



# Chorister

*Col Canto Associates Quarterly Newsletter*

Welcome to the April 2018 '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..*

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Welcome to the April 2018 edition of the British Choirs on the Net 'Chorister' Newsletter .

Firstly let me welcome **Lyndsey Music UK** as a corporate sponsor of British Choirs on the Net. Lindsay Music has been publishing since 1972 specialising in teaching materials and music for the primary classroom as well as church and choral music for people of all ages. Instrumental tutors and pieces are also available, as well as an orchestral hire library, which contains orchestral pieces and accompaniments for a good many of the the choral titles in the catalogue. Lindsay Music also runs a custom print service for individual items from its longer works or collections, to enable choirs to buy the selection they need rather than a whole work. A friendly welcome awaits any enquiry on 01767 260815 or [carole@lindsaymusic.co.uk](mailto:carole@lindsaymusic.co.uk) or through the website [www.lindsaymusic.co.uk](http://www.lindsaymusic.co.uk)



Corporate sponsorship is always welcome and helps to cover the cost of web site hosting and other administrative costs and enables the majority of the website content to remain free to list. We are also creating a new page on the website for Choral Music Publishers who are sponsors

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The main choral music news of the last 3 months was the decision of Derbyshire Constabulary to dis-associate itself from its own Male Voice Choir.

Chief Constable Peter Goodman said: "We are an equal opportunities employer and we are committed to having an organisation where there are no enclaves where people from different backgrounds cannot go. We need to represent our communities in every aspect of our public presence. Having a male voice choir representing the organisation is incompatible with this"

As any one who knows anything about equality and discrimination law, there are exemptions which allow single gender clubs and societies to operate as long as the gender is stated in the title of the society or club. I think 'Male Voice Choir' says it all. The same rules apply to women as any men who have tried to join the Women's Institute have found out.

I would also say that the charity work that the Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir has carried out has benefitted the Community and provided a public presence that has only enhanced the police force and community policing.

Obviously the Chief Constable, and powers that be, had no concept of Male Voice Choir history, repertoire or timbre, and the choir was correct in discarding the option of becoming a mixed choir.

This is a PR disaster for the Derbyshire Police and we send all good wishes to the new choir, who with effect 1 June 2018 will be renamed the Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir.

## **British Choirs on the Net**

Following an audit of British Choirs on the Net, which has taken nearly nine months, we have checked websites and email addresses, removed dead links and choirs which no longer seem to exist. We have also in the process found a number of new choirs and therefore we now have a listing of well over 4,000 choirs which have either websites, facebook entries or email addresses listed on the site. Given the popularity of choirs, covering various genres and styles, this number is only likely to grow and we welcome news of new choirs and their concerts.

Please continue to review your choir entries to ensure the listings remain as up to date as possible and advise if website addresses or facebook addresses change, if the conductor details change or if the email contact for the choir changes. Please review your choir entries on a regular basis and advise if any of the 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 pages we do not list choirs that are only contactable by telephone or post.

If you are interested in having a website for your choir please visit [www.choirsites.co.uk](http://www.choirsites.co.uk)

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](mailto:philliptolley@colcanto.co.uk)

## **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](http://www.choirs.org.uk) and also a standalone website under [www.concertfinder.co.uk](http://www.concertfinder.co.uk).

During 2017 we listed, and provided free advertising, to a total of 553 concerts. While the works being performed are dominated by the usual suspects; Faure, Durufle, Mozart and Brahms Requiems, Rossini's Missa Solennele and Handel's Messiah there have also been a small number of newly premiered works such as Paul Carr's - Stabat Mater (world premiere) and Nils Greenhow's - "For the Fallen" .

Each concert is listed with the same prominence and for this reason I do not include the conductors or soloists details. Additionally non choral works are omitted from the listing even when they form part of the concert programme.

The only exception to this general rule is in December when I am happy to list Brass Bands where they are performing Christmas concerts with choirs.

Please submit your concert details via email in text format. Please do not send pdf or html posters which require the salient points to be extracted and this can delay posting the concert. Also do not forget to let me know the date of the concert as well as the who, where, what and ticket information. You will often find that I do not acknowledge the email, so please check the site to see if it has been added.

[www.concertfinder.co.uk](http://www.concertfinder.co.uk)

If you use a ticket agency which adds a booking fee please ensure the ticket price you advertise is the full price you pay (including handling costs).

## **British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductor 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. There are currently over 1,600 members and membership is by invitation.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishchoirs/?fref=ts>

## **British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services**

British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 3,000 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. Email details may also be collected from public domain sources such as websites. We do not purchase email lists and we do not sell on our lists.

These mailing lists are very important both 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 generates 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 items of interest. Recent mailings include CSSM Summer School, The Sixteen Choral Pilgrimage 2018 and a 'Choir Community', new source of choral arrangements

## **Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

New data protection regulations (GDPR) come into force on 25 May and no doubt many people have either received emails from organisations wanting to stay in touch, or are involved in ensuring that their choir stays compliant.. Like other small organisations, we have been working our way through the minefield!

If your choir is a member of Making Music you will find lots of useful information here: <https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/resource/gdpr-data-protection-toolkit>

The National Association of Choirs will also be putting together an advice sheet for their members.

We will be making some changes to our website and you will shortly see our new privacy statement up there. The main change is that our mailing directory will become opt-in, rather than opt-out. We will be contacting all our mailing list contacts separately in the coming weeks, so do respond to it then we can ensure we have the correct information for you.

## **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](http://www.choirsites.co.uk)

## **Making Music Day**

Make Music Day is coming up - how is your group celebrating? Performers across the UK and internationally will be taking part in events to show that making music is something for everyone to enjoy. If you're already planning an event for 21 June, register it on the [https://makemusicday.co.uk/register/?utm\\_source=solus&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=makemusicday2018](https://makemusicday.co.uk/register/?utm_source=solus&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=makemusicday2018)

Or if you haven't already got an event lined up, you could set one up - <https://makemusicday.co.uk/resources/>





### Be Inspired: Take your Choir on Tour

Our **Latin America Portfolio** will be launched very soon. If your choir is looking for a new and exciting place to visit, then please get in touch about touring to **Costa Rica, Argentina & Uruguay**.

Adult choirs can benefit from travelling outside the main school holiday times, which means budgets often stretch further and venues are keen to welcome performances throughout the whole year, not only during holiday times. Choirs are also very transportable so a far-flung European or worldwide tour is well within your grasp.

OneStage has organised many successful choir tours to well-known destinations like Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy and Spain, and choirs can easily explore more unusual countries like Iceland, Romania, Estonia and many others.

**Enquire now and let us inspire you with ideas for your next tour, or if you would be interested in touring with your choir to Latin America.**

**Julian – T: 0121 240 2972**  
**Becky or Sonia – T: 020 8568 5486**  
**Email: [tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk](mailto:tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk)**

### Recent News: Choir Tour to Madrid, October 2017

Oxshott Choral Society went on tour with OneStage in October 2017, following a successful Tuscany tour in 2015, this time discovering the delights of Madrid. The choir performed Mozart's Requiem in Madrid and Alcala de Henares.



*"Our tour organisers, OneStage put together great venues for our concerts and excursions at a sensible price. The whole weekend was excellent value for money. The tour was a real partnership between tour operator and choir which worked really well."*

Mike Newman - Tour Organiser, Oxshott Choral Society

To read the full article by Mike Newman from Oxshott Choral Society: [www.onestage.co.uk/news](http://www.onestage.co.uk/news)

Here is an outline of their tour:

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Travel Day**

Our tour party arrived at Heathrow late morning for our BA flight to Madrid. We were greeted on board by the senior steward who was also a choral singer, who gave us a rendering of the “Hallelujah” chorus and wished us a successful tour with an announcement on the aircraft PA. On arrival in Madrid we met our brilliant tour manager Adriana and we were coached to our hotel.

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Madrid & Alcala de Henares**

Whistle-stop tour of the city by coach to the main sights, lunch and then off to Alcala de Henares for our concert rehearsal and concert. The cathedral was a lovely venue for a concert and we gave our first performance of Mozart’s Requiem to a good sized and appreciative audience.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Madrid, The Prado & Flamenco**

Morning (optional) visit of The Prado, which was followed by an afternoon performance of Mozart’s Requiem in the Paroquia Nuestra Senora de Covadonga. The church was packed and the choir gave a memorable performance which was greatly appreciated by the enthusiastic audience. After the concert the choir dispersed in groups to restaurants and bars around Madrid with a group going to an excellent Flamenco evening.

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Segovia**

Once again, it was a gloriously sunny day with not a cloud in the sky and wonderful conditions to explore this beautiful city with its spectacular cathedral, fortress and Roman aqueduct and to enjoy lunch at the various restaurants around the medieval centre. We returned to Madrid for our final group dinner and choir awards ceremony.

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Madrid & Travel Day**

After an organised guided walk around the Palacio Real (Royal Palace) we headed back to the airport and back to Heathrow, having had a truly memorable weekend. It had all gone so well, great company, two lovely concerts in beautiful churches, time for sightseeing, a brilliant final dinner, a hotel which was well located near the centre of the city, and great organisation and leadership from our splendid tour manager Adrianna. A tired but happy group of singers arrived back in the UK.

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# The National Choral Organisation

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Sing for Pleasure confirms 2018 dates, repertoire for its West Midlands training weekend**

National choral charity Sing for Pleasure has confirmed that its training event in the West Midlands for conductors, vocal leaders and singers will run on 2 and 3 June in Birmingham, at Edgbaston High School for Girls.

Repertoire selected for the charity's higher graded choral conducting course levels (Intermediate 2 and Advanced, for those who have already received previous SfP training) includes choruses from Handel's Messiah and various choral works by Saint-Saëns. Those with little or no conducting experience will work on simpler pieces over the weekend; this allows them to focus on acquiring - or improving - the skills and techniques they need for effective choral leadership, rather than being distracted by complex scores.

Singers are also invited to take part, providing a force with whom Intermediate 2 and Advanced level students can practise during podium time; as one of the singers attending in 2017 commented: "I not only enjoyed myself hugely, but learnt a lot about the finer points of conducting, too!"

Manvinder Rattan, Sing for Pleasure's CEO and Head of Conductor Training, added: "We're particularly keen to welcome new - or relatively new - choral conductors to Birmingham in June; it's an ideal opportunity for those who've never experienced our approach before to come and find out for themselves why over 99% of last year's course attendees rated their training as good to excellent."

For more information about the weekend, including timings, course fees and how to apply, visit: [www.singforpleasure.org.uk/events/current-listings/](http://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/events/current-listings/)

For further information please contact :

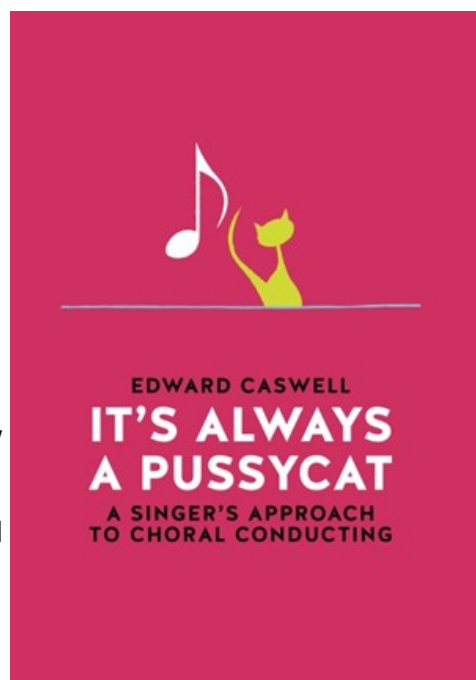
Manvinder Rattan tel: 0800 0184164 email: [conducting@singforpleasure.org.uk](mailto:conducting@singforpleasure.org.uk)  
or Caroline Sindall tel: 07824 661113 email: [fundraising@singforpleasure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@singforpleasure.org.uk)

Sing for Pleasure is a registered charity, launched in Bristol in 1964. The charity runs a respected conductor training programme and trains over 200 conductors and vocal leaders every year. SfP also runs a variety of nationwide singing events, offers a wide range of publications and provides national curriculum compatible teaching resources and INSET training. Website: [www.singforpleasure.org.uk](http://www.singforpleasure.org.uk)

# **It's always a Pussycat – a singer's approach to choral conducting** **by Edward Caswell**

format: A5 paperback- pp116  
ISBN: 978-0-85957-169-2  
EAN: 5 060496 280046  
Publisher: Lindsay Music UK price £7.95

Here is a unique book that helps unlock the mysteries of how to sing well and ways of encouraging the use of good vocal technique in all choral music. So often, in the experience of author Edward Caswell, the choral conductor is also required to be a vocal coach, helping his or her choir with tricky moments, not just interpretatively, but in overcoming vocal hurdles encountered in the music.



*It's always a pussycat*, could be viewed as a book in two parts that, in part one, presents Edward Caswell's approach to warming up and maintaining voices and in part two, applies good vocal practice in the context of many choral staples – including, amongst others, Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem* and other substantial choral pieces selected as examples from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Edward Caswell, an experienced and highly-regarded singer and choral director, writes in an authoritative yet engaging way, often making his points with humour, which makes this an eminently readable book. You will want to try out his ideas immediately – whether you're a singer or a conductor. There are musical examples throughout which also include, in full, Benjamin Britten's *The Evening Primrose*, Gibbon's *O clap your hands* and Parry's *At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners*.

This is by no means just a book for beginner singers or conductors; it is also intended for those who would like to gain a deeper understanding of how the voice works, thus producing better performances with less vocal strain and for those who are simply open to new ideas about good vocal practice within the choral environment.

***'It's always interesting and provocative (lots of points had me punching the air and saying 'YES!')***  
**- John Rutter CBE**

***'This book is an ideal aid to anybody who works with choirs.'*** - **Sir James MacMillan CBE**

***'This is a really valuable addition to the literature in the field.'*** - **Dr Stephen Cleobury CBE**

***'I like it. It's a bit different. It reads well. It's full of good advice.'*** - **Simon Halsey CBE**

Available in the UK from Lindsay Music Store [www.lindsaymusic.co.uk](http://www.lindsaymusic.co.uk) tel;@ 01767-260815  
or from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)





# WALTER HUSSEY COMPOSITION COMPETITION

**New Choral Composition Competition**

**£750 prize | Panel of Top Judges**

**Deadline 1 July 2018 | Theme of 'Gold'**

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[www.walterhussey.com](http://www.walterhussey.com)

Reading Phoenix Choir are excited to announce that we have today launched a new international choral composition competition.

The Walter Hussey Composition Competition, with a £750 prize and a line-up of top judges, promises to become one of the leading choral composition competitions of our time.

The adjudication panel for the inaugural year will comprise of four time winner of the British Composer Awards Kerry Andrew, internationally acclaimed film composer Andrew McKenna, and award winning conductor and vocal coach Anthony Jenner, alongside representatives from Reading Phoenix Choir.

The competition is named in honour of Walter Hussey, Dean of Chichester Cathedral from 1955 to 1977, who commissioned many choral works throughout his lifetime. It was at Chichester that choir member Howard Jenner, and his brother and competition judge Anthony Jenner, were choristers under the guidance of Hussey. Inspired by the commitment of Walter Hussey to support the work of composers, musicians and artists, financially as well as intellectually, the idea for a composition competition evolved.

The theme of the inaugural competition is 'Gold' to coincide with the choir's upcoming 50th season. Reading Phoenix Choir will perform the world premiere of the winning entry at their 50th year Annual Concert on 9th March 2019 at Reading Concert Hall.

During its history Reading Phoenix Choir have given first performances of more than 25 pieces written and arranged by composers from all over the world, including well-known names such as Bob Chilcott, Andrew Carter and Donald Swann. Most recently, in 2016, the choir were involved in the premiere of 'The Voyage', a joint project between Bob Chilcott and Age UK Oxfordshire.

The closing date for competition entries is 1st July 2018. Entrants must be aged 16 or over. The winner of the competition will be announced in March 2019.

For more information about the competition and to sign up for updates, please visit [www.walterhussey.com](http://www.walterhussey.com). News about the competition will also be shared via our Facebook page ([www.fb.com/walterhusseycc](https://www.facebook.com/walterhusseycc)) and Twitter account ([www.twitter.com/walterhusseycc](https://www.twitter.com/walterhusseycc)), so do like/follow the competition there too.

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## **An Italian treat for your choir**

After working with choirs for many years, one thing stands out to us at Club Europe Music Tours - choir members love spending that extra time together, getting to know each other better through relaxation and performance and forming memories they can share for years to come.

So we've come up with a wonderful way to combine all these elements by creating our [Choral Retreats in Italy](#).

A Choral Retreat, simply, is an opportunity for your choir to enjoy time together, in beautiful surroundings. We've discovered a historic and sumptuous villa in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, set in glorious grounds and with wonderful food and facilities that makes the perfect base for a Choral Retreat. You'll have rehearsal facilities on site, so that you can enjoy your Choral Retreat as an opportunity to work on material, perhaps preparing for a future concert or simply trying out new works, just for fun.



Or you can sit by the pool with a drink in your hand, wander around the gardens or enjoy an in house cooking class or game of tennis. There are plenty of wonderful places to visit, too; Venice and Treviso are a short drive away.



Of course, you may want to give a concert performance in a local town during your stay. If so, there'll be plenty of opportunities, where the audiences will be genuinely enthusiastic as well as ample.

If you think a Choral Retreat would appeal to your choir, give our friendly music team a call on Freephone 0800 496 4996 or drop us an email at [travel@club-europe.co.uk](mailto:travel@club-europe.co.uk). Or you can visit our website <https://club-europe.co.uk/music-tours/> and make an [enquiry online](#).