



## Next Stop – Cornwall

Early next month, the men of the Colne Valley will be boarding coaches down to Newquay to take part, once again, in the **Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival**.

One of the most prestigious festivals in the country, the Cornwall event features 5 days of competition and celebration of male voice singing across the whole county.



The Choir will be staying by the sea at Newquay on this our sixth visit to this fine county. Our first concert will take place on Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Newquay's **St Michael's Church**. We'll be there with a handful of fellow male voice choirs from the UK and Europe and our performance will include the joyful, 'Let the River Run', complete with Bongos, congas, shakers and double-bass accompaniment.



**CORNWALL INTERNATIONAL**  
**MALE CHORAL** *festival*

Join Cornwall in a world of song!



## Competition ...

Saturday will see the Choir moving to **Truro** for the competition part of our visit. With just under 50 singers able to travel, the Choir will participate in the 'Large Choir class. This is a competition we have entered on 4 occasions. Twice we emerged as overall winners, but each time as '**Best UK Choir**'. On one visit we didn't enter the competition at all, just visited as a 'show Choir' and for the joy of participation.



This year, the contest will take place for the first time in **Truro Cathedral**.



This magnificent ecclesiastical building has that wonderful 'echoey' acoustic and, if we are able to use it skilfully, we should sound wonderful.

Of course, in telling the story of '**Lord Lovelace**' we shall need to be precise and very controlled in our diction if the dark tale of Lovelace's homecoming is to be fully communicated. And this applies even more if the 'twist' at the end is to come across.

Then comes the unaccompanied piece. We have chosen '**O Sanctum Convivium**'. This late medieval piece, with its interweaving harmonies, should sound terrific in this particular church, where we would expect the phrases to reverberate round the high arched roof in a dramatic way.

Our 'big finish' will be our new piece, '**How Great Thou Art**' with a fabulous piano accompaniment by Maestro, Keith Swallow. This is a new arrangement of a favourite by American, Dan Forrest and we hope and expect it to make a big impact.

What will the judges think? Well, who can say? We just hope that we sing as well as we know we can and 'keep our fingers crossed'.



## .....and Entertainment

Whatever the result, CVMVC is invited to return to the Cathedral to participate in the major **Gala Concert** that evening. This feast of male voice choir singing arguably marks the culmination of the whole festival. We have 5 items, planned all different except for a reprise of 'How Great Thou Art'.



On the Sunday, the choir travels again to a much more light-hearted event in the sub-tropical dome, entertaining visitors to the amazing **Eden Project**.



All told, we shall be performing 15 different pieces in Cornwall this year - all from memory of course - including one piece, '**Till I Hear You Sing**', from the show, 'Love Never Dies'. For more about this ballad, new to our repertoire, see below

## Concerts



There will be concerts and choirs performing all over Cornwall that weekend - for a flavour, watch this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMIQxeLaK8g>

And for details see the Festival website:-

<https://www.cimcf.uk/>

## Support CVMVC at Cornwall

To see Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, these are your times and locations:-

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 7:30 concert at St Michael's Church  
St Michael's Rd, Newquay  
TR7 1RA

Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> Competition at Truro Cathedral  
Class starts at 3:00 pm - CVMVCV due onstage at 4:40pm

Gala Concert at Truro Cathedral Saturday evening 8:00pm  
14 St Mary's St, Truro TR1 2AF

Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> Eden Project Sunday 11:30 am in the Bio Dome  
Bodelva, Cornwall  
PL24 2SG

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### Andrew Ripper - new baritone

Andrew was warmly welcomed into membership on Monday.

He took his audition at the end of March, singing a snatch of one of the new pieces the Choir has been learning recently.

#### **“I’m an arsonist”**

“I’m an arsonist” he told VotV, quite worryingly, when asked what he did. Fortunately, he went on to explain that he heads up a small team at **John Cotton’s** in Mirfield, which carries out lab tests on bedding and mattress materials, including flammability tests. “Nobody wants to buy a pillow that might go up in flames.” he added.

It turns out that Andrew, now 29 years old, has sung in many choirs in schools and elsewhere and is at ease with reading musical scores. “What’s new is singing in a male voice choir. I usually sing bass in SATB outfits (men’s & women’s voices) but I’m a baritone here.” he told your Editor, “That’s a bit of a challenge but I’m really enjoying it - and I get to go to Cornwall for the Music Festival.”

VotV wishes Andrew many happy years with us.

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# Barry revels in it

Steam Train enthusiast, baritone stalwart and amateur bongo player, **Barry Slater**, sent me a video of his favourite locomotive, **Bahamas 45596**, steaming through the countryside on the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**.

Quite cheekily, VotV has changed the original soundtrack to the Choir's version of '**Ride the Chariot**' which seems to fit rather well. This version was recorded a few years ago under the guidance of Thom Meredith and featuring veteran first tenor, **Arthur Quarmby**.



To see this magnificent engine and hear our magnificent choir, click on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/bKyyj5kqyPU>

# Band of Brothers Concert

Readers will be aware that the Choir set up a choir for younger male voices almost 10 years ago. At the end of March this year, there was a major promotional push to refresh the membership and boost the 'Boys' finances. The Choir and our unflappable leader, **Thom Meredith**, embarked on several publicity initiatives, a schools' tour and, in culmination of our efforts, a concert performance with boys and men, singing both separately and together. This was the 'Band of Brothers' concert and it took place at St James Church in Slaithwaite. And it was a great success!

'Boys' organisers, **Linda and Matt Houston**, told VotV they were thrilled with the outcomes. Several hundred pounds were raised to help cover running costs and - better still – a good handful of new boys have been recruited to replenish and extend the membership.



It's the Voice of the Valley view that the boys were a good deal slicker and more accomplished than the men in the concert.

Perhaps that was because the Boys had just been in competition in the **National Festival of Music for Youth** in Birmingham and so were well practised with their repertoire. By contrast, it sometimes felt like the men were not quite yet fully on top of the new season's materials. We'll have to get serious if we are to be ready for Cornwall!

Nonetheless, it was a grand afternoon. VotV would like to thank **Rachel Stirling** for the photo of Boys and men in performance.





Seen here is one of the new recruits, **Richard Cooke** (7½) with current oldest member, **John Smith** (86½) in our final rehearsal before the Slaithwaite concert.

## Please take note - cheques and payments

I'm told that a change of policy by our bankers means that cheques and payments using the choir's initials will no longer be acceptable - silly isn't it!

So don't write **CVMVC** but instead write **Colne valley Male Voice Choir**

Voice of the Valley suggests you practice this by writing out a few cheques to Colne Valley Male Voice Choir in favour of extra numbers in our wonderful **200 Club**.

	<p>Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Even if you don't win, you win - because half of the fund supports Choir concerts and performances.</p> <p>Contact Choir Secretary, Jenny, on <b>01484 645192</b></p>
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# 'Till I Hear You Sing'

**Michael Parkinson, baritone, writes;**

*"May I offer you some background material regarding the song **"Till I Hear You Sing"** that the Choir is currently preparing.*

*It comes from Andrew Lloyd Webber's show, **"Love Never Dies"**, the sequel to his **"Phantom of the Opera"**, which is now in its 33rd year and remains popular to this day with some 140 million people having seen the show.*

*The new show, **"Love Never Dies"** is a romantic musical written in 1997 but set in 1907 when Christine Daaé is invited by Oscar Hammerstein to debut in America but an unknown impresario contracts her to perform at Phantasma, a new attraction on Coney Island. With her husband Raoul and son Gustave she travels to Brooklyn unaware that it is the Phantom who has arranged her performance.*

*In short, the plot develops showing Christine again coming under the Phantom's spell where she struggles to decide if her future lies with him or with Raoul.*

*Audiences gave negative reviews, in part due to the implausibility of the plot and other production aspects. Sadly the sequel did not marry with the public's taste.*

*None the less, some of the songs demonstrated real quality and are likely to stand alone and resonate with listeners and future performers. **"Till I Hear You Sing"** is one. It is sung by the phantom and is written in the same style and mood of the original Phantom show."*

This version is sung by **Ramin Karimloo** who plays the Phantom in the show and features his co-star **Sierra Boggess** (Christine).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47dUc4iMAvQ>

# Stuart at choir practice - for 40 years!

**Stuart Baxter**, bastion of the basses, was warmly praised by 'longest serving member, **David Hirst**, and awarded a certificate to mark 40 years of membership.

Stuart did his 'test' back in April 1979, at a final rehearsal before two Town Hall Concerts, so he was on stage performing that very week.



And he hasn't looked back for 40 years. "He can still be found wandering around Scapegoat Hill." said David, "Singing away, learning his words."

Well done, Stuart, says **VotV**. Long may you continue!

(NB: This is not Stuart's halo showing - just a trick of the light.)

Well, it made me smile....



**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**  
Est 1922

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Editor: John C Clark Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, is on 01484 645192. Ring her to join our Readers' List or for other queries. Our fine website is at [colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)