



**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** has hosted a Christmas Concert at Huddersfield's magnificent Town Hall every year for nearly half a century and they maintained that fine tradition on Sunday with a grand night of musical entertainment.

Immediately after the Choir's dramatic opening 'Fanfare for Christmas' the near capacity audience was on its feet to sing, 'Christians Awake', backed by the rousing brass of **Brighouse and Rastrick Band**.

The band, under its new resident conductor, **Leigh Baker**, played with all the flair audiences expect from this world-famous ensemble: top-placed English band in this year's National Championships. Their 'Rocking Carol' in the first half featured a fine flugelhorn solo by **Lucy Cutt**.



The Choir was joined by Opera North's, **Victoria Sharp**, providing the soprano solo to Musical Director, Thom Meredith's, own arrangement of Adolphe Adam's, 'O Holy Night'.



Thom and Victoria were on stage later to sing together the haunting duet, 'That's All I Ask of You' from Phantom of the Opera.



The Choir's own youth division, **Colne Valley Boys**, charmed the audience with the ever-popular 'Walking in the Air' and the Boys, with Choir and Band brought the first half to a close with a heart-felt performance of 'Let there be Peace on Earth'.

Perhaps the Choir's finest number was their gloriously melodramatic rendition of that Edwardian classic, 'The Star of Bethlehem'; its range of emotions so skilfully realised by that



Finally Victoria, Band and Choir united for a dramatic finale – another classic - 'The Holy City'.

*Report: Lendl Sifaka*

*Photos: Cate Clark*



**'Titan of the Keyboard', Keith Swallow**, unbelievably, giving his 47<sup>th</sup> consecutive Colne Valley Christmas concert. The theatricality continued with the band's majestic, 'King of Kings'.







# Marsden Silver Prize Band



with Harriet Astbury

and

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

at Marsden Church

on Saturday Evening

December 19<sup>th</sup>

7:30 pm start Drinks available all night

**Put your video on for 'Strictly' and be there!**



Tickets selling fast. Don't forget to get yours.





# Music Theory

Original idea and lyrics by David Rakowski and friends. Additional lyrics by Dave Swenson.

## THE MUSIC THEORY SONG

The musical score for 'The Music Theory Song' is written in 4/4 time. It features a melody line with various chords indicated above the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

Oc - tave mov - ing to the me - di - ant Ma - jor 6th step - ping down to do

Ma - jor sec - onds be - ing sung by a choir, Chro - ma - tic al - ter - a - tions of the scale, Di - a - ton - ic

scale, de - scend - ing scale to min - or third Ma - jor 6th ii V - 7 of IV

Ma - jor sec - onds with their ears o - pen wide, will hear a pret - ty tri - tone to - night. There's mi - nor

sev - enth in the bridge. There's al - so lots of mi - nor sec - onds in the bridge and ev' - ry

mi - nor 6th is gon - na try to hear the su - per - ton - ic o - ver V of V A

mo - tif used to build this sim - ple phrase Ma - jor 6th five walks down to one. Al -

though this phrase ris - es to a high lead - ing tone, Drop a per - fect fifth, Meet the

Flint - stones, Sing a per - fect fourth two one.

We sang this Christmas song at the Town Hall last Sunday but our version was a bit different and about chestnuts.

Thanks to Tish Barker for this gem,



## 4 on a Piano

Chris Pulleyn spotted this piece, **Galop-Marche**, by **Albert Lavignac** (1846--1916)

Chris is looking for the music. Has anybody got the score?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05BSPmTorU>

And another thing.....

# Colne Valley Boys Christmas Concert

What a cracking concert was held last Saturday. (5<sup>th</sup> December). A good-sized audience at Saint James in Slaithwaite were treated to a brilliant afternoon of Christmas music.

Here we see the **Kirklees Junior Brass Band**. They might be young but they certainly didn't sound like beginners. They were great, working with their conductor, **Alexandra Kenyon**, not at their head but giving her cues, sitting at the front, playing her own instrument.

Our very own junior division, **Colne Valley Boys** get better every year - so ably supported by that terrific accompanist, **Chris Pulleyn** and the skilled musical leadership of **Thom Meredith**. Much praise, too, should go to **Linda** and **Matt Houston** who work tirelessly to organise and support the boys and their activities.

The boys sometimes split into two groups. Here we see the '**Senior Group**' about to sing the Billy Joel number; '**Uptown Girl**'.



The newly-formed but very excellent **Kirklees Teachers' Choir**, ranged from the challenging Mozart piece, '**Ave Verum Corpus**' to the differently demanding, '**Your Love keeps on Lifting Me ...Higher and Higher**' in which many choir members took on solo lines.



They came back onstage to join the Senior Group in an arrangement of the **Charles Trenet** number, '**La Mer**'. Or **Beyond the Sea**, as it's called in the English version the Choirs performed with a gentle swing.





The 'Youth Choir' sang as a mini-ensemble, too, with enthusiasm, great charm and lots of skill.

When all the boys sang together as one group they were very effective, managing to overcome the difficulties of mixing voices at different stages of development – the boys range in age from 8 to 18 – to create an excellent blend and a delivery with ever-improving precision and performance

levels. There's a lot of talent in this choir - not least in that they are able to provide the violin obligato to 'Walking in the Air' and many other solo contributions from within their own ranks.

**Well done, Colne Valley Boys. A right good do!**



**And should you want to join them, there's an Open Rehearsal on Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> at our rehearsal room, upstairs at Slaithwaite Conservative Club**



Rehearsals are normally every Monday in term time at Slaithwaite Conservative Club, doors open 5.15pm. The younger boys rehearse from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, the older boys join them from 6pm to 6.30pm then continue till 7pm. For further information check out their website [www.colnevalleyboys.com](http://www.colnevalleyboys.com) or telephone Linda Houston 01484 658188.

**Get the full story! See our new website:**

**[colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)**

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