



Here comes the sun

Jacob Collier is one of those sickening talented people who can make music from anything. Give him any instrument - even a piece of pipe or a bit of wood – and he'll conjure a tune or a rhythm. Not only that but it's likely to be brilliant.

Your Editor had never heard of this irritatingly talented 14 year-old from Finchley (actually he's 25) until the other week and he's been grudgingly appreciative ever since. Celebrate the better weather with Collier and his equally talented pal, **Dodie**.

Celebrate the better weather with Collier and his equally talented pal, Dodie



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXf1nUVdVuM>



It may take you a while to realise that the performers are just Collier and Clark themselves. Not only is he exasperatingly good musically but he also does all the technology stuff of mixing audio and linking it to video performance - all from his North London studio. (He learned some of these skills on a scholarship to MIT.)

Collier grew up in North London, raised primarily by a single mother, with two younger sisters. He went to the Purcell School for Young Musicians in Bushey, Hertfordshire, before briefly studying jazz piano at the Royal Academy of Music.

Music runs in the family. His mother, Susan, is a violinist and professor at the Royal Academy of Music's Junior Academy. His grandfather, Derek Collier was an internationally renowned violinist who also taught at the Royal Academy. Talking about the role music plays within his family, Jacob says, 'We used to perform Bach together as a family - it's just so much fun.'

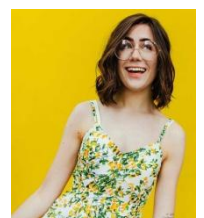


Of course, he sings, too. As a treble in 2004 he sang in classical roles in Mozart's 'Magic Flute'. He won the [ABRSM](#) Gold Medal for the highest mark in the country for his grade eight singing result in 2008.

Collier is a self-declared 'autodidact'. He began uploading homemade, multi-instrumental content to YouTube in 2011, including a multi-instrumental rendition of [Stevie Wonder's 'Don't You Worry 'bout a Thing'](#). His activity caught the attention of Quincy Jones, who flew Collier out to the **Montreux Jazz Festival** where he met with him and **Herbie Hancock**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvKUttYs5ow> for the Stevie Wonder song

Dodie Clark (about the same tender age) is a singer-songwriter, author, and Youtuber from Epping Forest. She mainly plays piano and ukulele and collaborates with many other musicians as well as Jacob.



Counting the Cost

Lynn Hudson
MD Halifax Young Singers

*I can't remember precisely when Thom and I had the idea of creating a collaborative entry for Music for Youth by combining **Colne Valley Boys** and the boys from **Halifax Young Singers** but, once we'd explored the possibility a little further, we knew that we wanted to run with it.*



*Young people need to sing and there's plenty of research to show that boys find it harder than girls to admit that fact and find opportunities to do so. Our boys had already committed to singing in a mixed voice youth choir but still jumped at the chance of joining CVBoys to form a choir of 35 voices called '**Counting the Cost**', a name devised from two of the three pieces that made up our repertoire; '**Counting Stars**', Thom's arrangement for CV Boys and '**Find the Cost of Freedom**', which we'd sung previously. We put in the middle of the set a joyous contemporary setting of **Benedicamus Domino** and knew we were onto a winner.*

*Thom and I conducted one piece each and left '**Find the Cost of Freedom**' unconducted which, as it's a cappella and we'd added some movement at the end, packed a really emotional punch.*

It's from a 1974 album by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young

*'Find the cost of freedom,
Buried in the ground.
Mother Earth shall swallow you.
Lay your body down.'*



Mentor **Adey Grummet**'s feedback was simply outstanding. Sadly **Music for Youth** had to cancel the **National Festival** in Birmingham in July this year. Otherwise we'd have been pretty confident of being selected for the next stage.



Adey Grummet

*Performance
choices made for the repeated
final section were simply heart-
breaking - highly effective drama
with mature poise in musical
precision. You are wonderful!*

In a way, what was more important was the whole process of working together. We've got very few boy trebles in HYS at the moment so, for me, rehearsing with the exuberance of the younger members of CVB was a delight and putting both choirs together produced a real depth of sound.

To work with young singers is a privilege - and great fun - and when you have high expectations of what can be achieved, it gives you hope for the continuing success of singing in this country.



Linda Houston adds:

The Sunday we took part in the Festival was a very strange day. That was the morning when we had decided to close down our choir that very day. (This was March 15th - seems so long ago.)

Matt and I could not contact Thom as he was at the school with other groups, so when we arrived for our session we had to tell him what had been decided and also catch all the parents as they came, to explain why we were closing down. (Some were quite surprised.)

Our combined group was on in the last session and because of the rehearsal room not being available until 10 minutes before the performance it was quite a hectic day. The boys competed and were brilliant!

The atmosphere was extremely poignant as they finished 'Count the Cost of Freedom' with one small boy facing the audience, the others all in black with their backs turned.

Many of us were in tears, especially knowing we would not see each other indefinitely.

We did not take any videos, but of course that is not unusual for us, because of safeguarding and child protection issues. So we can't share them with VotV.

I must say I personally will not forget such an emotional day!

Linda

PS: Looking back little did we know that Thom would have the virus that week!

And if anybody had told me I couldn't see my grandchildren for 10+ weeks I wouldn't have believed them! Still, Matt's tomatoes have never looked so good ...



https://soundcloud.com/john-clark-124140241?branch_match_id=753641861581351294


The recording was - obviously - live and made with somebody's phone left close by the piano. Thanks to **Chris Pulleyn** for sound-editing it. The less than brilliant technical quality - even in the improved version - cannot stop the magic of the young men's performance coming through.

Adey's full report

Adey Grommet's full report on the boys' wonderful performance is well worth looking over.

CVMVC stood behind the 'Boys' when they were in danger of going under early in 2019. Our investment certainly seems to have paid off. Mainly down to **Thom** and **Lynn** and **Linda** and **Matt**, of course. Big thank you to them.

Youth Choirs will probably be more disrupted by the suspension of singing than the adult ones - simply because children's lives change so much more quickly. Let us hope that when we emerge from this dreary period that the two youth choirs will rapidly revive and thrive again.

 **MUSIC FOR YOUTH**

Festival / Event name: *Huddersfield*
Date: *15.3.20*
Music Mentor: *Adey Grommet*
Group name: *Counting The Cost.*
Repertoire: *Counting Stars*
Benedicamus Domino
From The Cost of Freedom
Feedback:

① Many congratulations to your courageous opening soloists. That takes gumption! You gave us a beautifully crispy dotted falling phrases as the groove took off in letter **A**. Text remained crisp & clear even though delivery was fast and unremitting at the tempo. Make sure final consonants don't get dropped in the rush-work it hard and drop them in. Excellent tenor moment at letter **I**. Great tone & textual precision sung with growing musical excitement, leading us to the dramatic & confronting ending. Excellent!

② This excellent (again!) repertoire choice was sung with an action-packed accuracy in the changing time signatures. There was a tremendous dramatic urgency as well as a great Latin swing to the 7/8 bars. Once more your tenors gave a beautiful featured tone at bar **42** and the legato singing in the middle section was beautiful, showing great breath support and through-line.

③ A highly impressive start to this uncondacted number - it takes real ensemble inter-dependence to start on a breath! The unornamented harmonic harmonies were beautifully tuned throughout and you all sang with tremendous passion. Performance

Suggestions for development: This is a brilliant collaboration! Check out the multi-layered riff-style pieces of Orlando Gough. And make a heartbreaking choir arrangement of London Wainwright's "Men." chokes made for the repeated final section were simply heart-breaking - highly effective drama with mature poise in musical precision. You are wonderful!



Dave and Chris make discoveries

Choir archivist and bass singer, Dave Clarke and his girlfriend, Chris Wilson - seen here celebrating VE Day - have been in touch with VotV to tell readers about some of the better aspects of social isolation.

“During lockdown Chris and I have re-invented ourselves as walkers.

We have been amazed at the local beauty around us as we have exercised around the Colne Valley.

We have learnt much more about this area and the fantastic public footpaths and bridleways available.

We are now so into it Chris bought me an OS Explorer map of Huddersfield for my birthday yesterday as well as Countryside guide to Slaithwaite, Golcar and Linthwaite.

As you requested any updates for VotV I thought I would send the photos Chris has been taking on our walks. She's been sending them to friends out of the area with the result that many are now requesting to go on some of these walks with us when we come out of lockdown.

She has formatted a few into these collages.



Well done, Chris

I have also introduced myself to my bike again... it's about time I got some miles in.

Don't expect me to be super thin though when I get back.”



A lovely walk for Dave and Chris

Like you and Chris, your Editor and his partner, Cate have been exploring walks in the countryside. This is a rural walk they only discovered this the other day and can recommend.

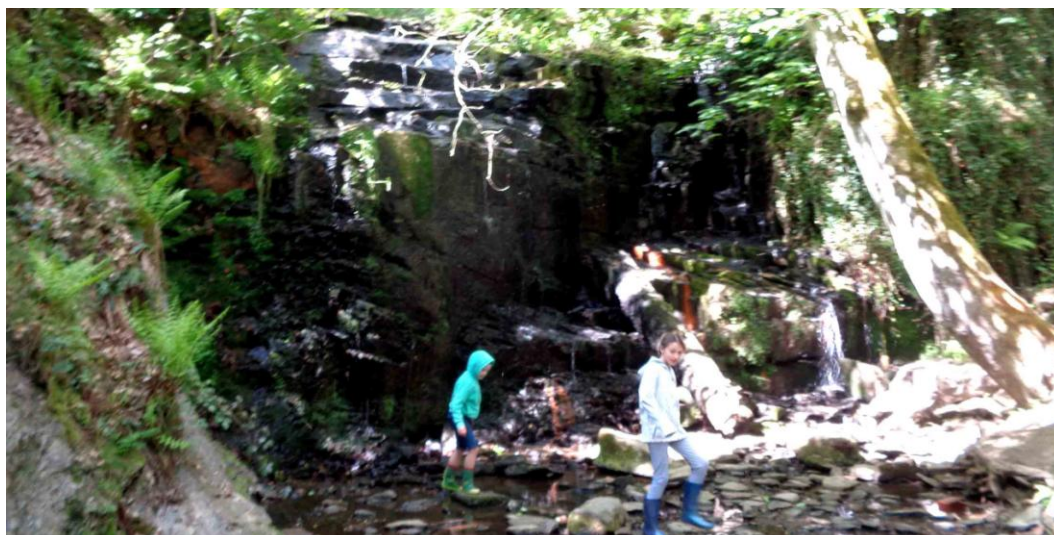
Do you know about the 'Folly Dolly Falls'?



Start at the **Morrison's car park** in Meltham. Down to the right of the main store you may never have noticed a path leading off down the side. Follow it. Very soon you are in pleasant countryside on straight and level track. It's called the **Meltham Greenway**.



What you might not at first realise is that this path is the railway that joined Meltham with Huddersfield. Morrisons is built on the site of the old **Meltham Railway Station**. The railway was closed to passengers in 1949 but was kept on as a freight line - mainly for David Brown tractors - until the track was torn up in the 1960's.



After maybe 20 minutes stroll, you come to a gap in the fence on the left. Look for it - it's easily missed. There's a track that leads down a small hillside to a stream. Upstream a few yards, you find yourself at a delightful grotto with a waterfall coming over the cliff-side, ideal for kids and adults alike.

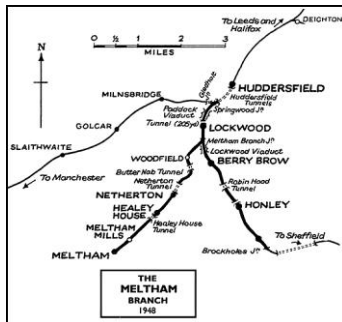
There's a video with more information about the falls and how to find them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sa_l4FxbX_I



Just a little further along, you can strike off for **Helme** and **Blackmoorfoot Reservoir** if you fancy extending your peregrinations.

Alternatively, on another day, take a trip to the bottom of **Beaumont Park**.



The railway had parted from the mainline at Lockwood Junction and ran through what is now the park before disappearing into the Butternab Tunnel. There are lots of fascinating relics as well as lovely trees.



There were stations at **Healey House** and **Netherton** - both long gone - but in many places the trackbed is still just about accessible to the more adventurous and could be part of a variety of terrific rustic explorations.

You can find out more about the history of the old railway. See steam trains and railway memorabilia. See red tractors and green ones, too. All you need do is click on the picture below to access the **Transport Special Edition of VotV**. (There's sports cars and diggers, too!)



[https://mailchi.mp/fdbe131587dc/x2u7fxodop-4105796?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/fdbe131587dc/x2u7fxodop-4105796?e=[UNIQID])

James makes contact from the Antipodes



Hey up,

Hope you're well. Greetings to the Choir from Wellington, New Zealand.

We're very grateful for our new home right now as it's day 1 of relaxed lockdown here in NZ and there have been very few Covid cases.

*Anyhow - thanks for the latest **Voice of the Valley**. We still enjoy keeping in touch with 'God's Own County' from here in what some call 'God's Own Country'.*

*I've recently got a **1968 MGB GT** back on the road and thought some of your readers might be interested in how it was stripped down and rebuilt.*

*There is a link to the Choir. I bought it in the UK the day before the **Scarborough Music Festival** concert in 2018 - I was at the concert but didn't drive the car there because I couldn't persuade the UK insurance people to accept my USA driving license. (We were in England in transit from our old home in Illinois, USA.)*

*Other than that I do sing while I'm driving it and have been blasting out a bit of **Lord Lovelace** as I sing to myself in the garage. (James remembers very fondly - before work took him away - the time he spent as a first tenor with CVMVC.)*

*Now it's back on the road I would be driving it to rehearsals of my new Choir - the **Orpheus Choir** of Wellington - (<https://orpheuschoir.org.nz>). But like you Colne Valley chaps, we too are in suspension due to the virus. We're doing Zoom rehearsals at the moment (link attached just because well maybe you're interested.)*



Here's hoping Oxford scientists sort the vaccine out asap. Then we can plan CVMVC tour to NZ? I think David Hurst's son is over here somewhere? Meantime I'm glad people can stay connected via technology and I'm sure VotV is playing its part in keeping all our spirits up. We missed out on a trip to visit Grandma and Grandad at Easter 'cos of the Covid.

All the best, James



James's father, first tenor Edward Asquith, got to drive the MGB before it was exported and restored.

The car now looks sleek in its New Zealand re-incarnation.



For the full story: see the 'Transport Special' Edition of VotV.



Leslie Stones remembers VE day



With regard to your Victory in Europe article: you said, '1945 is a year, even the old men of the Choir will not be able to remember - maybe just a handful now in their eighties.'

Well, I'm one of the handful. I was just six at the start of the war and twelve when VE Day came.

I remember the singing on our back lawn with my young neighbour, Nancy. That's the lawn behind our parents' semi-detached house, quite near to where we live now. I lived at 2, Hilltop Road which overlooked Slaithwaite Railway station.... Nancy lived at no.4.

Later Nancy became Mrs. Meadows and mother of **Peter Meadows**, who members will know is the singer in our bass section, who also helps look after our music library. I'm not sure I can remember Peter being born.



Les also points out that payments to the Choir can now be made **online**. You might be thinking, he muses, of supporting the Choir in our downtime when we can't make any money from cancelled concerts of perhaps getting a couple more 200 club numbers.



Think of it as an investment - you help the Choir financially but also stand a good chance of winning one of the weekly cash prizes - including, twice yearly, a super £1,000 win.

NEWSFLASH: The winner of the 200 Club draw this week (£185) is Peter Meadow's colleague, **Keith Holland**, librarian. Lucky man, Keith

Make online payments to **Lloyds Bank** Account Name: Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

Sort Code: **30-94-43** Account Number: **02489140**

Identify it as 'New 200 Club Number' and we'll do the rest.

Thank you

No Scarborough Music Festival this year

Much appreciated Choir secretary, Jenny Baxter has been in touch

Just letting you all know that the Scarborough concert (Saturday 22nd August) is cancelled. I'm sure this will not surprise you and I've let you know as soon as possible because I know several of you might have hotel bookings.

We hope to go and sing there again in August 2021.

Kind regards and stay safe.

Jenny





It's a small world.

"It's a small world," says **Will Prideaux**, Musical Director of the very fine **Peterborough Male Voice Choir** and a keen reader of VotV.

He contacted VotV with news of a recent event that seems to bear out his initial assertion.

It seems one of his first-tenors deals in used cars. The other day a car came into his possession for resale - a very sporty, very racy yellow job, looking for a new owner. Neither your editor nor Will could tell you what type it is but it looks like you could get done for speeding in it quite easily.

Well, as usual, he checked the car over and much to his surprise came across some unusual papers hidden within. On examination it turned out they were Management Committee Meeting Minutes from **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**.



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 11th June 2002

Present: Ken Denton (chair), David Hirst Stuart Baxter, Ralph Hunt, Roger Fielding, Peter Dwyer, Norman Brown, David Porter, Brian Shaw, Keith Fielding, Brian Jenkins, Cyril Lawrence.

Apologies for absence: Arthur Quenby, Eric Cooper, Peter Nieldiffe, Eric Shaw, Thom Meredith, Clive Shaw.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved.

Matters Arising:

(5b) Agreed Keith Fielding to report back on the best interest charity account, apart from risk account, in which to invest the ladies' donation of £5,000 and £15,000 of the choir's reserves.

Attendance Report: May 2002

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total	Avg	%
1st Tenors	15	17	20	18	20	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
2nd Tenors	18	15	18	15	15	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Bassmen	21	14	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Baritone	21	17	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
TOTAL	75	61	74	69	71	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
%	80	63	79	74	76	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82

5. Correspondence:

a. After thoroughly enjoying CVMVC's concert with Ffynnonys, E. Castle of Gwent had written requesting details of both choir's concerns.

b. Agreed to order Welsh hymn music.

c. The Beckingham British 1...

So do you recognise this vehicle? Could it have been one of our CVMVC singers who owned it? What's its history? It certainly looks interesting.

The meeting took place about 18 years ago in June 2002. My guess is that whoever stuck it away was probably impressed that we regularly had 60 or 70 singers onstage and at rehearsals.

Can you shed any light on this? Do get in touch.



More fast cars and manly engineering type topics in the 'Transport Special' - with added 'Flying Scotsman' images.

Here 's the link:-

[https://mailchi.mp/fdbe131587dc/x2u7fxodop-4105796?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/fdbe131587dc/x2u7fxodop-4105796?e=[UNIQID])

The Bells of Banff



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

In these difficult times, small acts can make a big difference. **Michael Parkinson** sent this clip. It seems that every day at 1:00 pm Heather Jean Jordan rings the bells of **St. George in the Pines** as a symbol of hope and community for the town of Banff.

'The Bells playing are medicine for our soul. God bless this lady.' writes a listener from Texas.

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 - connection - however tenuous - to the Choir. Doesn't matter if you are not very confident with writing, I'll help you put into publishable shape.

Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny, on
01484 645192

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

And see our website to get the full story



colnevalleymvc.org.uk

