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Welcome to the April 2017 'Chorister' Newsletter

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This newsletter has been sent to you as you or your choir are currently listed on one of the sites, or because the services you provide may be suitable for our website. In some cases it is sent to you as you have specifically requested a mailing. Whatever the reason, you are very welcome.

We are delighted to welcome back Melody Music and Olton Travel as travel and Tour subscription advertisers to British Choirs on the Net. We are also pleased to welcome BlackDressCode who supply stylist performance clothing for Musicians. The monies we receive from subscribers enable use to cover the hosting costs of the site and means that we can make 90% of the site contents free to list. In return they receive very low cost advertising in a specialist market.

We have also streamlined some pages on the website (www.choirs.org.uk) so the links page now includes location recording and rehearsal aids, rather than these being separate pages.

Last month I attended, along with my fellow singers from the Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir, my first 'Sangerstevne' style choir festival at St Mary's Church Beaconsfield. Each choir performs a short set of songs, and forms the audience for the other choirs in their concert. At the end of their concert, all the choirs join together to perform two simple songs that have been sent to them in advance. To make it more manageable and varied the 24 choirs were split into 4 concerts of 6 choirs each. It was a very enjoyable experience, although with my commercial head on it seemed a shame that 80% of the saleable ticket space was taken up by choir members waiting to sing. However that is the purpose of the Sangerstevne, choirs singings for the entertainment of other choirs.

With thanks to Jane Smith and her team for organizing this choir festival.

British Choirs on the Net British Choirs on the Net has been running for over 15 years and, with over 3,640 choirs listed, some of this details regarding choirs may have changed i.e. conductor details, size of choir, choir re-names, email addresses or website choir addresses, etc. Please review your choir entries on a regular basis and advise if any information needs to be updated. Where a choir has a website, that will be listed as the main contact point, otherwise Facebook links or emails will be used. In order to promote choir websites and Facebook usage we do not list choirs that are only contactable by telephone or post.

British Choirs on the Net is only as useful as the information held on it. Please email me with any corrections and omissions to choir information. Please email any corrections and amendments to philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk

British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 2600 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. These mailing addresses are collected whenever you ask for your choir to be listed or may be collected from other registers such as the National Association of Choirs and ABCD.

These mailing lists are important to provide you with information from our subscribers, information about other choral services, concerts and general updates such as this newsletter. It is also important because it generate a small revenue which allows us to ensure that at least 90% of the content on British Choirs on the Net is free to list.

It is understood that some of the mailings may not be of interest to all the choirs, particularly if you are not a choir that tours or takes part in competitions, but I hope over the course of the year you will find something useful in the mailings. The mailing list is not just for big organizations. For instance there are 261 listed choirs in London. This means that if a London choir is looking to put bums on seats, either in terms of audience or singers, or if it wants to advertise a Come and Sing performance or Workshop it can use the mailing list to target the other 260 choirs on the London list.

During this year to date, we have sent out mailings for Nonsuch Singers, CSSM Summer School, London Concert Choir, RunbySingers, Isle of Man Choral Festival, Limerick Sings and Oxford University Press.

To see how these contacts are collected, used and audited visit www.choirs.org.uk/mailings.html

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum This is a group set up on Facebook to enable Choral Directors, Choirs Secretaries and Choir members to informally discuss issues of performance practice, request new music and music exchanges, and discuss other choral related issues. It is also increasing used to advertise vacancies for Music Directors/Accompanists. There are currently over 1,400 members and membership is by invitation. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts>

We also have a presence on Twitter at www.twitter.com/britishchoirs with over 1,800 followers.

Concertfinder & British Choirs on the Net

Concertfinder is a free online concert diary. It is part of British Choirs on the Net under www.choirs.org.uk and also a standalone website under www.concertfinder.co.uk

During 2016 we listed, and provided free advertising, for a total of 523 concerts. The works that dominate the listings are the usual suspects—Faure, Durufle, Mozart and Brahms Requiems, Rossini's Missa Solennelle and Handel's Messiah. There has also been an increase in part staged/dramatized performances particularly of the Bach Passions.

There has been a number of rare or new pieces including the London premiere of Hywel Davies' "War Songs", the UK premiere of Al Fedak's "Spring Bursts Forth", Richard Rodney Bennett's "A farewell to Arms", Hugo Distler's "Choralpassion", Peter Smith's "Benedicite", the premiere of Julian Marshall's "Dark Disputes and Artful Teasing", the premiere of Kerry Andrew's "The flight be fleet: Trainsongs!", the premiere of Ian Assersohn's "Dies Irae" and the UK premier of Howard Goodall's "Sure of the Sky, sure of the Sun".

Other works of interest include James Pelham's "A Shriopshire Lad", Arwel Hughes' "Gweddi (A Prayer)", Ronald Corp's "And all the trumpets sounded" and Bob Chilcott's "Gloria". On the debit side it is a shame that we seem to have lost older Easter favourites such as Stainer's "Crucifixion" and Maunder's "Olivet to Calvary". They are both fine works in their own right and also great pieces for audience participation.

www.concertfinder.co.uk

Choirsites They say every picture tells a story and the same rule applies with choirs. The choir that has a website where potential members can see pictures of the choir, their future concerts and repertoire is likely to prove more attractive than simply a listed choir with a text description and an e-mail contact. Choirsites provides low cost website hosting and design for choirs. Some of the choirs using this service include:

Balsham Singers, Cambridge
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire
Nova, Bristol

www.choirsites.co.uk

Concert Programme Notes British Choirs on the Net hosts a library of Choral repertoire programme notes which are available for the free use of Choral Societies. We do ask however that you acknowledge in your concerts the authorship of these programme notes, as appropriate.

VocalBroker This is a site which lists vocal soloists seeking work with Choral Societies and Choruses on the Oratorio or concert platform. It is not an agency and the Societies negotiate directly with singers with Vocalbroker taking no commission. They are all experienced singers and choral societies, and choruses are asked to consider these singers when selecting voices for concerts. www.vocalbroker.co.uk

Choral Vacancies. This page, which is part of British Choirs on the Net, is particularly successful at placing candidates in Choral Music posts.

The listing covers Musical Director/Choir Leader vacancies and also Accompanist vacancies. There are also listing of candidates who are seeking work as Musical Directors or Accompanists. Finally there are list of choirs seeking singers. To list you vacancy just email the details. Please be clear if the post is paid, unpaid or honorarium. Also where possible please include a closing date for applications.

Choral Arrangements for Male Voice Choirs Gwyn Arch is a composers and arranger with something of an obsession with MVC music and now has 160 arrangements, mostly TTBB, in his catalogue www.malechoirmusic.co.uk.

The catalogue now includes a section labelled '2-part arrangements'. They are invariably derived from the 4-part versions, and the accompaniments are the same. We often need more rehearsal time for a concert, and the addition of the occasional (or frequent!) 2-part arrangement saves a lot of rehearsal time and 'works' well. In general, the music meets the needs of male voice choirs looking for a broader variety of styles in their repertoire. Nearly all the music has been rehearsed and performed in many concerts before being selected for publication.

Most of these arrangements have been written by Gwyn Arch, a specialist in the field, and one of the most frequently-published and performed choral arrangers in the UK. He has over 45 years as a male choir director, male voice music arranger and choral adjudicator.

If you feel that MVC members of your organisation please visit Gwyn's site

Choirfriends This used to be a small website associated with Colcanto Associates. This has now become a Facebook group. By moving it from a static website to a Facebook group we hope it will be used by a wider audience.

The group was created to help choristers find previous friends who they used to sing with but have now lost contact. It is also used to help find information about defunct choirs and help people find relatives who may have sung with these choirs. It is not designed as a choral dating agency but if that happens - congratulations! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/157147511132581/?fref=ts>

(Note: It is an open facebook group so we cannot control content, membership or adverts)



**LIMERICK SING'S INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2017
IS LAUNCHED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT BY ANÚNA**

The 5th annual Limerick Sings International Choral Festival was launched this week at University Concert Hall, to coincide with the 30th Anniversary concert of acclaimed vocal group Anúna. A vocal workshop curated by members of Anúna's Education Programme is just one of a number of exciting new additions to this year's festival programme.

Deputy Mayor Noel Gleeson, together with University Concert Hall Director Sinéad Hope and Campus Life Services Sales and Marketing Manager, Gillian Costelloe welcomed guests including representatives from some of the participating choirs, host venues and friends of the festival.

Limerick Sings International Choral Festival is a non-competitive weekend, presented annually by Campus Life Services and University Concert Hall which this year will run from Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th June.

Once again the festival is working with Perform International, a leading music tour company based in Atlanta, to attract US choirs. To date 200 American choristers are already confirmed to attend including *Canterbury Voices* (Oklahoma), *Tallahassee Community Chorus* (Florida), *Pensacola Children's Chorus* (Florida) and *Oswego Festival Chorus* (New York) as well as *Fairfield County Children's Choir* (Connecticut).

From closer to home, a further 200 Irish choristers will join them including the city's own *Limerick Choral Union* and *Aoide* together with *The Gunas*, *Dalkey Active Retirement Association Choir* and *Maynooth Chamber Choir*.

Choristers and audiences can look forward to performances in spectacular venues throughout the Region including St. John's Cathedral, University Concert Hall, Holy Trinity Abbey Church Adare and the Cliffs of Moher which will provide the stunning backdrop for a "Big Sing". There will also be choral trail performances throughout Limerick city as well as the eagerly anticipated vocal workshop with *Anúna*.

With a diverse programme featuring classical, sacred and contemporary music there will be something for all music lovers in Limerick this June!

For further information on participating as a choir or an individual in this year's Festival please contact Elaine Courtney at 061 233236 / information@limericksings.com .

For press enquiries please contact Emma Foote at 061 213307 / emma.foote@uch.ie.
www.limericksings.com

CONDUCTING DAY

SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017

at

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, SHORTMEAD STREET,
BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE, SG18 0AP

Director – DOUGLAS COOMBES MBE

COST £50

This is a unique and very full conducting day which runs from 10.00am - 10.00pm. It will be the sixth time this day has been held in Bedfordshire and as before, caters for the beginner to the experienced conductor. There are 8 places available. Each conductor will be sent, in advance, two pieces of music suited to the experience of the conductor. This music is in the repertoire of *The Amici Singers*, a women's chorus of 50 voices. The music will be well known by the choir so participants will be able to concentrate on conducting. The format of the day will be:

10.00am – 1.00pm. Discussion of all the music with Douglas Coombes
1.00pm – 2.00pm. Lunch (please bring a packed lunch).
2.00pm – 6.00pm. Each conductor will have 25 minutes to rehearse their two pieces with The Amici Singers

6.00pm. – Tea which will be provided. This will be taken with the choir who usually are happy and keen to talk to all the conductors

7.30pm. – Concert. Each conductor will conduct their pieces in front of an audience in concert conditions. At the end there will be an open forum involving conductors, choir and audience led by Douglas Coombes

NB: As on previous occasions, if any conductor has to travel some distance, accommodation can be arranged.

Application should be made to Lindsay Music – carole@lindsaymusic.co.uk.

Please make cheques payable to 'THE AMICI SINGERS'

If you would like more details ring Lindsay Music 01767 260815 (9.30am – 12.30pm)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

EMAIL _____

TEL NO _____ MOBILE NO _____

CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE:

International Ticket Launch for Cornwall's World Choral Festival. News Release: Immediate



As choirs from across the globe plan their descent on Cornwall **for its 2017 International Male Choral Festival**, the **Hall for Cornwall** has announced the ticket launch for what is now the largest event of its kind in the World.

Sixty choirs of all ages and nationalities will be converging on Cornwall – with more than 50 concerts and celebrations in 40 venues across the county running from April 27 – May 1 2017. This year's Festival will also see the largest Choir Competition in the biennial event's fourteen year history.

Cornwall will be centre stage when 2000 singers of all ages and nationalities converge to entertain an estimated 45,000 people in theatres, churches, tourist attractions and castles from Bude to Land's End and Porthleven to Saltash.

Singers, their entourages and countless visitors will be heading this way from Australia and America, Russia and across Europe, Wales, Scotland, England and, of course, Cornwall itself for this year's extraordinary Festival.

"It's going to be a wonderful long-weekend of choirs singing for pleasure as well as taking part in keen competition," says Festival Director Rob Elliott. "We look forward to welcoming visitors and singers alike to this beautiful part of the world. The sound the choirs make is always stirring and uplifting and I cannot wait to hear them brought together for this world-great event.

"Our Eighth Festival is attracting more interest than ever from people wanting to join the celebrations and with ever more foreign and larger choirs it is all very exciting."

Full details of the 2017 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival can be found on the Festival website - www.cimcf.uk. Tickets for all concerts can be purchased directly from the Hall for Cornwall box office www.hallforcornwall.uk.

Cross Cornwall Images attached are:-

Mevagissey Male Voice Choir on local fishing boat Celtic Dawn;
Czech Boys Choir - St Michael's Mount from the 2013 Festival;
The 2015 Festival winners Mannerstimmen Basel, from Switzerland
St Buryan MVC at Botallack Mine
Nankersey at Trebah Gardens
Mousehole at the Minnack Theatre
Tintagel MVC at The Parish Church of Saint Materiana
Marazion Apollo at Land's End
Treverva MVC from mast of the Tall Ship Pelican

For more information on the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival please see www.cimcf.uk .

Photographs - these and many others are by Phil Monkton and are free to use - name check appreciated. Please contact Louise Midgley if you would like these or others at higher res.

- The 2017 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival runs from 27 April to May 1
- All details of the 2017 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival, plus background and photos from previous festivals can be found at www.cimcf.uk
- The Festival was inaugurated in 2003 and is held every two years.
- The Festival is a non-profit making company, limited by guarantee and is a registered charity.
- It is supported by its patrons, sponsored by a wide range of local businesses and helped by more than 400 volunteers - to all of whom the Board is sincerely grateful.

Contacts:-

Rob Elliott, Festival Director - rob@cimcf.uk/ 01793853753 / 07939249021
OR

Louise Midgley Communications – louise@midgleycomms.co.uk /
01326319884 / 07831 696093 /



Family Arts Campaign

Dear British Choirs on the Net readers

I'm writing to you from the [Family Arts Campaign](#), a national collaborative initiative to increase the level of families engaging with all kinds of art and culture. We would like to ask for your assistance in sharing an opportunity with your members and networks.

The [Family Arts Standards](#) provide guidance and accreditation for organisers of cultural events, arts organisations, practitioners and groups or associations to better welcome families. As well as providing a useful set of guidelines for event organisers, the Standards are a mark of quality for families looking for cultural activities to enjoy together.

Our research shows that there is a strong correlation between Standard- holders and increased family engagement, with those promoting the standards twice as likely to see an increase in family involvement.

We would very much appreciate if you could help us share the opportunity to sign-up to the Standards to your networks. It is entirely free and very easy to sign-up- [almost 500 groups or arts organisations](#) are already Standard-holders. By doing so, the Family Arts Campaign can help them to promote events and activities through our national communications.

To sign-up, just email Family Arts Campaign Manager jenny.daly@thealbany.org.uk

Calling all Singers! - Be part of an exciting new performing opportunity in London

Award-winning choir composer/director Helen Yeomans is bringing her acclaimed show One World to London in 2018 and invites singers to audition to join the One World Choir. This theatrically-inspired musical show - a tapestry of original music, spoken word and percussion - focuses on the crossroads at which we presently stand as a human race. If it feels like we're reaching the tipping point then this show will replace fear with hope for a better future. Powerful and moving, One World has been debuted in the South West to critical acclaim:

“The concert on Saturday was one of the most moving musical events I've ever experienced.” Anne Ridgely, Amnesty International

“It broke my heart open ! It woke me up to my own sense of purpose and shifted a gear.”
Susannah Uren

Auditions will be held in spring/summer 2017 and rehearsals commence in September'17. If you feel passionate about the themes in One World and are a confident singer/performer then this is a perfect artistic opportunity.

For all information, watch video highlights of the show and register to be part of the One World choir visit <http://www.helenyeomans.co.uk/one-world>

Singing Network UK (formerly TONSIL) Singing Network UK comprises organisations that work in the field of youth & adult singing. Formed in 1988 as TONSIL, it meets two to three times a year, or as needed, to discuss what is, can, and should be happening in the world of choral singing, practice and education, in Britain and Internationally. The group began because the member societies felt the need to respond as a group rather than individually to the wide variety of ideas and issues affecting the future of choral singing, including the music education curriculum and the Music Manifesto.

Singing Network UK is less an official organisation, more an informal association whose function is to serve its member choral organisations and to act as forum for national and international vocal education and practice.

Singing Network UK represents 18 organisations promoting choral singing across a wide variety of genres, supporting over 25,000 members choirs and over 500,000 singers, who each year perform to audiences totalling nearly 5 million.

The organisations that current make up the Singing Network UK are:

The Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD)

The British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS)

British Choirs on the Net

British Gospel Arts

The Big Big Sing

Choir Schools Association (CSA)

Friday Afternoons

Gerontius

International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)

The Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers (LABBS)

Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies (MM)

The National Association of Choirs (NAC)

The Royal College of Organists (RCO)

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)

Sing for Pleasure (SfP)

Sing UK

Voices Foundation (VF)

Voices Now

New website www.singingnetworkuk.org

Visit one of Italy's hidden gems for your next choir tour

Club Europe Music Tours are delighted to announce that they have launched two new wonderful choir tour destinations in lesser known regions in Italy.

The first **Piedmont**, is known as “The Other Tuscany” but without the crowds and is Italy's most elegant region with breathtaking landscapes.

A perfect destination for food lovers, you can visit the beautiful Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta, tour one of the many authentic medieval castles and perform in one of the most wonderful “Borgo”s in Italy in Neive as well as on the shores of Lake Maggiore in the pretty resort town of Arona.



In **Riviera del Brenta**, our choirs can visit both Verona and Padua. All along the river are numerous beautiful historic villas as it was here that the nobles and patricians of the Republic of Venice chose to spend their summer holidays. The houses are surrounded by monumental gardens and frescoed by the most important artists of the time such as Palladio, Sansovino, Titian, and Tintoretto.

Our choirs can perform in the gardens or main halls of some of these magnificent houses like Villa Foscari Rossi and Villa Ducale, in the old square of Dolo or participate in Mass at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice.

Club Europe Music Tours is a family-owned specialist choir touring company in operation since 1980. Visit <http://club-europe.co.uk/music-tours/> to find out more.



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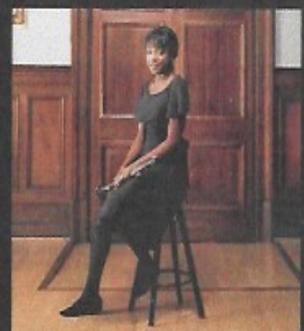
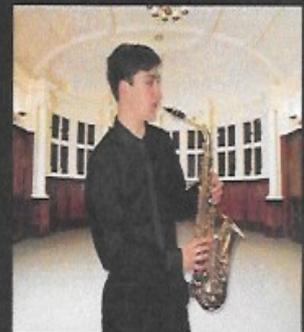


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The National Choral Organisation

Investing in choral futures



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Sing for Pleasure to align training programme for teachers to new DfE standard

National choral charity Sing for Pleasure (SfP) is pleased to announce that its Vocal Leadership Training Programme (VLTP) specifically designed to develop teachers' singing leadership skills is aligning to the Department for Education's new Standard for Teachers' Professional Development, which was published in July 2016.

Introduced by SfP in 2015, the VLTP is based on the charity's successful 5 Day Course (Foundation & Intermediate 1 levels) and enables teachers to become confident and effective singing leaders, whilst at the same time building a powerful network of singing practice in an area, supported by SfP's wealth of unaccompanied repertoire. Since its launch, some 13 programmes have been run or are presently running across England, principally in partnership with music education hubs.

Feedback from those following the programme has been immensely positive, as borne out by one participant's words: "It has changed the way that I teach new songs to the academy, to the choir and in class. It has made me more confident in teaching music, particularly singing and championing singing in my school." According to Baz Chapman, former Sing Up Programme Director, who is rolling out the programme to music education hubs, "the new DfE Standard recognises value of external expertise in providing high quality Continuing Professional Development and Learning (CPDL), but also stresses the importance of the 3 way partnership between provider, participant and school. This is at the heart of SfP's approach with the VLTP, and the Standard provides a valuable framework to ensure our programmes continue to achieve excellence."

Manvinder Rattan, Sing for Pleasure's Chief Executive and Head of Conductor Training, commented: "The SfP management team views this as a statement of our ongoing commitment to highest quality CPDL in vocal leadership. It's particularly important to see this rigour in schools so that children can benefit from the best possible musical experience, which is such an important part of their education."

More information on the VLTP is available on the Sing for Pleasure website: <https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/forteachers/vocalleadershiptrainingprogramme/>

Link to the DfE Standard page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standardforteachersprofessionaldevelopment>
Website: www.singforpleasure.org.uk

Unmissable Singing & Recording Workshop at top London studio

Inspirational music producer and choir director James Hawkins, who took the London Hospices Choir to the top of the Official Singles Chart last Christmas, is now inviting singers of all standards to join him take part in a studio recording workshop as part of a pop-up choir on Saturday May 6th.

James had arranged for the 300-strong London Hospices Choir to record 'The Living Years' with lead vocalist Paul Carrack at the iconic Abbey Road Studios, resulting in the song spending two weeks at the top of the Official Physical Sales Chart. He is returning there with this unique pop-up choir on Saturday May 6th to record a series of tracks including songs by Carole King and the Beach Boys and all singers are invited to attend.

This workshop led by James will give amateur singers of all levels a unique perspective on how they perform, using the process of recording and playback to help develop singers' tuning, timing and togetherness. James, who was also responsible for producing the Military Wives single '500 miles', directs the Missing People Choir and runs Eclipse Choirs at All Saints Church in Kingston, will also be focussing on the difference 'singing with purpose' makes to a performance.

He says, *"I find that the production process is much more collaborative than traditional choir teaching as it allows performers to interact with their own performance, hear what they really sound like immediately via playback, and work with me to refine it. Having studied music technology at Kingston University and trained singers in a studio for years I learned how to get the best out of them using technology as an aid. Combine this approach with focusing on the purpose behind a performance and you create dynamite"*

To book your place in James Hawkins' singing and recording workshop visit <https://james-hawkins-music.co.uk/2017/01/16/singers-recording-singing-workshop/> or email jameshawkinsmusic@icloud.com.





New Choral Facebook page from Oxford University Press

The popularity of choirs worldwide has now grown to such an extent that mainstream magazines such as *Stylist* are running feature length articles on the benefits of singing. The Royal Society recently estimated in a report on singing that in Europe alone there are an estimated total of 22.5 million singers from 28 countries, in approximately 625,000 choirs.

At Oxford University Press, choral music has always been a major focus of our sheet music publishing, and to support this, we recently launched a new Choral Facebook page: www.facebook.com/oupchoral.

Whether you're a choral director or a choir member, the new Choral Facebook page is a great place to engage with the wider choral community. Take your choir to the next level with practical advice from other highly experienced choral directors; read about developments and issues in the choral world; discover more about some of today's finest and best-loved choral composers, and find out about forthcoming choral publishing.

Oxford University Press is a leading publisher of sheet music with a distinguished heritage that began in 1923. Eminent composers published in those early days included William Walton, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Constant Lambert. Today, we are proud to publish many world-renowned composers including David Bednall, Bob Chilcott, Gabriel Jackson, Cecilia McDowall, Sarah Quartel, John Rutter, Will Todd, and Mack Wilberg among many others.

Please take a look at the new Choral Facebook page, 'like' and 'share' if you're interested, and help spread the word about the wonderful world of choral music!

