

Music Centre Supporters make a Musical Protest



with thanks to The Huddersfield Examiner for article extracts and photo

Kirklees Councillors arriving at the Town Hall for the crunch budget meeting on February 18th were reminded, by the many supporters of the Music School, just how much we value our local musical heritage and why it must be defended.

If truth be told, most of us knew that the Council faced tough decisions – the Lab/Green budget proposal needed £69 Million of cuts. So it was not unexpected when the projected cut to the Music Centres was voted through.

Sara Zbos, who chairs the Colne Valley Music Centre Parents' Association, said she had hoped that councillors would choose not to cut the £300,000 per annum of funding that they give to the music school.

"We appreciate the dreadful position they are in. But the loss of almost £300,000 will mean that of the seven Music Centres two will have to close.

"I don't think the councillors recognised the extent of the support we have received." she said.

But she may be wrong - the support has not gone unnoticed.

In an aside to Colne Valley Male Voice Choir on Monday, Thom Meredith told members said he had been bowled over by the groundswell of support from all sorts of directions. The Council had had some hard choices to make and the loss of the grant was a blow.

"But some people have got the impression we are going under" he said. "And that's not the case at all. Far from it! We are working very closely with the Local Authority to find the most effective way forward. We'll deal with this new situation as we have done before and look forward to continuing the great musical heritage of the area."

The Last Words of David

Last rehearsal, under Thom's oh so skilful tutelage, we really seemed to be getting this wonderful piece about ready to bring back into the Colne Valley repertoire. This version is by the **Baylor Men's University Choir** which has been singing in Waco, Texas, for almost as long as we have here in Slaithwaite. I think they take it a bit too fast but otherwise it's excellent.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOrJuK3TIC0>

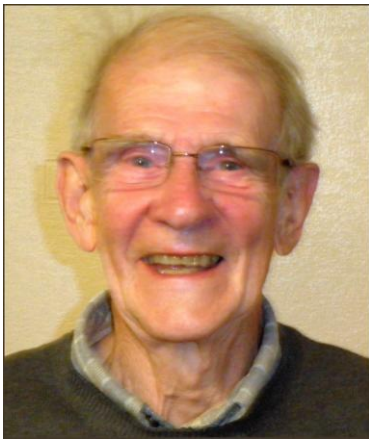
This dramatic, dynamically-varied and beautifully-harmonised male voice choir composition was created in 1949 by Randall Thompson and has been relearned by several different generations of Colne Valley singers as the years go by.



Randall Thompson

Randall Thompson, best remembered for his choral music, was a student at Harvard and taught there in later years. He died in 1984.

One of his students, incidentally was Leonard Bernstein, who went on to a very distinguished musical career, including writing the music for 'West Side Story'.



Welcome back, Les

200 Club Supremo, Les Stones, returned to choir the other day after a bout of ill-health.

We were all pleased to see him back in good form – and just in time for the big 200 Club £1,000 draw.

The £1,000 prize winner's lucky number was picked – as usual at the 200 Club dinner

And the golden ticket was No. 143 belonging to choir veteran, **Frank Littlewood**.

Couldn't have been won by a nicer fella. All the best to him! May he enjoy his windfall.

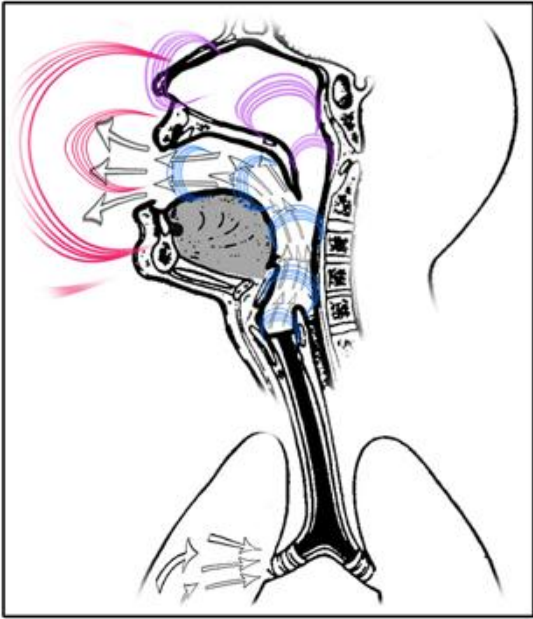


Meanwhile, Les tells me that some numbers are once again available. It's just £50 a year to buy a number, your chances of winning one of the smaller weekly prizes of £45 or the larger monthly prize of £180 are high – and then there's two of the massive £1,000 draws each year. But you've got to be in it to win it!

200 CLUB

COLNE VALLEY
MALE VOICE CHOIR

FUND RAISING
PRIZE DRAW



CHORAL TRAINING DAY

Come along on Saturday March 14th to a fun day of choral singing.

Guided by Sarah Ogden and our very own Thom Meredith, you'll get the chance to work on your voice production and choral technique and to learn some new work.

There will be songs for women's voices and for men and all singers will come together for SATB work later in the day.

This choir training day will be at Gledholt Methodist Church (HD1 5QX) and will run from 10:00 to 4:00. And it's just £5.00 per head, inclusive of tea and coffee.

You can contact Fiona Wakely to book a place via this link to the AYC website or phone her on 01484 604805

<http://yorkshirechoirs.co.uk/contact/>



Mother's Day Concert

Just a remainder that our next gig will be at the Town Hall on March 15th at 4:30

We'll be singing to help raise money for Kirkwood Hospice.

(You don't have to bring your Mother to enjoy it)



Then the following Saturday evening we're joining the fabulous

Lindley Junior School Choir

at Holy Trinity Church for a concert.

This time in support of the

'Forget me not' Childrens Hospice.

7:15 start



And another thing.....

BELIEVE



Children of St Andrews Church Of England Primary school, Bath

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FLIzuKrzis>

No disrespect to these lovely kids, but on the 21st of March at the Town Hall, Colne Valley men will be singing this song together with the absolutely fabulous **Lindley Junior School Choir**. Choir members are advised to watch this clip several times in order to help fix the lyrics in our less-plastic adult brains – the kids will just remember it straightaway!

BELIEVE by LIN MARSH

*When I look up to the stars,
There's a burning deep inside me
And I feel a power growing in my soul.
There is something I can sense,
Deep within a dream to guide me,
And I know that I am reaching for my goal.*

*Chorus:
I can do anything at all,
I can climb the highest mountain,
I can feel the ocean calling wild and free.
I can be anything at all,
With this hope to drive me onward,
If I can just believe in me.*

*Verse 2:
When the skies are dark and grey,
We still know the sun is shining:
Though it's out of sight its light is glowing still.
And as long as I believe,
There is nothing I can't wish for:
Not a dream that I'm unable to fulfil.*

*Chorus:
Bridge:
And whatever it takes I'll find it somehow,
Whatever it needs I'll show I'm strong.
Whatever it takes I'll make it happen:
Finding out where I belong.*

*Verse 3:
While the World is spinning round,
I can sometimes lose direction
And I know how hard it is to find my way.
But with friends around to care,
There is nothing I can't handle
And I'll face the future treasuring each day.*

*Chorus:
I can do anything at all,
I can climb the highest mountain,
I can feel the ocean calling wild and free.
I can be anything at all,
With this hope to drive me onward,
If I can just believe in me.*



Our last appearance with the wonderful Lindley Junior School Choir

Another reminder

Huddersfield U3A (Mixed Voice) Choir's

Come and Sing Messiah

We are starting 2pm Lindley Methodist. Saturday March 28

The Soloists are.

Rachael Morgan Soprano

Lorraine Mawby Alto

Michael Benn/ Bertie Yates Tenors

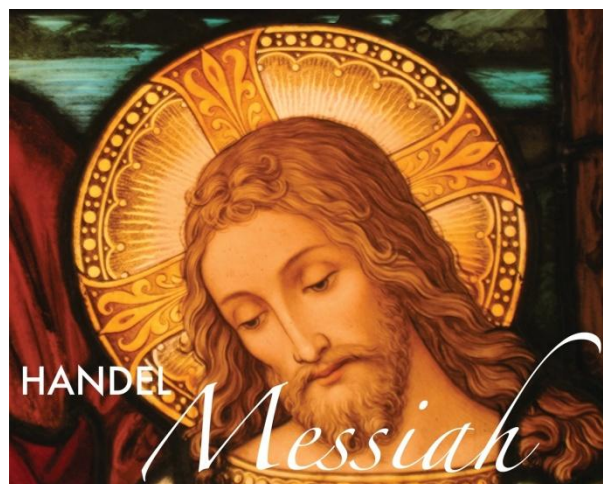
Sam Blagborough Bass

Alan Brierley is conducting and Ian Abbott is the organist.

All are welcome.

No charge but a retiring collection to help with costs,

Eric Cooper: Musical Director.



Voice of the Valley

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Newsletter

March 2015

Editor: John C Clark

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