



‘It’s a grand night for singing....’

That’s how we started our latest concert at the Scarborough Music Festival - and so it proved - a really grand night!



Photo: Andrew Robinson

The elegant auditorium at **Queen Street**, above the harbour seafront, may not have been full to bursting but it was a big audience all keen to enjoy some fine musical entertainment – laid on as ever by that wonderful arts entrepreneur, **Christine Cox**. One again, she had brought Colne Valley Male Voice Choir together with soloists for the Choir’s 11th Scarborough concert since 2008.

The stars of the show (apart from the Choir)



Photo: Andrew Robinson

Superb cornet-player, **Phillip McCann**, Opera North's wonderful soprano, **Victoria Sharp** and her operatic colleague, tenor, **Campbell Russell** were there. We all came under the guidance of compere and organist, **Simon Lindley**. Readers will know keyboard maestro, **Keith Swallow**, and may remember **Christine Cox**. But probably you wouldn't know the man in the Chains of Office.

Mayor prefers Colne Valley's Music?

The concert was honoured to have as its Guests of Honour, the mayor of the Borough of Scarborough, Councillor J Plant and his lady wife, Margaret.

"What a great concert." He wrote on his website. "We were entertained by Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and other talented singers and musicians. Thank you to Christine Cox and her team for making the event possible."

Given that he did have as much praise for his visit the previous evening to the **Britney Spears** concert, maybe we can conclude he liked us just a bit more even though we didn't wear catsuits.

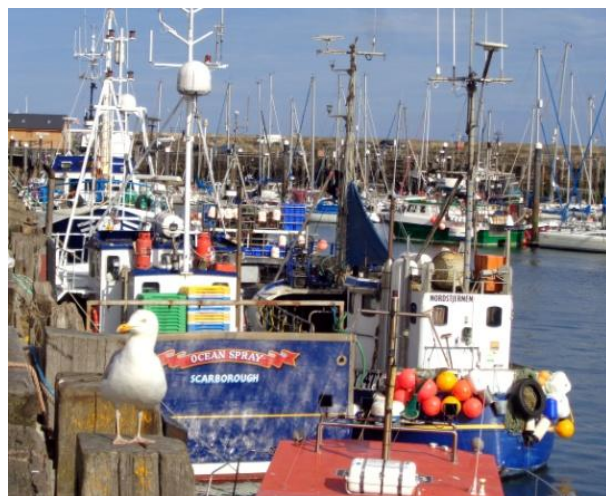
He was certainly treated to great solo pieces and some fine singing by the Choir: - including a fabulous but subtle rendering of Randall Thompson's classic, '**The Last Words of David**'. And the syncopated 'Guys & Dolls' number, '**Luck be a Lady**' with second tenor, **Tom Law**, doing a terrific job in his first concert performance of the introductory lead-in to the song proper.





‘Oh we do like to be besides the seaside....’

For the Choir, the trip to Scarborough is not only a musical thrill. For many of us, it's a trip down 'Memory Lane' and a chance to savour the remaining joys of Yorkshire's prime seaside holiday spot.



Scarborough's a family place.... three generations of James's

Sometime first Tenor, **James Asquith**, enjoyed the Concert. VotV regulars may remember him as our reader in **Peoria, Illinois, USA**. He writes, "We were in the UK on a stop-over in our round the world journey to **Wellington New Zealand**. My wife is a kiwi and we've decided to quit everything and roll the dice and visit all sorts of places around the world before emigrating there. As I say, we've stopped off in the UK and are staying with my parents (**James Asquith Senior** - he goes by the name, Edward, by the way) and we had the chance to visit Scarborough and see the concert.

The children loved it! We were able to sit in the balcony in a position where my daughter - **Antonia** - could watch **Thom**, as if in the choir. She was "conducting" in her own special way most of the time (she's 6). The picture of my father is with my son, Caeden - who is also a great singer. Caeden's middle name is **James** so we're keeping the **James** thing going for another generation at least.



Keep up the good work with VotV - I enjoyed watching your resurrected VHS video in the last issue of the Choir winning again at Llangollen and the subsequent local TV coverage. Maybe you didn't realise that it was me sitting besides my Dad in 1998."

James Asquith ("now with less hair than I had in 1998").



Caeden James with James Edward



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQImWS-QG9k> James and James Senior in YTV's 1998 video

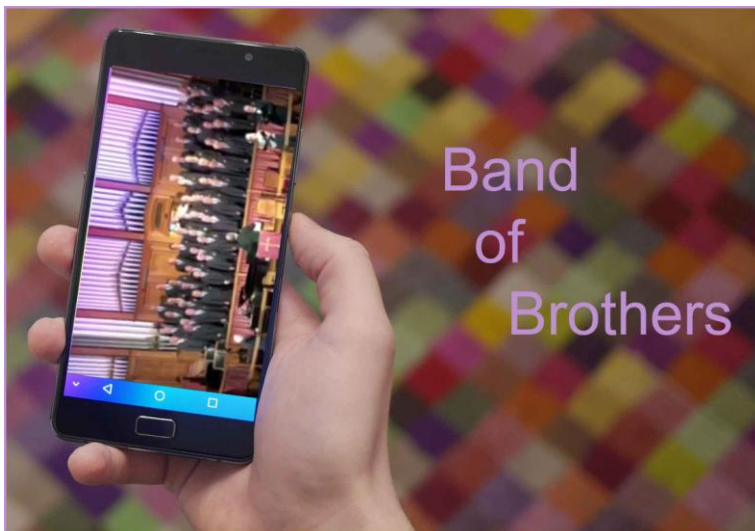


Valerie's Video

One of the highlights of the Concert and the climax of the first half came when the Choir sang, Thom Meredith's own arrangement of 'Requiem for a Soldier' - the Michael Kamen score to the ground-breaking TV series about World War II.

The choir was joined for this by all the evening's soloists. Cornet-player, **Phillip McCann**, played a hauntingly beautiful introduction, evocative of the 'Last Post' to lead the Choir into a softly hummed melody. This built in drama and volume to a sustained peak. **Keith Swallow**, master of the keyboard accompanied. Then in came Soprano, **Victoria Sharp** with the verse. Finally **Campbell Russell** joined in and organist, **Simon Lindley**, brought his skilled hands (and feet) to the ensemble, raising the music to its powerful crescendo before the gentle last words, - 'We are all one great band of brothers and one day you'll see, we can live together, when all the World is free.'

Some of this emotional intensity was captured by Choir supporter, **Valerie Coles**, on her mobile phone. The footage is shaky but sound isn't at all bad. Thank you Valerie - readers will find it well worth a listen. Click on the image to catch the video.



<https://youtu.be/aWI2PR2-i6E>



Christmas Concert planning - already....?

Ticketmaster, **Roger Fielding** writes,

"It'll soon be Town Hall Christmas Concert time and readers should not miss an early chance to get their tickets sorted. Could I ask you to put order information into the next VotV. Audience members will be pleased to learn we are holding seat prices at the same levels as last year.

Balcony £18
Side Balcony £16
Window £15
Area £13.50
Side Area £11
Gallery £10 (£5-Children and students)



As little as that for a top-class choir and the best brass band in the world! Tickets can be obtained from **Roger Fielding** at 42 Stones Lane, Linthwaite, HD7 5PD. Either phone 01484 846262 or send in an order to that address including a S.A.E. to return the tickets in.

Get in touch if you need any more information. Do ring me if you want any more info."

Roger

Our next Concert - at Stones Methodist Church



October 6th is a date for our diary. It promises to be a great concert in a fine church with marvellous acoustics. It's an interesting church, too and over 200 years old. The present building was erected in 1902 replacing the 1803 chapel that was in disrepair. More recently, a £450,000 refurbishment scheme has greatly enhanced facilities and has provided modern rooms for church and community groups.

A fine musical heritage

"Rich musical traditions are well-established at Stones and your Choir will add its own unique style when you come here in October," writes church stalwart, **David Normanton**.

"In addition to our annual Christmas Concert, we try to host one additional musical concert. This year we are very pleased to welcome Colne Valley. We've had links with the Choir over a number of years in that some of our regular church attendees are members.





Your Choir's current Chairman is **Rob Rosborough**, whose family has contributed greatly to our church in many ways and in particular with their musical expertise.

Music has played a big part in the history and fabric of our Church. For the first 60 years, in the rather austere church the packed congregations sang their hymns to the accompaniment of violins.

It wasn't until 1863 that the first pipe organ was installed at a cost of £80.00 from King Cross Methodist Chapel. This lasted until 1882, when a brand new 2 manual Conacher replaced it at the cost of £220. **Conacher** were a well-known Huddersfield based firm of organ builders. In the 1970's the then organist, Grahame Hitchen started a campaign to replace this organ which was pretty much worn out. Eventually after many twists and turns the present instrument was located at Erkskine Memorial Church in Dumfriesshire. This was a two-manual pipe organ with a detached console built by J J Binns of Leeds in 1907. In February of this year major renovation work and updating of the instrument was carried out to bring the organ into the 21st century at a cost of around £7,000.

The proceeds from the concert will help replenish church funds that were utilised to finance half of this project. The other half has been funded by the Memorial Fund set up in memory of **Grahame Hitchen**.

Given the money invested in our church organ we hope your performance might include, '**The Lost Chord**' providing one of our regular organ players Graham Cockcroft is available to play the organ. You will all then be able to appreciate what a quality instrument we have to enjoy.

Alan Simmons

Another major connection between our church and the Colne Valley Choir is Alan Simmons. Alan married Catherine Hopkinson one of the Hopkinson family with its long association with our church

And of course you perform a number of Alan's pieces that he has written especially for Male Voice Choirs. Alan has one of the largest catalogues of MVC music in the UK and it is performed in concerts, at international festivals and competitions throughout the world. We especially look forward to hearing your performances of the Alan Simmon's pieces.





Karl Jenkins 'Armed Man'

Dear Editor,

Rob Rosborough has asked me to send you details of this exciting concert and rehearsals. Colne Valley men and friends are welcome to join in. Here is some information about the concert day and venue.

We are already in rehearsal for this but specific rehearsals with **Thom Meredith**, who will be conducting 'The Armed Man' are as follows:-

Wednesday 5th September
Wednesday 19th September
Wednesday 3rd October

All rehearsals are at **St Jude's Church Hall**, Free School Lane, Halifax HX1 2XE at 7:45pm.



If you would like to sing in the concert, you are requested to attend at least two of these if possible. On the day of the concert there will be a rehearsal at **Halifax Minster** at 2-00pm. This time will be confirmed nearer the time.

We are also holding a workshop for The Armed Man on Saturday 8 September at Blackley Church, Blackley, Elland, HX5 OTD.

If you are interested in attending the workshop and/or singing in the concert could you please let me or **Rob Rosborough** know.

You can contact me by email:- blew06@btinternet.com
Or by phone 01422 373252

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Thank you

Lesley Henderson
Overgate Hospice Choir Secretary

OVERGATE HOSPICE
Choir
Music Director: Dr Simon Lindley
www.overgatehospicechoir.co.uk
presents



LEST WE FORGET
Armistice Centenary Commemoration 1918-2018
Halifax Minster – Saturday 13 October 2018 at 7.00 pm
Karl Jenkins
The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace
OVERGATE HOSPICE CHOIR
MUSICA YOUTH ORCHESTRA
Guest Conductor: Thom Meredith
Treble Soloists: Halifax Minster Choristers
Claire Strafford – Lucy Appleyard – David Brown – Quentin Brown
Alan Horsey organ
Tickets £12 from Overgate Hospice, Elland; Harvey's, Halifax
Shoemith's, Commercial Street, Halifax; Choir Members
or by telephoning 01422 373252
Online from www.wegotickets.com or on the door





Join in the Festival of Remembrance Concert

"You are too late now as a potential singer," reports choral organiser, **Jeff Goldthorpe**.

"Rehearsals have been in train now for some weeks and a few Colne Valley men will be joining the massed singers for this special concert to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the ending of the First World War.

But VotV Readers are warmly invited to join in as audience members when the **Band of the Yorkshire Regiment** starts the concert on Friday November 9th at the Town Hall in Huddersfield."

Once again our very own **Thom Meredith** will be contributing - what would this town do without him?

& Piano Reminder

Don't forget our other gift to the cultural life of the area, **Christopher Pulleyn**.

His first concert in the 3 performance series will be at the **Civic Hall** in Slaithwaite on September 9th.

Make it a date for Sunday afternoon at half past three.

The concert will cover songs from the shows.

Join Chris, with the wonderful **Rhianydd Helen Beaumont** and tenor, **Anthony Harris**, for what will be a fantastic afternoon of Musical Theatre.



"Do come." says Chris.



And for the full story - see our website:-

<http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk>