



Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir concert



Photo: Harry Meredith

"Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir" said the **Huddersfield Examiner**, referring to the annual concert in Huddersfield's magnificent Town Hall.

And there were over a thousand people in the audience who surely agreed with that sentiment as they enjoyed the 48th consecutive running of this event on Sunday night.

Fine singing from one of the nation's pre-eminent male voice choirs – with 70 fine singers on stage - wonderful playing from the Choir's guests, **Brighouse and Rastrick Band** and great entertainment from the Choir's own, **Colne Valley Boys Choir**, made this an evening as enjoyable as any that lovers of this great Christmas tradition have come to expect.

In keeping with that established custom the audience were called to join in with the musicians, starting the concert off with, '**Christians Awake**'.

That included our guest of honour, **Kirklees Mayor, Councillor, Jim Dodds**.



Then came the first of many Choir sets, accompanied, as ever, by the self-effacing keyboard maestro, **Keith Swallow**, seen here in **Harry Meredith**'s picture, hiding behind a plant in the Town Hall dressing room.

It's his 48th performance at this event, too - and astonishingly he is well into his 60th year as the Choir's accompanist.



The Band came next, excellent as always, under the leadership of Resident Conductor - and arranger of many of the evening's pieces, **Leigh Baker**. The Band and Choir have cemented their relationship over the years. This is the band's 7th consecutive visit as Christmas guests.



Their first set included a 'cool jazz' version of '**O Holy Night**' with stunning solo trumpet played by **Dominic Longhurst**.

Then on trooped the ever-improving **Colne Valley Boys**, with talented accompanist **Chris Pulleyn**. Again in line with tradition, they included in their performance the hauntingly beautiful, **'Walking in the Air'** to the audience's evident appreciation.



Most of the Boys as seen at Slaithwaite, St James' on Saturday 3rd.

Tradition may be important but the Choir also wants to ensure there is room for the new pieces in the repertoire. One such was a rousing anthem, **'We rise again'**. For this all the performers, Boys, Band and Choir came together to perform in a specially arranged version, that rounded off the first half in style.

Once again, the event was warmly compered by old friend of the Choir, **Simon Lindley**. He introduced the Choir in a striking performance of Percy Fletcher's 100-year-old choir classic, to the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the excellent, **'Ring Out Wild Bells'** which showed off both the choir's power and versatility and Keith Swallow's artistry on the piano.



A terrific evening was completed by another classic, Choir and Band together again, this time under the guidance of Colne Valley's Musical Director, **Thom Meredith**, for **Gordon Langford's, 'Christmas Fantasy'**.

What a night!

'Boys' Review



Colne Valley Boys did their Christmas Concert on Saturday afternoon at St James's Church in Slaithwaite.

Those who were there; performers and audience alike, had a terrific afternoon. It must go down as another stonking success.



With excellent support from **Musica Youth Brass** (and their prodigiously good cornet player, **Holly Baker**) and an adult choir made up of Kirklees teachers, parents and supporters of the Music Centre at Colne Valley High School, the Boys led us into an afternoon of good music and good fun.

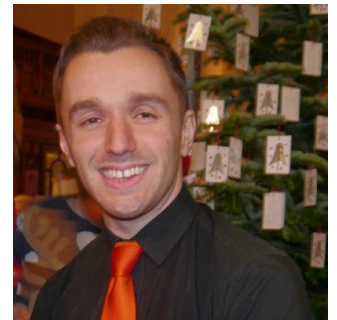




The event was led by our very own **Thom Meredith**. He not only compered but also led the adult choir and conducted the Boys.

With the Boys, Thom was very ably supported, once again, by accompanist, **Chris Pulleyn**.

Together they are making the Boys into fine singers and confident performers.



But there's no doubt that the lion's share of the credit for helping get the Boys into shape and onstage lies with husband and wife team, **Linda and Matt Houston**.

They have put in so much work to get this very popular concert into our audience's Christmas schedules and there was no doubt, from the warm applause at the end, that it's much appreciated.

Well done, both of you!

200 CLUB

Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.

There's a good chance of winning:

£45 in prize money weekly,
£185 in the monthly draw and two
whopping £1,000 draws each year.

Even if you don't win, you win -
because half of the fund supports
Choir concerts and performances.

Contact Choir Secretary, Jenny,
on **01484 645192**



*Les Stones announces the 200 Club Winners
for Autumn 2016*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>The Lucky Winner</i>	
1 August 2016	26	Brian Hibbert	£45
8 August 2016	9	Andrew Dobson	£45
15 August 2016	77	Keith Holland	£45
22 August 2016	180	John Clark	£45
29 August 2016	63	Norman Brown	£1,000
5 September	194	John Garner	£45
12 September	34	Michael Parkinson	£45
19 September	2	Val Pickering	£45
26 September	183	Anonymous	£185
3 October 2106	3	Rodney Richardson	£45
10 October 2106	159	Doris Smith	£45
17 October 2106	104	Amy Podger	£45
24 October 2106	139	Michael Hey	£45
31 October 2106	87	Judith Hearn	£185

A service for Philip Baxter



The funeral service for Philip will be held at 11:30am on Wednesday 14th December at **Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church**.

Philip, aware of his imminent departure had a hand in planning this event. Most of the Choir will be there and we'll be singing, '**Love Divine**' and '**Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer**' - and Philip's, own, much-loved arrangement of '**You'll Never Walk Alone**'.



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

ENGAGEMENT DIARY FOR 2017

Saturday 25 February

Competing at Mrs Sunderland Music Festival at Huddersfield Town Hall

Sunday May 7

The Choir & our in-house soloists at Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

Sunday May 21

A light-hearted supper concert at the 'Carding Shed' in Hepworth

Saturday June 10

Summer Spectacular in the Town Hall with Brighouse & Rastrick Band

Saturday July 1

Concert on the Hill - 'Last Night or the Proms' style fun at Salendine Nook

Monday July 3

Performing at the Llangollen International Music Festival Gala Concert

Saturday July 15

Birthday Concert at Farnworth Methodist Church, Widnes

Saturday August 19

Scarborough Music Festival at Queen Street Methodists, Scarborough

Saturday September 16

Poulton-le-Fylde Church - the Choir and our in-house talents

Sunday December 10

Christmas Concert with Brighouse & Rastrick Band Huddersfield Town Hall

Saturday December 16

Christmas with Marsden Silver Prize band again at St. Bartholomew's





Another Plug for Marsden.....

Yes, it's your last reminder – and your last chance to see the Choir in 2016. We're guests of the Marsden Silver Prize Band again at the Parish Church on Saturday - it'll be a grand night out. Don't miss it!

And a couple of other things....



Bass stalwart, **Brian Hibbert** and his wife, Sue, are holding their annual '**Carols in the Barn**' event at their farm at Outlane. It's on Tuesday 13th December at about 6.00pm. Phone Brian on 01422 374709 to get the details.

Or else join fellow bass, **Noel Clarke** at Brockholes for '**Carols Round the Tree**' with Vintage Brass. It'll be cold outside but lovely – and there are refreshments after! That's Friday 16th at 7:00pm. Call Noel on 663695.



A Christmas treat from Voice of the Valley - Mnozil Brass



Baritone, **Michael Parkinson** sent VotV this clip. It's entertaining, it's unique and it's something you have to see to believe. All VotV knows is that **Mnozil Brass** is a septet from Austria.

It's absolutely brilliant in a weird sort of way.

VotV is read by some Brighthouse and Rastrick players. Maybe we can get them to do it - perhaps next summer. They'll need a bit of time to practice.

<http://www.wimp.com/brass-band-multitasker/>

