



## & Piano celebrates 'World Piano Day'

The 88th day of the year has just passed, writes CVMVC accompanist, **Chris Pulleyn**, & there are 88 keys on a piano, so happy **World Piano Day** everyone & if you have a piano (or keyboard) at home, show it some ❤️ today with a bit of a play!

Chris, sadly, has had to postpone & Piano events for a while for the same reasons the Choir has had to put itself into temporary suspension while the virus runs its course. But is he down-hearted? Hardly, he's too busy. He did find time to pick out a special piece of piano accompaniment that VotV readers will enjoy.



He enthuses, 'This is one of the most amazing but challenging song accompaniments ever - **Der Erlkönig** by **Franz Schubert**. Written when he was just 18 years old, to a poem by German poet **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**, it is about a mythical figure that lured children to the land of the dead!

The repeated notes in the right hand are incredibly hard to keep going, but they describe so dramatically the father & son galloping on horse to escape from the Erl-King! Check out this cracking performance & you can see just how fast the pianist has to play those repeated notes!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onvG\\_kikrWg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0q1NHbFGSgEaXR\\_CPCX2XJrOFAnHhnRw1n8rmV6zHRd9yGir2lk62-0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onvG_kikrWg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0q1NHbFGSgEaXR_CPCX2XJrOFAnHhnRw1n8rmV6zHRd9yGir2lk62-0)



**Michal Biel** (piano) interprets Erlkönig D.328 by Franz Schubert with **Alex Rosen** (bass).

## And in a different vein....



**Adrian Grimes** gives us...

### **Coronavirus Rhapsody'**

It's an homage to **Freddie Mercury** and **Queen**.

More pertinently perhaps, it provides some guidance on coping with the virus.

Listen to it: it's quite good fun.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=13&v=8KPbJ0-DxTc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=8KPbJ0-DxTc&feature=emb_logo)





Do you remember this?



If you do, it'll be remarkable. You would need to be about 130 years old. The picture was taken in Huddersfield way back in 1890.



... But you may recognise this place.



## Beatles hit remade for today



Enjoy this comedic mash-up of health warnings to the melody of the Beatles No 1 hit, released in October 1964.

**McCartney's** then girlfriend, Jane Asher, was putting him and **Lennon** up. In a 'small, rather stuffy music room' in the basement', where Jane's mum, Margaret, taught the oboe, they sat at the piano and composed what was to be their first big USA hit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxOJ7hh3H-I>

# Brighouse and Rastrick make the most of downtime

The Choir's friends, those fabulous musicians, who join us for our big Town Hall Christmas concert, the **Brighouse & Rastrick Band**, have had to shut down rehearsals and performances. (When you think about it, blasting our virus particles from a euphonium may be even worse than when a baritone belts out droplet infection at his audience.)



So they'll be at home practicing to maintain their embouchures, no doubt.

But never lacking in creativity, they have organised to re-record their biggest hit, '**The Floral Dance**' via their mobile phones in a 'living-room concert'.

It's great. Give it a listen.

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



Well done, B&R types. See you onstage at Christmas, fingers crossed!



# Raymond Ellis reports...



VotV contacted Baritone, Raymond Ellis for a lockdown report....

'I've been working hard, growing stubble, says Raymond. What do you think?

Apart from that, we've been doing what we can. Linda & I can now walk from home up and around Scape and back in one hour. We are definitely getting quicker.

We're also trying to keep in touch with the world through computers and smartphones etc. We're struggling with IT but just about manage... got this recent message:-



Just a heads up, if you get an email from the Department for Health saying not to eat tinned pork because it contains Covid-19 ignore it. It's spam. 🤔👍😂 4

Now that's given me an idea. I just rescued a pork pie from the local butchers, so maybe I'll get back to you after lunch.....

That's better. Where was I? - Oh yes, grappling with Information Technology. Here's a sketch that made me smile.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAG39jKi0II>

Then, of course, there are the grandchildren...

Here are two of them, Phoebe and Ted, urging people to follow social isolation.

Their mum is Lucy, the long term partner of my youngest son. She is a ward clerk at Huddersfield and Calderdale NHS.

Also, spending some time up in the attic, working on the model railway when it's too cold to do the garden. It's all go!



To finish off my report, here's a most enjoyable music video sent from friends who come to our Christmas concert. It's the **Magic Flute's**, '**Papageno/Papagena**' duet, recomposed into a colourful Mozart bird aria. Listen to an audio-visual twitterstorm, performed by our feathered fellows. I quite expected to see **Edward Asquith's** name in the end credits.

Stay Safe,  
Raymond



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMXD4h5w8D8&feature=youtu.be>

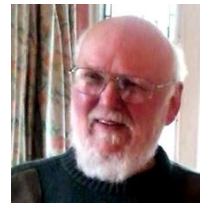


# Thinking of Italy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5DhJS5hGWc&feature=youtu.be>

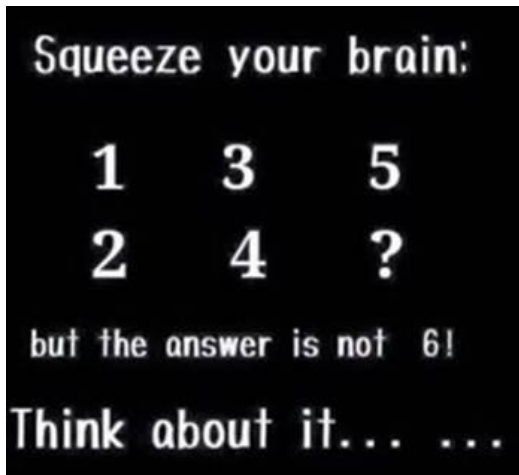
Reader, **Martyn Crompton**, tells VotV Editor. 'I thought you might like this. Hope even in the face of being 'doomed' as you put it with your grim humour. Love to all.'



'This song from the 70s is from one of the most famous bands of Italy. They recently gave up their copyright and handed it over to a hospital in **Bergamo**. Every click this video gets is therefore a donation to this hospital as You Tube pays the owner per click. Yesterday 800 people died in Bergamo's hospital. So please share!'

It's a terrible song but it grows on you. Those who enjoyed '**Va pensiero**'(**Speed your journey**) in the last issue will enjoy the Italian - language and scenery. Also it's good practice for Choir members whose 'Yorkshire Italian' needs to become a bit more authentically Italianate for 'Nelly Fantasy' (**Nelle Fantasia, io vedo un mondo giusto**).

'**Rinascero, Rinascerei**' translates as 'I will be reborn. You will be reborn'; the gist being that we will get through these troubled times.



## Michael sets a puzzle

Baritone, Michael Parkinson, reckons this will tax the little grey cells for a couple of minutes.

He asks: '**What should you see in place of the question mark?**'





# How to spend two hours of 'Social Isolation'

200 Club winner, Jackie Calverley, bemoans the frustrations of 'lockdown.'

One positive, I won the CVMVC 200 Club Draw - **£185.00**.

The cheque arrived by post on 31<sup>st</sup> of March and I then spent the next two hours investigating how to pay the cheque into my bank account ***without going to the bank***.

I searched FAQ on my laptop, to no avail. So, I then tried to ring the bank, another dead end, as I kept being advised, between bouts of loud monotonous music (not CVMVC) that they were busier than usual and to go to 'Online banking.'



'**Cora**' was busy, so I couldn't have an 'Online Chat' with her either. Back to the phone, still busy, so back to FAQ and I scrolled to the bottom to find:

'Was this information useful?' - '**NO**' and up popped a space where I could ask a question. So I typed in my query, 'How do I pay a cheque into my account when I am Social Isolating?'

Eventually, up popped the answer:-

- **Either**, I could go to the Post Office (**No**: the doctor's letter tells me that due to 'multiple long term conditions' I should 'Social Shield').
- **Or**, they gave an address that I could send my cheque to, together with a paying-in slip, but the cheque could take up to 5 working days to clear.



I chose the latter option, although I wasn't happy about sending the cheque by post. (My grandchildren use an App on their phone to take a picture of Birthday/Christmas cheques, but my bank seemingly doesn't have that facility).

So, I got into my car (**Adrian** was out on his daily 2 hour walk) and drove to a post box, which I knew would be emptied at 5.00 pm. I managed to park on the road close to the box and saw no one on my five metre journey from the car to the post box.

I'm pleased to report that the cheque cleared in my account on 1st April (**YES** - no 'April Fool'). The funds will go on our kitchen, which needs doing, since we have had a new boiler installed.

How long will this take???

Depends when we can invite workmen into our home again!

Jackie

# Chris and Thom get busy

The not-to-be-photographed but much-appreciated Choir secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, has been in touch with members once again:-



*"Hope all Choir singers are safe and well.*

**Thom & Chris** are working hard to enable you to keep your voices in good order and to rehearse the current repertoire.

*Here is something to ensure that we make the most of our time at home (not me personally, of course!). Here are the first 2 YouTube links. More will follow in the days ahead.*

*I'm bound to tell you that for copyright reasons these links should not be shared outside CVMVC."*

*Jenny*

## Votv can tell readers the first practice piece is 'Nella Fantasia'

The second link was an introduction and a short explanation from Choir accompanist, **Chris Pulleyn**. VotV readers may not be able to watch the practice videos but they can, at least, hear what Chris had to say. Choir members are urged to check their personal email on a regular basis to get the link to 'Nelly Fantasy' and then to future rehearsal videos, as they arrive.



<https://youtu.be/7zG9VzOjYA>



# Goodbye Bill Withers



**'Ain't no sunshine when she's gone'** is deemed to be one of the all time great 'Break-up' songs - probably why they used it in the film, **'Notting Hill'**.

Bill Withers, who wrote it and made it popular in the 1970's, died last week in Los Angeles from heart complications, aged 81.

VotV could show you him singing his own song in a recording made in 1972 and it would be well worth a listen. But - talk about killing two birds with one stone - our Editor has found a version of the song by **Stevie Wonder**.

Bill Withers sits beside him. He is being inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

There's a reference to Wonder's instrument before the song starts. It's apparently called a 'Harpejji'. He learned this instrument at around 60 years old - so there's hope for us old men, too. 'Stevie Wonder is probably the only musician in the world that can leave someone like Bill Withers open-mouthed.' wrote one critic.

Among his most famous songs, apart from 'Ain't No Sunshine', were 'Lean on Me' and 'Lovely Day'.

The link to the Stevie Wonder version is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCnVrjdgyAk>

For the original version click this one.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CICIOJqEb5c&list=TLPQMDQwNDIwMjBGxK4Dm\\_9\\_rg&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CICIOJqEb5c&list=TLPQMDQwNDIwMjBGxK4Dm_9_rg&index=1)





## Michael's puzzle

No, I didn't get it, either. Ed

This is Wilson. He is now  
working from home



Well, it made me smile ...

## Send me a picture, tell me a story

At this time of social isolation, VotV readers, whether singers or audience-members, can no longer meet each other. **But we can keep in touch.** Let the VotV Editor know if something happens to you, that might be of interest and has some - even if tenuous - connection with the Choir. Doesn't matter if you are not very confident writing, I'll help you put into publishable shape.



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to join us or join our Readers' List or for other queries

And see our website to get the full story

[colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)

