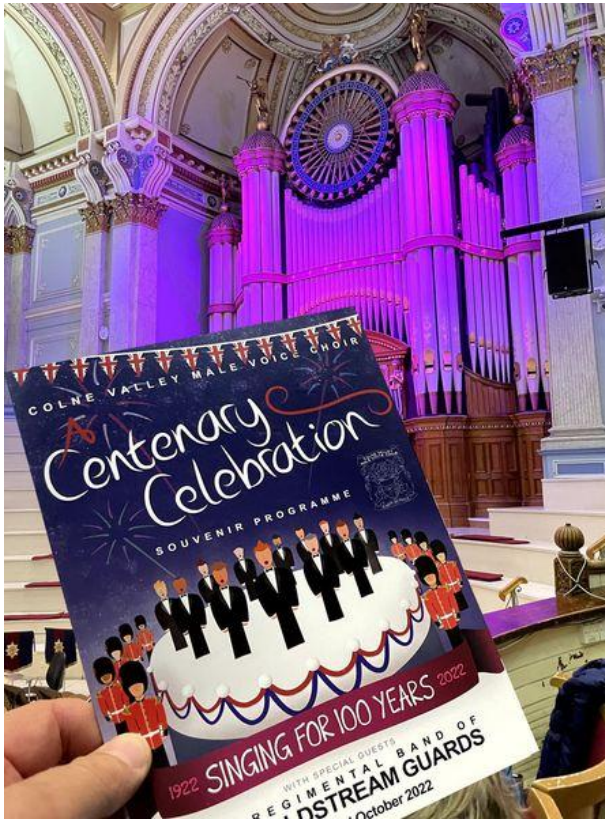




A wonderful night at the Town Hall





A fan writes...

Following my musings the other day on a hundred years of the BBC, there was a centenary celebration closer to home on Saturday.

It's always a delight to hear the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and they were on excellent form yesterday as they celebrated 'Singing for 100 Years' at Huddersfield Town Hall.

The Town Hall is a regular venue for the choir and they have performed with some great bands in the past. But this year was really special. They had invited the Regimental Band of The Coldstream Guards to join them for the evening.

A magnificent performance by both band and choir, admirably conducted as usual by Thom Meredith with Christopher Pulleyn on the piano. Pieces by Trevor Sharpe, Haydn Wood and Claude Michel Schönberg and others from the band, with the choir's contribution ranging from 'How Great Thou Art' by Stuart K. Hine to 'We Rise Again' (Dubinsky/MacMillan) and Jan Garrett's 'I Dreamed of Rain'. Ah yes, and Richard Rogers and Freddie Mercury were in there, too.

Absolutely delightful.

All proceeds from the concert go to 'ABF, The Soldiers Charity', so not only a fantastic concert, but a worthy one, too.

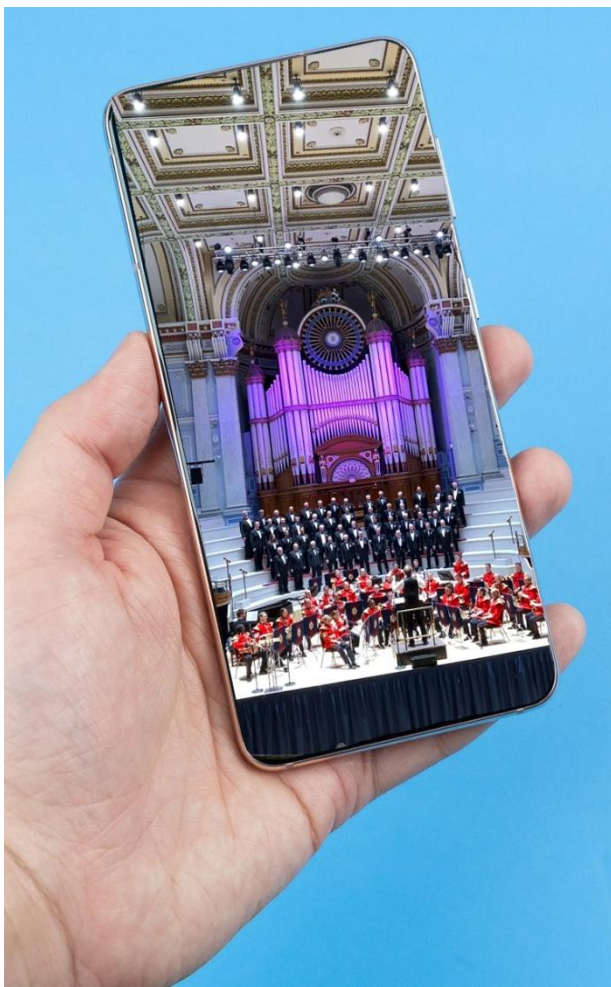
Maurice Claypole

To see the Choir perform 'I Dreamed of Rain', recorded on a mobile phone, click on this link:-



<https://youtu.be/wABYj3F-Y0>

Another fan writes....



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir has been a part of my life over the past eleven years.

I'm now in Cromer, Norfolk, but on Saturday, October 1st the concert I witnessed was worth every mile driven on Friday evening.

Needless to say, I have always come away from every concert admiring the standard of performance. Sometimes, I was slightly embarrassed when my opinion was sought. My career as a music teacher probably gave me a slight critical edge, but I believe I was always constructive when asked.

About Saturday's concert, I have to use that well-known phrase; 'I was 'blown away'. There was complete oneness from every member of the choir, the words, the moods, interpretation; everything was flawless.

Before the concert I spoke to Joe (Stones) and we discussed whether we would look for a 'Thumbs Up' or a 'Thumbs Down' from me? Well it was a huge 'Thumbs Up'. Well done everyone.

Val Coles

To see the choir perform 'Prayer of the Children', recorded on a mobile phone, click on this link:-
<https://youtu.be/h3HWLIKMPBs>

What just happened?

Bui Doi



This sober and distinguished figure is Warrant Officer Class 2 (Bandmaster) **Simon C Lindley**, who deputised for **Major Stuart Halliday**, conducting the band in several items of our concert repertoire.

He it was, who led the ensemble in the rousing anthem from **Miss Saigon**, 'Bui Doi'.

This award-winning musical, a kind of redrafting of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, tells this time of the American soldiers who struck up relationships with Vietnamese women, promised undying love and then left them bereft - and often pregnant - when US troops were withdrawn.



'Bui Doi' refers to the children they left behind and to a final acknowledgement that they need to be loved and accepted in post-war Saigon.

When the song was over, there was a brief silence, followed by wild applause.

Simon looked both overjoyed and a little bemused, "What just happened ?" he asked .

Well what happened was the Choir, the band, two fabulous soloists, Thom and Chris, and the audience had just experienced a moment of magic.

Those who were there will never forget it.



Thom and Chris were brilliant



Our professionals, **Thom Meredith** and **Christopher Pulleyn**, were superb. All their efforts over months training the Choir came to glorious fruition at just the perfect time.

Our pianist was inspired and our Conductor eased us through all the difficulties of a challenging repertoire.

And on top of that they created a show-stopping moment when they took the solo roles rising above the ensemble in that stirring anthem from Miss Saigon.



Join the Army - you could do worse

One of the reasons the Choir was able to lure this fabulous band to West Yorkshire was that we were able to offer them a Community Engagement & Recruitment opportunity. We are most fortunate that our Musical Director's day job is as principal of **Musica Kirklees**, the area's prime training body for youth and music.

Under Thom's guidance, dozens of orchestras, wind bands, vocal and percussion groups thrive and hundreds get instrumental tuition. '**Army Music**'s pitch is that they can offer recruits excellent musical training and unrivalled opportunities for performance. Musica Kirklees objective is to enrich the offering to young people to develop their musical potentials - so there was a natural coming together of aspirations.

The result was that, on the day of the concert, there was a marvellous workshop, where local young instrumentalists met with and played alongside some of the best professionals in the country.

Guard, **Flossie**, was one of the team who told the assembled young people, before the workshop about what recruits could expect. Via Army music, they could get their music degrees and instead of racking up huge tuition-fee debt, could instead earn about £9,000 a year whilst training with the Guards. And then move on to a good job with a decent wage and wonderful chances to travel and to perform at major events. It didn't sound half-bad: though, of course, you have to be more prepared to shoot people than you might be in the average conservatoire.



Major Stuart Halliday was one of the Guards who led the workshop. Young players were interspersed with the guards. Very noticeable was how supportive the guards were with the youngsters; enabling and encouraging rather than dominating and not in the least condescending. The ensemble played music from the musical, 'Chigago', and from 'Star Wars' amongst other pieces and did a short concert for parents at the end.

They sounded really good together



'I'm really glad I joined. It's a great life in the Army - most of the time', says Flossie and the team.



Young percussionists and trombone players get to grips with 'All That Jazz'



Workshops - Jenny serves lunch



Readers might not be surprised how much time and effort was put in by members of the Choir to get this terrific day up and running.

It was a major challenge to welcome 50 odd band members, to set up the workshops, coordinate the concert and to publicise and market the event. It turned out to be a whole Choir effort, with so many making a contribution. We modelled this concert on the Big Town Hall Christmas Festival we've done for over years 60 odd years. But in many ways this event provided more challenges – and there was less time to get the show 'on the road'.

If you were there and had a great day, be grateful to all those, behind the scenes who made it happen!

By no means least, we are appreciative of our inestimable secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, whose self-defined duties even extended to making sure the Band got fed, ready for workshops and performance.



The men relax before the performance of the year



Raymond
& John

David and
Stuart



Brian & David



Tom and David



Adrian & William



The Brothers: Nick and Joe

Nobody worked harder to lure this world-renowned Band up to Yorkshire than our Chairman, Joe Stones. Of course with his brother, **Nick**, In the Coldstream guards, Joe got some insider insight into what it was that might persuade them to come and play with us.



And Joe stuck with it, despite many a stumbling block, resolutely handling each as it arose. It took him nearly two years of contact before securing a commitment from the Band. And then of course the Queen's sudden death might have brought all his efforts to nought. No wonder he's smiling – VotV thinks it's more relief than anything.

Uncle Nick and **Sophie Stones** - who took some of these pics. Thanks also to **Maurice Claypole**, **Val Coles**, **Amalacitta**, **Joe** and your Editor for additional images.



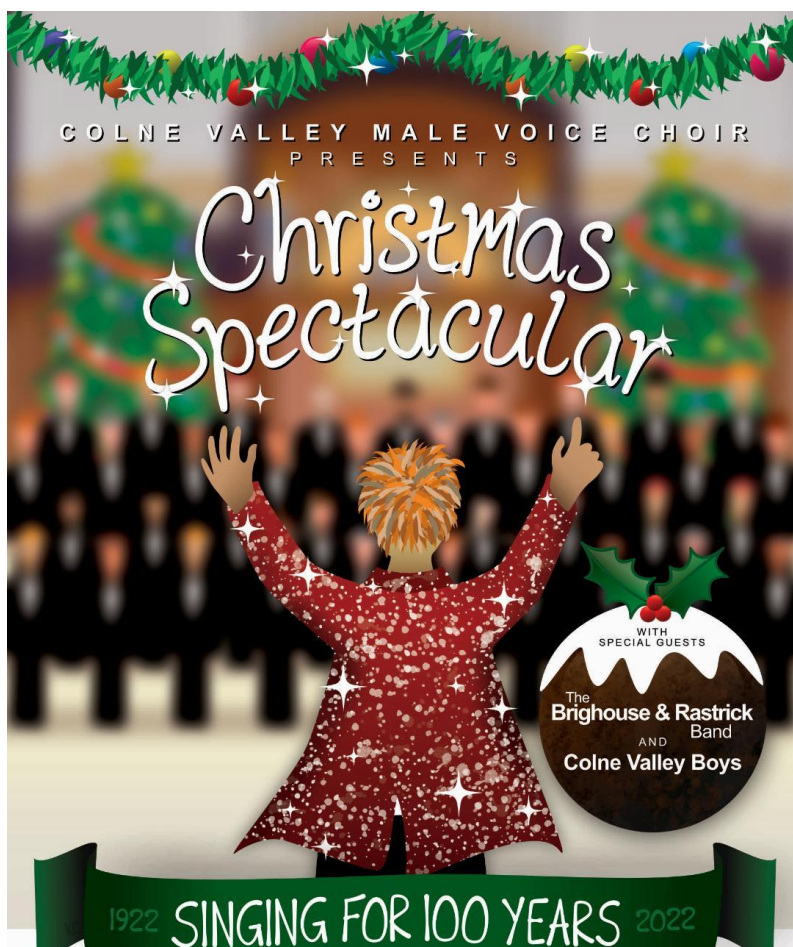
We don't rest on our laurels. It's time already to look forward to our next concerts...



Anniversary Concert
Slaithwaite Brass Band
Colne Valley Male Voice Choir
Colne Valley Boys

14:30 at St James' Church
Slaithwaite
Sunday, October 16th

And before you know it, we are round to Christmas again, whoopee!



COLNE VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR
PRESENTS

Christmas Spectacular


WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
The Brighouse & Rastrick Band
AND
Colne Valley Boys

1922 SINGING FOR 100 YEARS 2022

Sunday 11th December 2022
7:15pm | Huddersfield Town Hall

Tickets £10-£20 plus booking fee | Discounts for children & NUS
Call 01484 225755 or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk/townhalls

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Thom Meredith
ACCOMPANIST
Chris Pulley



And remember VotV always welcomes reader contributions.



colnevalleymvc.org.uk

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