



Choir ready for Scarborough



Aided by a welcome visit by Maestro, **Dr Simon Lindley**, the Choir is in great shape (almost) for our return to the delightful **Scarborough Music Festival**.

Inspired and supported by wonderful Patron of the Arts, **Miss Christine Cox**, the Scarborough festival has been the highlight of our summer schedule for the last 12 years.



VotV says '**almost**' in great shape for Scarborough. We are still getting ourselves round the 'Queen' anthem '**Somebody to Love**'. Old friend of the Choir, Simon, conceded that it wasn't really his kind of music but he helped us through some of the trickier rhythms anyway. At least we have '**Crazy Little Thing Called Love**' ready.

The previous week we had had **Chris Pulleyn** leading us. (**Thom** was on a tour of Prague with his youth orchestras.) This is music more chronologically suited to young Chris, perhaps. He was urging us to '**channel our internal Freddy Mercurys**' and no doubt we'll manage it before we take the stage on **Saturday August 17th** at (appropriately) **Queen Street**, Scarborough at 7:30pm.

To remind you, watch this video of Freddy Mercury showing us how it's done.





New Pianist

It's almost official. Since it became known that the Choir would need a new accompanist from next year, pretty well everyone was hoping that the hugely talented, **Chris Pulleyn** would be able to take on the role.

VotV is delighted to reveal that, barring a few formalities, it's a done deal.

"I'm incredibly honoured and excited to be taking over from Keith as Principal Accompanist of CVMVC. He's always quick to disregard any words of flattery, but as I grew up in Huddersfield, he was one of the figures whose brilliant playing inspired me to pursue accompaniment, and who I aspired to perform as well as, and so it's a little overwhelming that I was invited by the Choir to step into his rather big shoes and succeed him."

*Since I started working with the Colne Valley Boys, and over time getting to know more and more of the Male Voice Choir repertoire, there are so many pieces I've thought 'I bet that's a great piece to play ... **Vaughan-Williams' Antiphon, Wagner's Pilgrim's Chorus, Doris Arnold's** arrangement of '**The Lost Chord**' ... so it's really exciting thinking I'll have a chance to perform these pieces with an excellent male voice choir!*

*I really enjoy working with **Thom** too, and so the more opportunities I get to work with him, the better, and I'm really looking forward (in my new title as 'Principal Accompanist AND Deputy Conductor'!) to helping support him when he's particularly busy. It's also really nice to know that there should be plenty of opportunities for Keith to come back and help out when I cover for Thom, or when I might be busy performing elsewhere!"*

Maestro, **Keith Swallow**, seen here at a July rehearsal, will be the 'main man' until after the Christmas concerts - and as Chris reports - should be around for many years yet as our 'Accompanist Emeritus'.

Good news all round for the Choir!



Changing of the Guard



Former Chairman, **Rob Rosborough**, finished his spell of duty in July and was succeeded by new Choir Chairman **Joe Stones**.



Said Rob, declining to write any comments about his stint in office, “I could give you all the guff about what an honour it’s been working with such a magnificent choir etc - and of course it has - but your readers won’t to wade through all that stuff.

“Just tell ‘em I reckon it’s like the ‘Changing of the Guard’. Joe will carry on with what we’ve been trying to do and the Choir will be in good hands.”

Joe, writing from a holiday villa in Corfu was a little more loquacious. He told VotV:

"I'm delighted to become the new Chair for Colne Valley MVC not least because of the outstanding reputation it has, but also because of how I've enjoyed singing in the Choir over the last ten years.

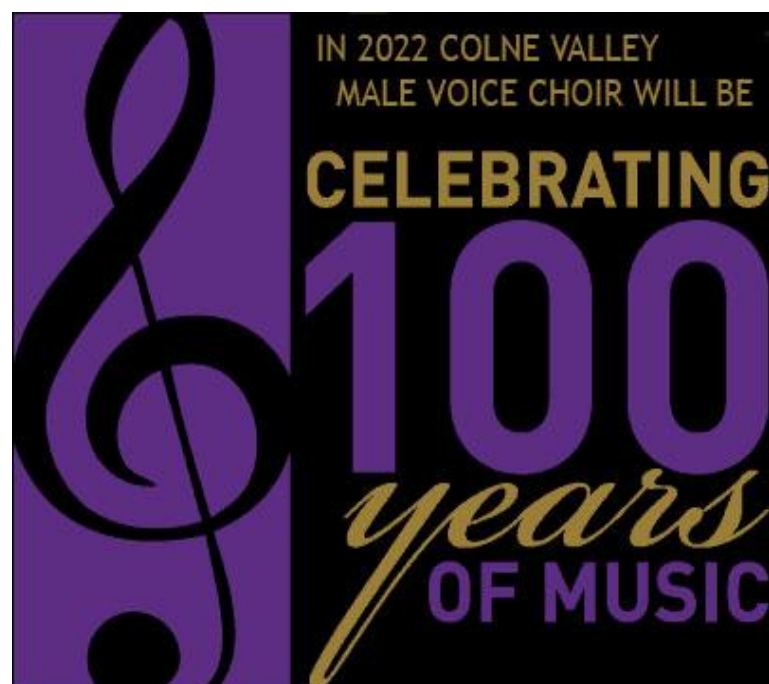
However, whilst we have had an excellent reputation and many successes behind us, we must continue to move forward and build on our current successes and reputation for excellence in everything we do and by everyone.

It is often said that in the world, just to stand still you have to keep moving forward and that is exactly what we have to do.

So to move forward in terms of choral work and musicianship, we must work hard, listen carefully to our esteemed Musical Director, Thom, and perfect, if that is possible in musical achievement, what we do.

On top of this we have to focus on renewal both in terms of membership and also the standards we aspire to. We have to look at new ways of doing this that are exciting, attract new members and delight our audiences as indeed they renew and change.

I think there are opportunities to revisit our concert program, naturally retaining our already successful format of concert schedules but also look for new opportunities and performing partners in a more dynamic way to both enhance our credibility, focus and appeal.



And as we do this, it will fit perfectly with the forthcoming centenary in two years time. Thom is currently leading on developments here, but we should all aim to get involved – not only reflecting our achievements over a very successful first hundred years but also about looking forward to the next hundred years and what that will look like.

So we have everything to work for and focus upon as together we set our sights to the future and on renewal of this great choir and all the reasons that make us rightfully proud to be a part of it."

The most famous male voice choir in Java

A recent spate of visitors to West Yorkshire from far-away Indonesia are all going back home with enthusiastic reports about those 'Guardians of Yorkshire Culture'; the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and the word is spreading via social media. VotV can report that we now have more readers in Indonesia than in any other place in the Far East!



Our latest visitor, **Ika Yuliana**, so enjoyed her visit that she came back with video equipment and filmed much of the following rehearsal. Here she is with rehearsal conductor, **Chris Pulleyn**

Ika, a community and economic development worker, journalist, documentary film-maker - not to mention talented vocalist with local 'Pantura-soul' band, '**Lair**' - is one of the activists from the '**Jatawangi Project**' in West Java.

Her special task is to set up a **Writers' Museum** in Jatawangi. So she was especially interested in looking at local history museums in Leeds and West Yorkshire.

Best of all, she liked the way Golcar's **Colne Valley Museum** organises itself as a community enterprise and looks after all types of visitors so thoughtfully. And she was extremely grateful to volunteer curator and baritone stalwart, **Raymond Ellis**, for explaining how it was set up and how it runs.



Interesting snippet: one of the display rooms at the Colne Valley Museum was once CVMVC tenor, **John Wimpenny's** bedroom, back when that part of the museum was a fish & chip shop.

(VotV recommends you check its website and go for a visit.)

<http://www.colnevalleymuseum.org.uk/>



Why, the reader might ask, is a steady handful of Indonesians, turning up in Leeds and the Colne Valley?

Well, the answer is as follows:-

Most of them come from the '**Jatawangi Project**'. This centres on a redundant factory. The whole district had had this factory at the centre of local employment since 1905, making a wide range of terracotta tiles and pots and - suddenly - the market collapsed, the factory became surplus and derelict and local people lost jobs and the mainstay of their economy.



The Jatawangi Project took on the old tile factory and is working to maintain the community and its cultural life, to create employment and regenerate the economy with arts, culture and new media as its focus.

VotV readers from the Colne Valley will immediately recognise the pattern - an area heavily dependent on one main industry which suddenly loses viability - woollen textiles. The area is littered with redundant mills. The area's heritage is threatened. Efforts are being made to redevelop the area, and create new employment - with a focus on small businesses often in the arts, new media, music and creative industries.

Hence exchanges between **West Yorkshire** and **West Java** as people in both countries share lessons and ideas.

One theme, even more pertinent, perhaps, in rapidly changing Java, is maintaining cultural and musical traditions. Maybe that's why there's the interest in the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, rooted as it is in nearly a hundred years of local music-making but still buoyant and developing.



Watch the video of Ika's band. It likewise is rooted in the local 'tarling' tradition' but reworked in a punk slightly raw style, to appeal to younger fans. It's a blend of old and new and the message is about continuity and change - in particular, it's advocating political consciousness, urging listeners to get involved in local politics, making good use of their voting rights.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwbC0UWpcH8>

We might get to see Ika's video someday but, along with her message of thanks to all the Choir, she added a few stills from the rehearsal. (John Wimpenny is front row, second right in picture 3.)





Hello John ...writes **Radius Opera's Fleur Chaffé**

Thank you for sending your latest newsletter over, great to hear what's going on with the choir! I was wondering if in the next one you would like to include our recent promo video? There are snippets of the choir too! Click here: <https://vimeo.com/346887808>

VotV readers will remember that a performance of the opera will come to **Lawrence Batley Theatre** in Huddersfield on Saturday September 21st this year.



Announcing **&Piano** 2019

“Dear Voice of the Valley Readers,” writes Chris Pulleyn.....

After the success of last year's festival, **&Piano** is back!

We've been working hard to present a series of events featuring exciting and interesting music, familiar and not-so-familiar. Music that can tell stories, express emotions, take your breathe away, possibly even baffle or confuse you.

To guide you through all this music will be Christopher Pulleyn once again at the piano, alongside some brilliantly talented musicians all with some kind of connection to the region.

Once again held at **The Civic** in the lovely village of **Slaithwaite**, which now has a fully licensed bar and a wider selection of drinks, so you can once again enjoy a drink while you listen. We do hope you can make it along to one, if not all of our events - to enjoy and experience some fantastic music.”

&Piano

An afternoon of Musical Theatre

Elizabeth Chadwick (Soprano) | Marc Kelly (Baritone) | Christopher Pulleyn (Piano)

Sunday 8th September 2019 | 3:30pm | The Civic, Slaithwaite

Event 1 - Musical Theatre

We begin **&Piano 2019** once again with a relaxed afternoon of Musical Theatre songs old and new.

This year we welcome **Elizabeth Chadwick** (Soprano) & **Marc Kelly** (Baritone) to present a programme of songs from classic composers like Cole Porter to more contemporary writers like The Greatest Showman duo, Pasek & Paul.

Liz & Marc, now based in London, studied Musical Theatre together and founded MKEC Productions, quickly gaining a reputation for producing revivals of lesser-known musicals.

Liz grew up in Marsden, Huddersfield, (daughter of one time second tenor, Howard Chadwick adds VotV Editor) so we're delighted to be able to invite her back to her hometown to perform a fantastic afternoon of classic hits and hidden gems.



&Piano

Evening of Song: 'Love & Longing'

Dove | Britten | Poulenc | De Falla

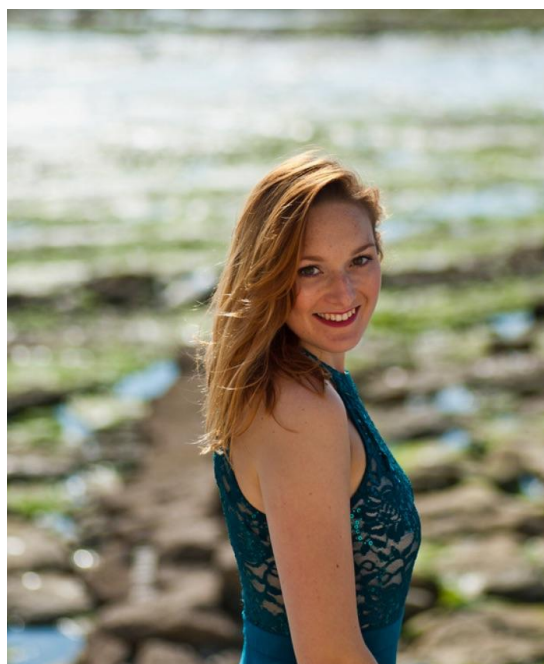
Peyee Chen (Soprano) | Heather Lowe (Mezzo-Soprano) | Christopher Pulleyn (Piano)

Friday 13th September 2018 | 7:30pm | The Civic, Slaithwaite

Event 2 - Vocal

For our vocal event this year, we challenge listeners' concepts of 'modern' & 'contemporary' music, by presenting an interesting & exciting programme of song from composers who were all writing music after the turn of the 20th Century and later, performed by two amazing singers, **Peyee Chen** (Soprano), who performs a diverse range of music with some of the leading musical groups and festivals all around Europe, & **Heather Lowe** (Mezzo-Soprano) who works with some of the biggest Opera companies around the UK, including Opera North, with whom she'll be performing with this Autumn.

The main piece of the evening is Jonathan Dove's song cycle **'All You Who Sleep Tonight'**. The piece was written in 1994, which technically classifies it as a relatively recent 'contemporary' work, & whilst it sounds 'modern', it is tonal, melodious, & set to a selection of powerfully simple poems by **Vikram Seth**. Woven around Dove's songs are a fantastic selection of music from some of the leading 20th Century composers of their time - French Mélodies from **Poulenc**, English song from **Benjamin Britten**, and a modern Spanish folk-songs from **Manual De Falla**.



A poster for the 'Family&Piano' event. It features a light blue background with abstract geometric shapes in red, black, purple, and white. The title 'Family&Piano' is prominently displayed in the center, with the ampersand in red. Below the title, the subtitle 'A journey along the canal' is written in a smaller font, followed by a descriptive line: 'A short concert designed for young children to enjoy and engage with Classical music'. At the bottom, the date and location are provided: 'Saturday 21st September 2018 | 11:00am | The Civic, Slaithwaite'. A small circular logo on the right side reads 'Made with Music'.

Family&Piano

A journey along the canal

*A short concert designed for young children
to enjoy and engage with Classical music*

Saturday 21st September 2018 | 11:00am | The Civic, Slaithwaite

Family&Piano

Our new addition to the **&Piano** festival is a short concert designed for families with young children to enjoy. In collaboration with Leeds-based charity **Made with Music**, families are invited to join **Chris, Kathryn & Hannah** on a fun journey along the **Huddersfield Narrow Canal** that runs through Slaithwaite - all within the comfortable (& dry!) Slaithwaite Civic Hall!

Live music will accompany us as we travel & help describe the things that we'll see & places we'll go along the way...

A poster for the 'Instrumental Evening' event. It features a light blue background with abstract geometric shapes in black, white, and purple. The title '&Piano' is prominently displayed on the left, with the ampersand in red. To the right, the subtitle 'Instrumental Evening - Trombone & Viola' is written in a smaller font. Below this, the names of the performers are listed: 'Sam Barber (Trombone) | Tom Broadbent (Viola) | Christopher Pulleyn (Piano)'. At the bottom, the date and location are provided: 'Saturday 21st September 2019 | 7:30pm | The Civic, Slaithwaite'.

&Piano

Instrumental Evening - Trombone & Viola

Sam Barber (Trombone) | Tom Broadbent (Viola) | Christopher Pulleyn (Piano)

Saturday 21st September 2019 | 7:30pm | The Civic, Slaithwaite

Event 3 - Instrumental

Then on the evening of Saturday 21st September, we finish the festival with our evening of instrumental music - & we're really excited to present two instruments that don't often get much attention as solo instruments, performed by two musicians who both grew up in Huddersfield, both recently finishing their studies at music colleges down in London.

Sam Barber will showcase the striking, warm sound of the trombone, offering a selection of interesting music written for the instrument - it wasn't really considered as a solo instrument until the 19th century, so much of its repertoire has been adapted from other instruments or has been written more recently.

Finally, we welcome **Tom Broadbent** to perform on the often over-shadowed member of the string family, the Viola. The Viola is a slightly bigger version of the Violin, & as a result can produce a deeper, richer tone than it's smaller, more popular relative, which results in it being well suited to playing 'in the middle' - the harmonies - of an orchestra or ensemble. But recently, more & more composers have been championing the instrument, & it has been gradually developing a reputation as a great solo instrument in its own right. Tom will perform one of the most famous and beautiful sonatas written for the instrument in the 20th Century, by **Rebecca Clarke**, herself a violist.

It could well be a first that trombone & viola have been paired up in the same concert, so come along to experience a slightly unique evening!



And that's **&Piano 2019!**

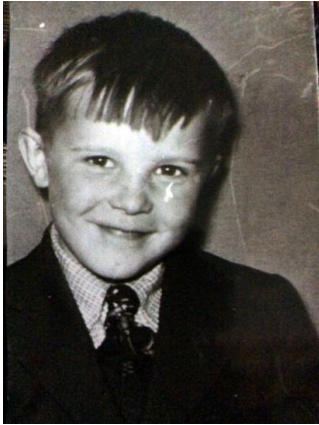
We're hoping you will be as excited as we are about the music & the performances we have lined up. We've carefully designed programmes that we hope will offer familiar & popular music alongside lesser-known & more challenging music. All of it has something to offer to everyone, & all throughout the events, you'll be guided through various musical concepts & ideas to help you understand the composers' ideas & intentions.

Our aims are always for audiences & performers alike to enjoy music, be challenged by music, be informed by music, be enhanced by music, but most importantly to offer more & more opportunities for live music in Huddersfield. We're slowly trying to grow the festival into something bigger & more sustainable, so that we can continue in the years ahead, & we hope you'll support us by joining us for one, if not two or even all three of our events. Our individual ticket price is still an excellent £10, and we're still offering multi-ticket discounts: 2 events for £18 and 3 events for £24.

Tickets for all events are on sale now.

You can get them online at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/piano/> (click here) , by contacting andpianofestival@gmail.com or on the door.

Hope to see you there



Who is the mystery man? And why is he in the VOTV news?

This appealing young scamp looks a bit different today.

Archive turnaround

Bass, **David Clark** has just agreed - with hardly any arm-twisting involved – to take on responsibility for looking after the Choirs substantial archive.

We been going for close on a century and so there are a lot of records, going back to the first meetings in 1922 and on through all the events of our glorious (and, no doubt occasionally, inglorious) history.

David - still a young scamp in many ways - tells VotV he is looking forward to finding some of the lost treasures in our collection.



David will be taking on the task, from former Choir Chairman and esteemed fellow bass, **Jeff Bamforth**. “It’s got a bit too much for me nowadays.” said Jeff. “I’ve got a long list of stuff I want to do but I’m not young enough or fit enough to do everything.

So I was thrilled to bits when David said he’d pick up the challenge. To tell you the truth we scarcely know what hidden gems will be in there. And as we come towards our centenary it would be good to pick out some of the best bits - maybe put together an exhibition.”

On the subject of ‘best bits...

‘VotV Editor, John Clark, looking for a snap of David Clark found this gem in his own picture archive - inaccurately labelled.

It is not David, of course, but fine figure of a man and baritone, **Michael Hirst**, looking every bit a potential England Manager and shown here at Salendine Nook on football’s glory day in the 2018 World Cup.

Michael was new boy then but is now a seasoned Choir man, sitting next to his uncle, David Hirst in the Baritone section.



And another thing.....

Well it made me smile... me and the two Ronnies



And a little treat - Simple Swedish Folk Song

Thom mentioned in rehearsal the other day that he had met a '**Spooky Man**' in Huddersfield, the day after they had performed in Penistone in July on their latest UK Tour. Not a few members looked a bit baffled - never having heard of this fabulous Australian Male Voice Choir.



If you haven't come across them - and especially if you have - you will love this concert performance of what they describe as a 'Simple Swedish Folk Song'. Enjoy!

Spooky Men Simple Swedish Folk Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMyGCz4jX9k>



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to join us or join our Readers' List or for
other queries
See our website to get the full story
colnevalleymvc.org.uk

