



## Concert for Keith

Preparations are now underway to hold a special concert in honour of **Maestro Keith Swallow**.

Readers will recall that Keith is planning to step down as accompanist to the Choir after the Christmas concerts in December. These Christmas Festivals will be the culmination of an astonishing stint as the Choir's principal piano player of close on **63 years duration**.



Keith took on a regular commitment to play for the Choir in performance and rehearsal in **April 1957** and whatever the requirements of his glittering career - either as virtuoso soloist or as piano support to the best singers and instrumentalists in the country - he always put his commitment to the Choir at the top of his engagements diary.

## A date for your diary

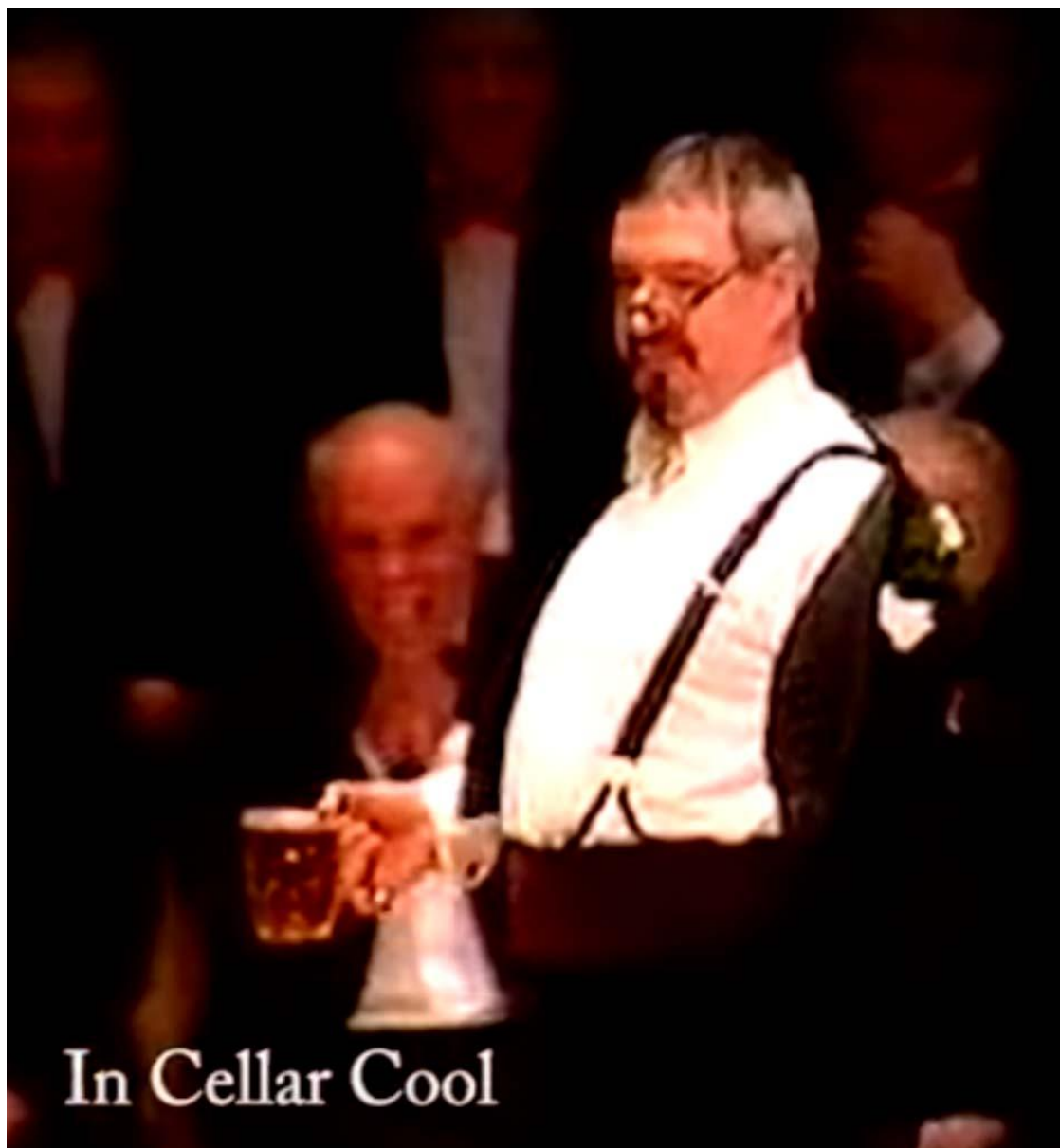
What's planned for the New Year needs to go into your diary, too - a special **celebration event** at **Saint Paul's Hall** in Huddersfield on **Sunday afternoon, March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Details will follow but you can look forward to a very special event, featuring Keith as a solo performer and as accompanist to renowned old colleague, bass soloist and operatic performer, **Paul Hudson**.

The Choir will, of course, be performing, too, to the piano-playing of incoming 'Principal Accompanist, 'New Boy' **Christopher Pulleyn**.

It will be an occasion to remember and, we hope, a fitting tribute and thank you to a great musician and one at the core of the Choir's many great achievements ever since he took on the job in April 1957. (Don't worry, Keith will stay around as 'Accompanist Emeritus', filling in for Chris, whenever needed.)

To whet your appetite, VotV has discovered an old video of **Keith**, accompanying **Paul Hudson**, performing a comic drinking song, '**In Cellar Cool**'.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OszYYhYRNNc&feature=youtu.be&t=63>



# Colne Valley men succeed at second attempt



New baritone, **Andrew Ripper**, and second tenor stalwart, **Richard Pryor** (evidently with more valour than discretion) embarked earlier this month on '**The Three Peaks Challenge**'.

That is they set out to climb the **three Yorkshire mini mountains of Whernside, Penyghent and Ingleborough** in one crazy day of charity-supporting endeavour.

They picked the worst day imaginable! Constant horizontal rain and 40 mph gales.

When light faded after having struggled through just two of the three ascents, good sense finally kicked in.

They admitted temporary defeat and crawled off homewards to get dry, heal their broken spirits and nurse injuries.

## You can't keep good men down for long.

Last weekend, our heroes returned to the fells to complete the challenge and to hope their sponsors would continue to support them. They topped the last peak and came down safe.

They had triumphed, their sponsors are recognising the achievement and contributing: raising large sums to support social charities organised by the Salvation Army.

Richard told Voice of the Valley: *"The charity we were risking life and limb for is The Salvation Army Social Services. They respond to emergency situations - anything from bomb blasts down to homelessness. They don't get much publicity or even seek publicity but you will find them supporting the emergency services on major incidents up and down the country."*





*When you see incidents on the news you will see the police, army and fire services but you can be assured that somewhere in the background is the Salvation Army supporting both the public and emergency services. They are funded mainly by public subscription through events like the challenge that we have undertaken.*

*Thank you to all who have sponsored us, especially those who have paid up in advance to and those who have donated afterwards."*



Well done, Lads

---

## On tour again

Colne Valley men were again visiting performers at local schools - for the second time this year - on tour to recruit new youngsters for our very own, **Colne Valley Boys Choir**. Five different primary schools, in a busy schedule of performance, sing-alongs (complete with actions), musical education and sheer musical pleasure, made for a terrifically fun day - not just for the 1,000 kids but also for the 25 (or so) men, who were able to free up a full day to represent the Choir.

We were at Cowlersley, Golcar, Leymoor, Netherton and Linthwaite and a fine time was had by all, thanks to stand-in piano-player, **Roland Mander** and, of course, to the very talented and unflappable, **Thom Meredith** as ring-master.









## Rave Reviews

The schools were very pleased and gave us positive reviews:-

"We were very lucky to have a visit from Colne Valley Male Voice Choir today,"

'They were very inspirational.'

"Did you know that 30 members of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and a pianist came into school last Friday to perform to the children? It was incredible!

The children were given the opportunity to listen to the choir perform and had plenty of chances to join in through singing and performing actions to the songs. It was a lovely way to end another fabulous week at South Crosland C.E. Junior School"

## Good questions

Amongst the many good questions, that only momentarily flummoxed our conductor, were these two, asked by girls sitting on the hall floors:-

**1. Why are you all men?**

**2. Are you all Grandpas?**





## Colne Valley Boys are thriving

It's too early to say how many new boys will sign up to the Boys Choir as a result, but, in any case, they were in fine form last Sunday performing at **the Marsden Jazz Festival**. (The photo is from an earlier year.)



To get a feel for the mood in Marsden over the weekend, have a look at this fine video of jazzman, **Luca Sestak**, (not a Colne Valley resident) playing Boogie-woogie piano.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR0z5hcCUoA>



# Personent Hodie - what do the words mean?



The Latin version that **Gustav Holst** used in 1916 (and the version we shall be singing this Christmas) was set down in 1582 but most likely goes way back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The most common English translation of the text and the one used by Holst is credited to "**James** M. Joseph".

But in fact this is a pseudonym of **Jane** Joseph.

Jane, a fine musician and composer in her own right, was Holst's collaborator and amanuensis who worked with him on many musical projects. She died at just 35 years of age so we can only speculate about what she might have achieved.

She translates the title as "On this Day, Earth shall Ring", and it is her 'transformed' version with Holst's music that remains most popular today.



Literally, though, the Latin translates as something like:-

 <p><i>Personent hodie voces puerulorum, laudantes iucunde qui nobis est natus, summo Deo datus et de vir, vir, vir (x2) et de virgineo ventre procreatus.</i></p> <p><i>In mundo nascitur, pannis involuitur, praesepe ponitur stabulo brutorum, rector supernorum. Perdidit, dit, dit (x2) perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.</i></p> <p><i>Magi tres venerunt, munera offerunt, parvulum inquirunt, stellulam sequendo, ipsum adorando, aurum, thus, thus, thus (x2) aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.</i></p> <p><i>Omnes clericuli, pariter pueri cantent ut angeli, advenisti mundo, laudes tibi fundo. Ideo, o, o, (x2) ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.</i></p>	<p><b>Personent hodie</b> voces puerulae, laudantes iucunde qui nobis est natus, summo Deo datus et de vir, vir, vir (x2) et de virgineo ventre procreatus.</p> <p><b>In mundo nascitur,</b> pannis involuitur praesepe ponitur stabulo brutorum, rector supernorum. Perdidit, dit, dit (x2) perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.</p> <p><b>Magi tres venerunt,</b> munera offerunt, parvulum inquirunt, stellulam sequendo, ipsum adorando, aurum, thus, thus, thus (x2) aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.</p> <p><b>Omnes clericuli,</b> pariter pueri, cantent ut angeli: advenisti mundo, laudes tibi fundo. Ideo, o, o, (x2) ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.</p>	<p>Let resound today the voices of children, joyfully praising Him who is born to us, given by most high God, and conceived in a virginal womb.</p> <p>He was born into the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger in a stable for animals, the master of the heavens.</p> <p>The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.</p> <p>Three Magi came, they were bearing gifts, and sought the little one, following a star, to worship him and offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.</p> <p>Let all the junior clerics and also the boys sing like angels: "You have come to the world, I pour out praises to you. Therefore, glory to God in the highest</p>
--	--	---



# Re Radius Opera

## Baritone, Michael Parkinson writes to VotV ...

*"On 24 June we hosted three of the principals from opera company, **Radius Opera** and what an unusual evening.*

*In well-advanced planning for their newest production they needed crowds of discontents to express their emotions and rebel against Zeus's monopoly of power and harsh repression of the people.*



*I think we rather enjoyed being a mob of discontents for a couple of hours and, no doubt, several wondered how the recordings they made would be integrated into the subsequent live performances.*



*Curiosity got the better of me so I took myself to **The Lawrence Batley Theatre** on Saturday 21 September.*

*With minimal staging and just five soloists in the cast they drew the story together with impressive rendition, clear vocalisations and convincing personality profiles.*

*The action on stage was overtaken from time to time with the unseen off-stage "thousand voices" delivered by **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** along with thirteen other various mixed choirs,*

*The effect was impressive and often overwhelming. And the production has been getting great reviews!"*

**Michael**

## RadiusOpera

The '1000 voices' was spine-tinglingly effective: With several performances completed, our audience feedback being amazing and more performances to come, you can't miss out on this fantastic opera!

A spectacular show featuring brilliant virtuoso singers and the digitally combined voices of over 1,000 volunteers, telling the story of Prometheus and Pandora.

### **Remaining Performances**

Wednesday 30th October    The Repertory Theatre, Stoke on Trent

Saturday 9th November                      The Hippodrome, Todmorden





# Attractive event for Mrs Sunderland Festival 2020

Next spring will see Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, joining in the choral competitions at the Mrs Sunderland Music Festival, hoping to maintain an unrivalled record of competition achievements, spread over close on 100 years of participation.

But this Festival will have an added attraction that readers of VotV will relish: the chance to prepare in a day's **workshop** and then join **Musica Kirklees Youth Symphony Orchestra** under the guidance of the wonderful, **Thom Meredith**, in an early evening **performance** of music from the 'Last night of the Proms'.

It will be great fun!

A registration form for the 'Festival Prom Favourites' event. At the top, it says 'Supported by syngenta' and 'FESTIVAL PROM FAVOURITES Workshop & Concert Registration Form'. The form includes fields for 'Name:', 'Surname:', 'Address:', 'Telephone number:', and 'Email:'. Below these, it asks 'What voice are you? (Please tick as appropriate)' and lists various voice types with checkboxes: 1st Soprano, 1st Tenor, 2nd Soprano, 2nd Tenor, 1st Alto, Baritone, 2nd Alto, and Bass. It also asks 'Do you have any mobility problems? If so please outline your needs;'. At the bottom, it says 'I enclose a cheque for: £20 adult £15 student', 'Closing date for entries: 30th November 2019', 'Cheques should be made out to; "The Mrs Sunderland Music Festival"', 'Completed forms and cheques should be sent to: Mrs C Beaumont, 22 Moor Close Beaumont Park, Huddersfield HD4 7BP', 'Any enquiries: tel. 01484 646441', and 'Email: charmaine@mrssunderlandfestival.com'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and the text 'For more detailed information and to book online please visit: mrssunderlandfestival.com' with social media links.

Potential singers will need to register **before November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019** at the latest. See the poster for details. Or contact the festival via email at this address: [charmaine@mrssunderlandfestival.com](mailto:charmaine@mrssunderlandfestival.com)

Well it made me smile...





## 'Reflections' - on Diana Ross and the Supremes



This single, apparently, was released at the height of the 'Summer of Love' in 1967 and was the first **Supremes'** release to delve into psychedelic pop. The production, influenced by the psychedelic sounds of bands such as the **Beatles** and the **Beachboys** was a shift in **Motown's** pop sound during the latter half of the 1960s. The arrangement is sometimes cited as one of the first 'Motown' pop recordings to feature a **Moog Synthesiser** but the unusual sounds on the track were actually generated on a test oscillator and treated with effects.

I thought it was fantastic when I was 17.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfK9LkUOWWg>

Enjoy the music with its accompanying - and slightly odd - collection of 1960's images



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)