

Making Music Yorkshire Notice Board

Diary Dates 2008

Regional Committee Meetings	26th Jan	21st June	27th Sept
Annual Regional meeting	31st May - venue tbc		
Tours Planning	13th October		
Solo Singers Platform	19th April	<i>(NB changed date)</i>	

Making Music

www.makingmusic.org.uk

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Society Contact Changes must be sent to Central Office to update the main mailing database. info@makingmusic.org.uk

E.mail: All Making Music Reps should now have an e.mail address for Making Music contact. Please ensure that you have informed Making Music of your e.mail address. Some information can only be circulated via this system to accommodate distribution of the most up-to-date relevant information. In addition, the e.mail system allows for minimal printing of information, ease of more direct and relevant distribution and considerable savings compared to the more traditional post.



If you are a Making Music Rep and have not yet established a usable e.mail address, please contact your RDO, Stuart Isaac, who will be happy to help.

Stuart Isaac **Regional Development Officer**
Contact: stuart.isaac@makingmusic.org.uk
Mobile: 07885 213449

Regional Committee Contacts:-

Roy Carr chairman.yorkshire@makingmusic.org.uk
www.makingmusic.yorkshire.org.uk

A free facility to advertise your society and concerts.

Send your contact link and details to webmaster:-

paul@makingmusic.org.uk

Clarion contact: a.hutchings@makingmusic.org.uk

Items for inclusion in next edition to me by..... 10th March 2008



YORKSHIRE CLARION

supporting voluntary music societies in Yorkshire and Humber regions

Issue 44
January 2008



Solo Singers Platform – 19th April 2008

The highly successful Solo Singers Platform which takes place at Ashville College, Harrogate, has long been giving opportunities for aspiring solo singers in the Yorkshire area for some twelve years. The platform was the brain-child of Diana Thomas, and Elaine Howarth continued this invaluable service.

John Dunford who, in addition to being Director of Music at Ashville College is conductor of Ripon Choral Society and Wetherby Choral Society, has offered to take over from Elaine.

For those who are not familiar with the event, the purpose of the day is to give an opportunity for solo singers to display their talents to an audience of Choral Societies representatives, who subsequently are able to offer engagements to the singers they have heard and met. Singers may travel from all over the country to audition and it provides us with a first class opportunity to use fresh, young talent.

While this can often be the first step in a young career we also welcome more seasoned professionals who are also glad to avail themselves of this opportunity.

John is busy sending information to the singing faculty at University music departments and Conservatoires, as well as to local singing teachers and singers.

He would be happy to hear from any one known to Clarion readers who might be looking for solo singing work and who might not know of the existence of this invaluable opportunity.

He can be contacted at: johndunford@ntlworld.com or 01423 552827

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CLARION CIRCULATION

Try to allow all members of your society access to look at a copy.

We hope to have an electronic version available on the website so you can print more copies.

- Making Music Contact
- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Other

RDO News

Making Music Work Together Sat 26th April 2008

A one day mini conference will take place in **Leeds** under the title ***Making music work together***. Jointly hosted by Making Music, the Royal Northern College of Music, Leeds College of Music (LCMselect) and Music Leader, this event will live, breathe, promote and celebrate the fusion of voluntary and professional music sectors.

Making music work together has been developed to encourage musicians to think collaboratively about working across both voluntary and non-voluntary sectors. Indeed, it owes its existence to one such collaborative partnership. With a focus on supporting musicians to be enterprising in their career ideas, the event will also demonstrate the advantages and opportunities for voluntary music groups in playing a key role.

With a selection of workshops, stalls and a networking lunch, ***Making music work together*** will also serve to encourage musicians from all genres to consider the skills they will need as they enter the freelance world. Workshops currently being developed include *Promotion and Marketing*, *Making funding applications*, *Running Creative Workshops* and many issues relating to working with young people. A focused workshop about legislation and employment for musicians is also planned. There will be limited opportunity for one-to-one sessions with our speakers.

Making music work together will deliver an important resource for music development, not only to the Yorkshire & Humber Region, but to the North of England as a whole. Look out for full details including workshop leaders, contributing speakers and how to book, which will be published shortly.

Stuart Isaac. RDO

Sheffield Bach Choir welcomes new member, and is currently looking for sopranos. Entry is by audition and reasonably good sightreading is required. We rehearse on Monday evenings at Cemetery Road Baptist Church in Sheffield (opposite Waitrose car park where you can park free of charge during rehearsals). Our repertoire includes major works from before Bach's time to the present day, all performed with professional musicians. Secretary: Liz Arnesen 0114 244 217 www.sheffieldbachchoir.org.uk

Programme for 2008:- 16 Feb *Missa Choralis* - Liszt
 15 March *Five Mystical Songs* and *Mass in G minor* - Vaughan Williams
 15 March *Mass in B Minor* JS Bach : 7 June *Stabat Mater* Haydn

Society Reports and Reviews

Harrogate Choral Society – Brief History and Update

Although there are records going back to 1881, and a positive review in the Harrogate Herald at the time, the Harrogate Choral Society was officially formed in 1948. We are therefore looking forward to our Diamond Jubilee year in 2008 when we will be performing Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in the newly re-opened Royal Hall. This will be particularly special as this was the same programme as 1948 and we are performing it almost to the day.

We have very much missed the Royal Hall while it has been closed. We have instead been making greater use of the beautiful Ripon Cathedral and have much appreciated the support of the Dean and Chapter and his staff there, as well as the loyal support of our patrons and friends from Harrogate and surrounding areas, who have had to make a much longer journey for our concerts.

We have between 140 and 150 members. We are fortunate to have as our Music Director, Dr Andrew Padmore, whom we share with the Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir. Enthusiasm has taken on a new meaning since he joined us in September 2005. Indeed, some of us almost have to be carried out after our two hour rehearsals on Wednesday evenings.

We are in fact taking advantage of this joint ownership next year as both the Harrogate Choral and Yorkshire Philharmonic choirs are joining forces in Leeds Town Hall on 7th June 2008 to sing the Verdi *Requiem*. It has been excellent to work with Richard Haigh and his colleagues on setting up this exciting venture and I am sure we have learnt important lessons (not least about money!) which might be useful to share with Making Music at some stage.

Like most choirs we are keen to recruit more men and of course younger members. As far as the latter is concerned we have held workshops for two years; contacting local schools, spending an afternoon working with a number of children, introducing them to choral singing, and holding an informal concert for their parents in the early evening. This also had the advantage of making the choir better known locally. We are also running an open rehearsal which will be advertised in the near future. Finally, we have just formed a smaller group of singers within the choir, whom we call the Harrogate Polyphonic Choir, to perform at functions such as weddings with a fee to help our finances.

Charles Nightingale

Society Reports and Reviews



Music For People is an exciting new venture by the team who have run the Workers Music Association Summer School for the last six years, dedicated to providing life-long musical education that is affordable for all. The first project will be a Summer School of Music, to be held from the 2nd to 9th August 2008 at Giggleswick School near Settle (North Yorkshire) BD24 0DE

Organiser Jill Snowdon said There are lots of wonderful music summer schools to choose from. What makes ours unique is we offer the widest variety of courses of any summer music school in the country. We are open access, and welcome in particular adult returners, or those who have taken up music in later life. This year we have over 20 courses running from Symphony Orchestra to Big Band, World Singing to Folk Music. There really is something for everyone .

A week of non stop music provides students of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to try something a little bit different. Maybe you are a classical violinist who has always longed to play jazz, or just beat that drum in our introduction to Orchestral Percussion! We pride ourselves in working supportively together, whatever your level. This year there will be a specially commissioned collaborative Opera involving composers, singers and instrumentalists.

For further details:-

www.m4p.org.uk
or e-mail info@m4p.org.uk

Organiser Jill Snowdon, Tel 01347 811707
M4P Summer School, Thornton Croft
7 Huby Road, Sutton on the Forest, York.
Tel 01347 811707



Regional Visiting Scheme

Regional Visiting Scheme

Although a revenue grant from the Yorkshire Regional Committee is no longer part of our service, we hope to maintain cordial relations with all member societies. The visiting scheme, which the Yorkshire Committee has run for many years, by which each of our societies has a designated member of the committee to whom they can turn, is being adopted by the organisation as a whole. Our aim has always been to have a two-way relationship, not only supporting members with information or advice when asked, or suggesting where to find it, but also benefitting from their experiences to share success and best practices. We have always tried to make the contact as personal as possible, by attending concerts, rehearsals and also society committee meetings if invited.

However, it is not always easy to 'match' visitor and society. The Yorkshire Region is widespread, reaching from Sheffield to Settle in the west, then across via Richmond and Stokesley to the stretch of the east coast from Whitby to Grimsby. Only 3 committee members live north of the M62, so you see the problem. That is where telephones and e-mails can be useful, though we hope to maintain as personal a contact as possible.

The allocated visitor is your **link** with the committee so please continue your association with your present visitor and as usual invite him or her to at least one concert and/or a committee meeting.

Joan Harborne Making Music Yorkshire

Instrumentalist Platform.

The committee are considering promoting a similar event to the Solo Singers Platform, for solo instrumentalists, ensembles or perhaps small chamber groups. Engaging musicians can add breadth and interest to events for orchestras and choral societies as well as concert societies. We would like to hear from more member groups, students, soloists, or chamber groups who would be interested, either as a performer or for a concert promotion.

chairman.yorkshire@makingmusic.org.uk

HARROGATE FESTIVAL CHORAL COURSE August 2008

A new choral course in Harrogate over the Bank Holiday weekend in August 2008 which will culminate in a performance of Rutter's *Magnificat* and Elgar's *The Music Makers* in the newly-refurbished Royal Hall.

During the course singers will also get the chance to sing and perform some shorter pieces in male and female voice choirs, and optional master singing classes.

Full details, including costs, application form etc. www.hfccourse.co.uk
Sue Rosborough, administrator, 01422 822393

Society Reports and Reviews

A new Youth String Orchestra for the Ripon area

In the 1960s (some of us are old enough to remember this!) Ripon had an extremely good Youth String Orchestra, based at Ripon Grammar School, but with members from many other schools in the area. Directed by Gilbert Shufflebotham (ex Hall Orchestra), they gave frequent concerts and won prizes at festivals up and down the country. Many of its members are now leading professionals — notably Andrew & Stephen Orton and Carol Corkish — and, during this period, Ripon boasted no less than eight string players who were members of the National Youth Orchestra! Ripon also provided most of the leading string players in the renowned West Riding Schools Orchestra. The Ripon Youth String Orchestra (Shuff's Band) folded when Shuff retired. Then Ripon became part of North Yorkshire, the West Riding Schools Orchestra disbanded, and the Harrogate and Northallerton music centres were formed.

In the early 1990s, I returned to Ripon and felt there was a need for something similar so, with the help of a few local teachers, we formed a new Ripon Youth String Ensemble — a small group of about 15 good young string players. This group flourished and, in 1997, we won 1st Prize at the European Festival of Music for Youth in Neerpelt, Belgium (the biggest youth music festival in Europe!). Katie Stables was a member of this group, as were Richard Fletcher, Joanne Almack, the Grenfell sisters, the Bradley sisters etc. Shortly after this, the group folded up; several key players went off to study elsewhere and we could not find enough young players to replace them.

Since then, string playing in this part of the country has been rather in the doldrums! We feel the time is now right to provide the incentive and the means by which young string players can be encouraged and inspired to achieve their full potential. So, following on the success of our String Orchestra Workshop on 28 October 2007, we are going to try to establish a new Youth String Orchestra for the Ripon area.

We hope you, or someone you know, will be interested. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this new orchestra, or if you require any more information, please contact us.

Tel: 01765 602856 e: mail@st-cecilia.org.uk or by post to:
RYSO, 20 Mallorie Park Drive, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 2QD. .
Xenophon Kelsey St Cecilia Orchestra Ripon.

Society Reports and Reviews

York Musical Society contd.

deafening" just as it did at the oratorio's première in Birmingham in 1846. The Minster will provide a wonderful setting for this dramatic and lyrical work.

Messiah, which we will perform on December 8th, is always a memorable event and draws in hundreds to enjoy this masterpiece amidst the Advent magic of the cathedral. As the last great phrases of the *Amen* chorus build to a climax, the West Doors are thrown open, inviting in the outside world and greeting the audience, choir and orchestra with the fairytale sight of an illuminated High Petergate. Amongst a fine team of top class soloists for this event is Angharad Gruffydd Jones, winner of the 2004 Handel Singing Competition.

Our Lent-tide concert on March 8th features Duruflé's *Requiem* and Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*. It is sixteen years since YMS sang these wonderful works, both of which were very well received. The choir is really looking forward to performing once more these moving, lyrical and passionately intense works. We complete our season by paying tribute to Ralph Vaughan Williams fifty years after his death in 1958. The concert on June 21st will include *The Lark Ascending*, a Romance for violin and orchestra inspired by a poem by the English poet George Meredith, and Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. The chief work, however, will be *Dona Nobis Pacem* in which Vaughan Williams combined liturgical text with war poetry in a deeply felt personal plea for peace. Sadly, its sentiments remain as relevant today as they were when Vaughan Williams wrote it.

We are looking forward to our season. We hope that many of you who are reading this article will want to join us for our performances, especially those of you who have never experienced hearing a large-scale choral work sung in the Minster. It is a special experience and we would love you to share it.

Tickets for all our concerts are sold at York Theatre Royal Box Office: Tel: 01904 623568 and online at: www.theatroyalyork.co.uk. If you would like any more information about York Musical Society and its concerts please email: publicity@yorkmusicalsociety.org.uk

Fiona Long, Publicity Officer

Society Reports and Reviews

New Season, New Excitements in the life of a Choral Society

Darkening evenings are creeping up on us, the leaves are autumn tinged and the Proms and other great summer festivals are fading memories as I write. However, it is a time of year that also brings the promise of new excitements as hundreds of amateur societies the length and breadth of the land embark on a music-making season.

York Musical Society has the distinction of being the oldest such society in England having been established in 1765. Amongst its founding fathers was the Minster Organist John Camidge, and the list of past YMS conductors includes such eminent names as Tertius Noble, Sir Edward Bairstow, Dr Francis Jackson (at present celebrating his 90th birthday) and the present conductor Philip Moore, all Masters of the Music at York Minster. In the early days YMS was more like a gentlemen's club than a choir and the emphasis was on instrumental music. Rules required members to be "a principal or partner in a business or profession" and the members met each Monday evening in Baynes' coffee-house in Petergate and paid two shillings for a supper that included malt liquor. By the end of the 19th century YMS had merged with the younger and more democratic York Choral Society and the appointment of Tertius Noble saw the choir growing into the thriving body it remains to this day.

Singing great choral music is always an uplifting and emotional experience, but YMS enjoys the immense privilege of performing all its concerts in the splendour and magnificence of the Minster. The Society's repertoire is extensive and adventurous; so long a history, the well established favourites of the choral repertoire have been sung many times over the years, but YMS has also sung modern works including compositions by its conductor Philip Moore. Our forthcoming season's programme is the usual mix of the well-known and much loved, and the less well-known but equally rewarding.

We start our season with a great favourite, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. When the Society sang this work 60 years ago with guest conductor Basil Cameron (of Promenade Concerts fame and a pupil of Tertius Noble's), the then Princess Royal attended. Our concert on November 17th is unlikely to attract so elevated a listener, but we hope our singing will provoke a "volley of plaudits, vociferous and

Society Reports and Reviews

Ackworth Concert Society. Award-winning violinist brothers David and Jonny Tan

With a string of violin awards to their credit two talented North Leeds teenagers were key members of the quintet chosen to open Ackworth Concert Society's new season in Featherstone.

Just back from *Pro Corda* residential music courses at Leiston Abbey, Suffolk, in time to resume their studies at Leeds Grammar School, 17-year-old David Tan and his 15-year-old brother Jonny have been members of the St George's Musicians for the past four years. The group was originally formed to raise funds for the St George's Crypt in Leeds.

For the past three years, David has won the prestigious Open String Recital Class at the Derby Arts Festival and will take over as leader of Leeds Youth Orchestra next year.

Two years ago Jonny became the Regional Champion of the British and International Federation of Festivals when faced with competition from winners of all music festivals in the Humberside and Yorkshire region.

Both studied under the late Jack Renhard, of Rothwell, and with international virtuoso violinist, Marat Bisengaliev.

At *Pro Corda*, the national ensemble school for young chamber music players, the brothers, who live in West Park, Leeds, performed with string quartets and quintets.

They have also benefited from playing with the three older members of the St George's Musicians — James Clark (cello) and Andrew Wyss (viola) and in particular with their pianist Christopher Haynes who has great depth of musical knowledge.

The Featherstone concert on September 29th in the public library's community hall off Station Lane featured 18-year-old Helena Wright as soloist in Marcello's *Saxophone Concerto*. Other works included Bach's *Double Violin Concerto*, Schumann's *Piano Quintet*, Vivaldi's *Chaconne* and Wieniawski's *Violin Concerto*

Dennis Casson



Society Reports and Reviews

Whitby - Adopt a Composer Project

On Saturday 22nd Sept I attended a meeting with SPNM in London along with Tony Cross to represent St Hilda's Festival Orchestra and David Marshall to represent St Hilda's Festival Choir. Here we were introduced to Amber Priestley, our adopted composer for the first time along with her mentor Colin Riley.

After presentations on how the *Adopt a Composer* scheme was designed to operate we sat around a table to plan the project for Amber with St Hilda's Festival Choir and Orchestra.

The main objective was for Amber to create a piece of music that would be suitable for our orchestra and choir to perform along with Karl Jenkins *Armed Man* and the *Faur Requiem* on 8th November 2008, as a way of celebrating the 90th anniversary of the ending of World War One. Proceeds for this concert would be for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

During the meeting I related several incidents that affected Whitby during WW1 and two in particular. I was asked to elaborate on events surrounding a Whitby language teacher, Ray Hamley, who taught German in a school in Redcar in 1983. He was highly respected by his students, indeed when one student went to Germany for his summer holiday, he returned with a bottle of wine for Ray, wrapped in a German newspaper. Ray not only enjoyed the wine but became most interested in a report in that newspaper on the reconstruction of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Kleve Germany. As he read the report Ray was filled with guilt and remorse because he was a former navigator of a British B25 Mitchell bomber that bombed the church in Sept 1944.

After much thought and deliberation Ray eventually contacted the Mayor of Kleve to apologise. Subsequent correspondence led to a dialogue with Father Leinung, the priest of St Mary's Church, who pleaded for Ray to visit Kleve and attend a service of reconciliation. After further thought and deliberation Ray agreed. The congregation of St Mary's were so delighted that Ray was invited back to join the survivors of the bombing campaign at the special service to mark the reconstruction of the church

..... exactly 50 years after the bombs were dropped.



Since then regular exchange visits have taken place between groups of people in Kleve and Whitby.

Ray Hamley has now sadly passed away but Father Leinung from Kleve has already requested a ticket for our concert, including the World Premiere of Amber's composition, on 8th November 2008.

Both Amber and Colin were so interested in this story that Amber has decided to compose a piece of music around the text of the German Newspaper that Ray first read. The search is now on to obtain a copy of this newspaper.



Clearly Amber will need to interact with St Hilda's Festival Choir and Orchestra several times as she composes the music for us. This may not always be possible so she has agreed initially to interact with the Tuesday Singers, also conducted by Stephen Maltby. This

is a small mixed choir from Whitby consisting mostly of singers from St Hilda's Festival Chorus that rehearse regularly on a Monday night. Amber attended her first meeting with the Tuesday Singers on October 1st where she also met the Musical Director, Stephen Maltby, and the leader of the orchestra, Tony Mason.

On October 13th, Amber also took the opportunity of attending a dress rehearsal and latest concert performed by St Hilda's Festival Choir and Orchestra in St Hilda's Church Whitby. In this case it was our contribution to **Voices for Hospices 2007** when we performed *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, six songs from the *Bavarian Highlands* by Elgar and our own version of Last Night of the Proms. The church was packed and Amber left full of enthusiasm.



David Higgins