E	I	S	O	C	H	C
R	B	M	T	S	Y	I	O	N
A	I	O	E	S	D	S	R	E
T	O	P	N	T	O	U	D	H
L	U	E	O	Y	L	M	R	I
A	E	D	T	L	E	N	S	T
D	N	A	H	P	M	E	C	R
A	I	L	N	I	V	O	R	Y

MUSIC, CHORD, TIMING, MELODY,
SOLO, GRAND, PEDAL, IVORY,
TONE, FINGER, ALTAR, HAND,
HIT, DOT

2. Link the following composers to the works they wrote:

Liszt	<i>Liebstraume</i>
Offenbach	<i>Barcarolle (from Tales of Hoffman)</i>
Mussorgsky	<i>Night on a Bare Mountain</i>
Bizet	<i>The Pearl Fishers</i>
Donizetti	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
Manuel de Falla	<i>The Three-cornered Hat</i>

3. Name the four operas of Richard Wagner's cycle: *Der Ring des Nibelungen*

Das Rhinegold; Walkure (The Valkyries); Siegfried; Gotterdammerung (Twilight of the Gods)

4. Who was 'The Red Priest' and why was he called that?

Antonio Vivaldi. Called 'The Red Priest' because he was ordained a priest in 1703, at the age of 25, although his career was as a musician and composer. The red hair was a family trait.

5. What instrument was John Dowland celebrated for? Where did this instrument come from originally?

John Dowland was a lutenist, and most of the music he composed was for the lute, or lute and voice. The lute, or similar instruments, probably originated about 5,000 years ago and was widespread through much of the ancient world, especially in the Middle East. The Arab conquest of Spain introduced it into Europe and the instrument was adopted by the Provencal troubadours (trouveres).

6. What celebrated musician also has a PhD in astrophysics, is a CBE, a knight and was Chancellor of John Moores University between 2008 and 2013?

Brian May of Queen. Recently knighted by King Charles.

7. Folk songs of England were collected by Cecil Sharp and Vaughn-Williams. But which two composers collected the folk songs of Hungary (and incorporated them into their music)?

Bela Bartock and Zoltan Kodaly are the most well-known.

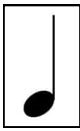
8. Name the three popular recording musicians who have each sold over 100 million records, both as solo artists and principal members of a band?

Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney and Phil Collins have sold over 100 million records, both as solo artists and as part of a group.

BBC SINGERS - LATEST

Auntie's made a blunder; the Beeb has made a boob.
The Singers and the Orchestras are going down the tube.
All for saving pennies! Reith's remit quite forgot.
"Just fogies in the audience – Get rid of all that rot!"
The Music world's in uproar – "What about the Proms?"
The Chairman's getting ear-ache from all his cultured chums.
A Philistine's in charge; knows only Pop and Rock,
She thought no-one would notice, but now she's had a shock.
From all the world come videos, from choirs both large and small:
"Don't sell the family silver! We're really quite appalled!"
For now the chop has been reversed, but this is just the start:
The Beeb has had its funding cut, so tell me: what price Art?





A note from Keith

I was genuinely delighted with our joint concert with the Liverpool University Chamber Choir. Their youthful voices complemented our own distinctive sound. Short pieces within a varied programme is often not easy to bring off, and demands greater flexibility, but everyone pulled together in a most musical way and we proudly presented a really successful concert.



We have a delicious prospect of a grand joint concert with the Vivace Chorus, a very similar choir to ours at the end of next season, with two performances – one in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral (27th April 2024), and one in Guildford (18th May 2024). I hope that you will move everything in your dairies to be involved in both legs of this project. That's why we are giving you a year's notice. We will be singing Verdi's magnificent *Requiem*, one of *the* great large-scale choral pieces in the repertoire, with high-level soloists and orchestra. If you haven't sung it before, you are in for a treat, and if you have, then I know it will thrill you once more!

Before that, we have an October concert (October 21st) with the Chinese Youth Orchestra in the Tung Auditorium. Those of you who were in the choir when we performed with them in a concert at the Philharmonic Hall will remember how transfixed we and the audience were by the skill and artistry of these young performers on their traditional instruments. And the Christmas concert will be with our best friends from the Northop Silver Band.

In the meantime, we have a wonderful concert of Mozart and Hadyn to look forward to. With hard work and application, it should be a another good one! Keep coming every week and share the joy of singing!

Keith

The earliest Carol singers can be found on the Bayeux tapestry...and were soldiers from Western France...they were known as the Brittany Spears



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

It is designed to reflect the interests and activities of the Choir membership. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge in the Choir. If you are willing to share any stories or information with your fellow choristers then please contact either Hazel or Wendy.

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