



... Christmas is coming...



That's right. Sooner than you know it, it's that time of year again and Colne Valley men are turning their attention to Christmas Concerts.



Librarians, **Keith Holland** and **Peter Meadows** have been dishing out Christmas music over the last couple of weeks and Thom's been getting the rehearsals for festive pieces underway.

Last week, however, in Thom's half-term absence, we welcomed back an old friend of the Choir, **James Morgan**, to take us through some of our Christmas pieces. Everybody likes Jim, not least because he always has some interesting 'asides' but also because he's quick to put his finger on what's needed to improve our performance – and he gets us to do it! Thank you, Jim.



By November, Thom will be leaning on us - ever so gently - to learn our words, as time is short.



The Christmas Festival at the Town Hall is our biggest concert of the year. Once again our guests will be our own **Colne Valley Boys** and the wonderful **Brighouse & Rastrick Band** - probably the best brass band in the world.

It's on **Sunday December 11th**. Try **Kirklees Town Halls Online** (or on **225755**) to book tickets - there are still some left - and bargains to be had on gallery tickets.

https://tickets.kirklees.gov.uk/en-GB/shows/colne%20valley%20m_v_c%20christmas%20concert%202016/events

Then on Saturday 17th December, we'll be jovial as guests at the friendliest local concert, run at **Marsden's St Bartholomew's Parish Church** by the spectacularly good **Marsden Silver Prize Band**. It's now part of the valley's Christmas tradition and you shouldn't miss it.



Don't rain on my parade

Thom's been busy doing a male voice choir arrangement of this fine 1964 popular song that featured in the musical, 'Funny Girl'.



Don't Rain On My Parade - Barbra Streisand (Funny Girl)

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdc6o_funny-girl-don-t-rain-on-my-parade_music

Bob Merrill and Jule Styne wrote the piece for the stage musical but its fame came when **Barbra Streisand** sang it both on record and later in the 1968 hit movie. There are a few tricky rhythms and lyrics for the Choir to get used to - so listening a few times is recommended – and for other Readers and Friends of the Choir, it's just a great song - click here or on the image to enjoy it.

*"Don't tell me not to live, just sit and putter
Life's candy and the sun's a ball of butter
Don't bring around a cloud to rain on my parade*

*Don't tell me not to fly, I simply got to
If someone takes a spill, it's me and not you
Who told you you're allowed to rain on my parade*

*But whether I'm the rose of sheer perfection
Or freckle on the nose of life's complexion
The cinder or the shiny apple of its eye
I simply gotta march, my heart's a drummer
Nobody, no nobody, is gonna rain on my parade"*

A ...very...Distant Echo

4 years ago, local artists, **George Clark** - filmmaker - and **Tom Challenger** - composer and musician - were working on a project, '**A Distant Echo**' and came to Colne Valley Male Voice Choir for help with the sound track.



George (son of VotV editor)



Tom

This weekend George's film, with music by Tom and the Choir, finally has its 'world premiere' at the **20th Jihlava International Film Festival** in the Czech Republic.



"It's been a long time in gestation." George told VotV.

"I did a lot of the filming in **Death Valley**, California early on. And then the recording session with Tom, Thom and the Choir back in July 2103 gave the project a big boost.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/gclark/adistantecho-trailer>



The following year saw the preliminary screening of some footage and a live reading of the script in the historic **Leeds Library** with several Choir members performing, Colne Valley voices included: **Stuart Baxter, John Clark, Brian Hibbert, Michael Parkinson, John Smith and Ivan Smith**. And Tom played in first edits of the recorded soundtrack alongside the film footage. I thought then that I wasn't far off finishing the work.

But other jobs kept cropping up, stopping me from finding a concentrated block of time to put all the pieces together as I wanted in a final version."

Since that recording session, George took on a full-time role with Tate Modern as Assistant Curator (film) but, after a couple of years found the pull of independence too great and went back to free-lance working. He's worked in Taiwan, the Philippines, Australia and Croatia – as well as in the UK - and currently he has his base in New Zealand.

"I'm excited about the premiere," says George, "And very pleased with Tom Challenger's realisation of the sound track. We are both Colne Valley lads and working with Thom and CVMVC was a good experience for both of us."



A key element of Tom and George's social life, when they were growing up, was in the **Colne Valley Music Centre's** various bands: two out the thousands who have reason to be grateful for **Kirklees Music School**.

A Distant Echo – Film Score

If, a thousand years from now, archaeologists happen to dig beneath the sands of Guadalupe, I hope that they will not rush into print with the amazing news that Egyptian civilization, far from being confined to the valley of the Nile, extended all the way to the Pacific Coast of North America.

-Cecil B. DeMille

A Distant Echo is a new film by George Clark that explores themes of identity, culture and the construction of history. Shot on 35mm film in Californian deserts used for Hollywood biblical epics, the project draws together film history, Egyptian culture and the tradition of Yorkshire male voice choirs.



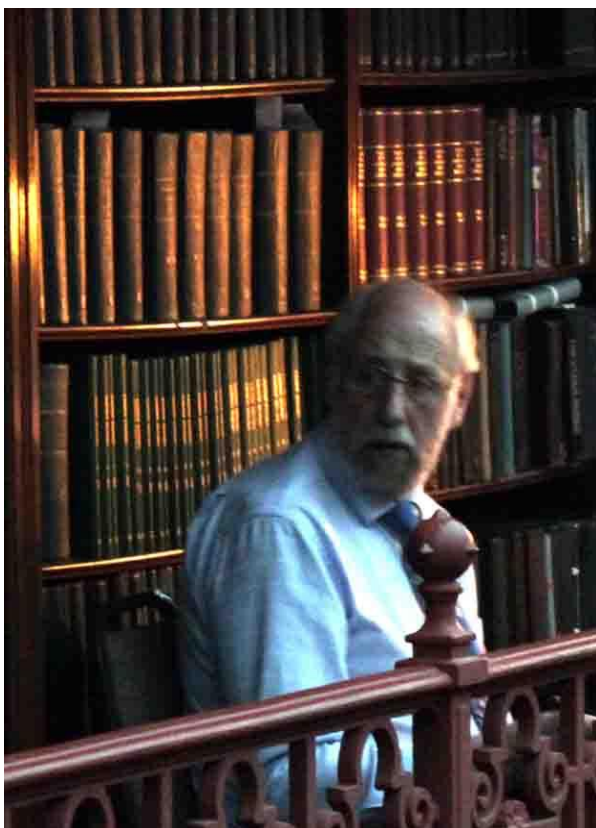
Tomas Challenger
FILM MUSIC

SOUNDCLOUD



In the resonant surroundings of the Leeds Library (est. 1768), the first screening featured a new score composed by Loop Collective member Tom Challenger for the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir (est. 1922) and a reading of a script drawn from the Egyptian film The Night of Counting the Years.

<http://www.loopcollective.org/news/A-Distant-Echo-Film-Score-531>



A Distant Echo – ‘tribesman’ - **Brian Hibbert** prepares his part at the Leeds Library

‘Tribesman’ **Jack Smith**





For the beauty of the earth

拉繚人男聲合唱團

This fine song from John Rutter is now in rehearsal. It's very easy on the ear and, once we're of top of some deceptively tricky bits, VotV can see it becoming a popular part of our repertoire.

Here's a nicely sung male voice choir version. Visually it's far from stunning but the singing by the Taipei Male Choir is of excellent quality.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHiTuZGi1E4>

For those who prefer nicer pictures and a chance to see the lyrics there's another version readers might like:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaMkj4_H8WM



This fine piece was sponsored by Choir Librarian, **Keith Holland**, in memory of Mum and Dad, Peggy and Wilf.

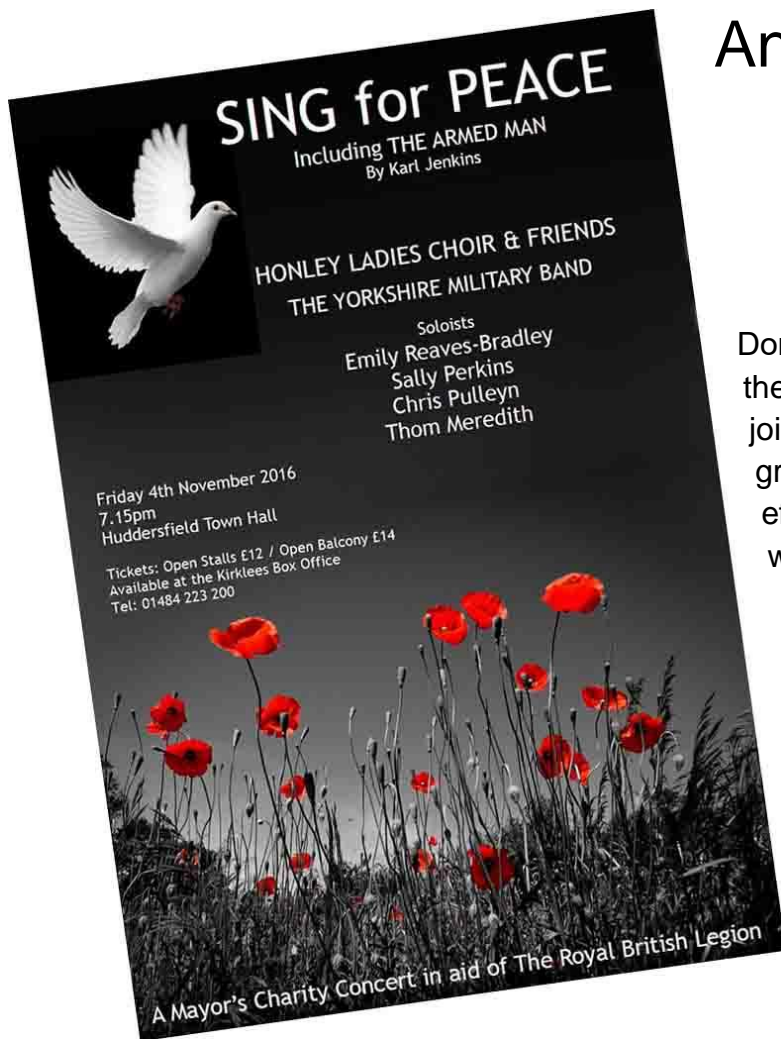
It's a lovely thing to sponsor a new piece of music and anyone who would like to do it, should explore the idea with Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 645492.



And those wishing to contemplate the beauty of the Earth need look no further than our own Colne Valley. This autumn picture shows **Rotcher** no more than half a mile from where we rehearse.



And another thing.....



Don't forget on **Friday Night - November 4th** at the Town Hall - there are Colne Valley men joining the **Honley Ladies** in what looks like a great evening of music, including - with laser effects - a dramatic version of Karl Jenkins's wonderful piece, '**The Armed Man**'.

Our very own, **Chris Pulleyn** and **Thom Meredith** will be amongst the soloists.

And another date for the diary.....

December 3rd at 3 o'clock in **St James Church Slaithwaite**, come and see **Colne Valley Boys** and their guests in their Christmas concert.

Going by last year's ace performance, this concert will be fabulously well done and fantastically good fun to be part of.

Be there!



A moving occasion

Colne Valley Choir members are to take part, once again, in a remembrance event with **Huddersfield Royal Infirmary's Intensive Care Unit**.

Not everyone who becomes a patient at the Intensive Care Unit makes it through their stay or the subsequent months. This event at **St Paul's Hall at 2:00pm on Sunday November 6th** is organised by the doctors, nurses and other staff at the Intensive Care Unit, who wish to provide an opportunity for friends and family members to mark the lives of their loved ones, who didn't come through.

Poems and readings by hospital staff are interspersed with uplifting songs by the Choir and all those present get a chance to light a candle in memory of their departed. It's a moving event that the Choir has done several times now and in which we are proud to participate.



Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny,
on 01484 645192
to join our Readers' List
or for other queries

See our new website to get the full story
colnevalleymvc.org.uk

