

Heritage Masterworks Chorale

March 2015



WELCOME...

...to the Heritage Masterworks Chorale newsletter.

This is the first of a quarterly update for those who are interested in choral music, would like to be kept up to date with the choir's events and would like to be a part of the exciting activities that are taking place.

You will meet individual choir members and find out why they enjoy singing with the choir, how they came to be with the choir and much more.

Also, if you have any comments or ideas for items you would like to see in the newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Click [here](#) to send a message.

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FEATURED
CHOIR MEMBER

Touring Choir



The choir has visited many places but one that stands out as a memorable tour was that in October 2013. The destination was Belgium.

On Thursday morning, the coach departed from Leeds with choir members and non-singing supporters. After arriving in the travellers settled down for a relaxing evening in preparation for the next few days.

The tour consisted of a visit to Brussels, All Soul's Day mass and a concert at St Peter's, Leuven, an afternoon concert in the magnificent cathedral, St Bavo's, Ghent and a last post ceremony at The Menin Gate, Ypres.

I was lucky to be one of the choir supporters but being part of the sister choir had the chance to sing at The Menin Gate. This was an extremely moving and humbling experience of which I was very lucky to take part.

New York, New York February 2015

Members, along with those from the sister choir – The Heritage Singers, visited New York for a week last month.

The tour started with singing in St Patrick's and finished collaborating with the choir of Christchurch, Staten Island.

Music being performed ranged from Batten, Thomas and Croft to Parry and Bairstow and not forgetting compositions by our Musical Director, Tim Knight.



Whilst in New York, one of the choir members, Heather Woodhead, was a guest performer at The Sunnyside Singers Club in Queens. A number of the choir went along to support her and had a fabulous night at The Aubergine Café.

To find out more about the club, click [here](#).

Find out more about the tour in the next issue.

Want to get involved?

Are you a singer with a choir that does not tour? Would you like the opportunity to sing in Europe? Well read on to find out how.

Under the direction of Tim Knight and in conjunction with Rayburn Tours, the choir is embarking on a series of annual tours starting in October 2015 in Paris.

The music that will be performed is Faure's Requiem in La Madeleine, Paris, the church for which it was written. It will also include travelling with the choir and visiting the churches in which they are performing the remainder of the time should you be interested

Other tours will include Vivaldi's Gloria in Venice, Dvorak in Prague and Mendelssohn in Germany.

If you are interested in any of these tours [email](#) and we shall make sure you receive the information as it becomes available. Unfortunately (or fortunately for the choir), the trip to Paris is now fully booked, proving the popularity of these types of tour.

Despite this, there is a chance to join the choir singing Faure's Requiem at a Come and Sing event on 21st March 2015 at Holy Trinity Church, Meanwood, Leeds. Click on the poster below to book for this event.

COME AND SING

Cantique de Jean Racine
Requiem

By Gabriel Faure

At Holy Trinity Church
Meanwood Leeds



On Saturday 21st March 2015

A day of rehearsals starting at 11.15 with a break for lunch and ending in an audience performance at 4.00pm

Singers and Audience Tickets available from
www.heritagechorale.org.uk
Or by phoning 0113 2431605



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- More about the New York Tour
- Featured composer
- Another Member tells their choir story
- Do you want to be a Masterworks Maestro?

HERITAGE
Masterworks
CHORALE

Featured Choir Member



St James' Church, Manston, Crossgates, Leeds 15 is where I have worshiped since my children were young. Before that I worshiped at St Mary's, Whitkirk.

I had been singing in the choir at St James Manston since 1995 when Tom (my middle son) had been singing with them for about a year.

I had always wanted to sing in a church choir. When I was young girls were not allowed in our church so once Tom had found his feet with the church choir I joined myself. I had been singing with the church music group since about 1992 & playing guitar but had not done anything formally such as reading music etc

In 2004 Tim came as director of our church choir and in about 2006 I started having some singing lessons. I didn't want to do exams, just to improve my sight-reading, breathing, and general ability. So when he decided to start the Masterworks Chorale – which only had one practice a month – and invited me to join, I decided it was something I could do.

I had a very high-pressured full time job, 3 sons and a husband to look after, as well as running a Brownie pack and numerous other things so time was very precious. I joined the choir at the very start and felt very much out of my depth at that time but feel I now contribute well.

One time when my son Tom (previously mentioned above) had just come back from being on tour with his band ifoward Russia! (around 2005 I think it was) I intimated how nice it must be to be able to travel, sing in front of an audience and perform like he did. He said "You could do that if you wanted". I thought about his answer and decided maybe I should start to sing/play my guitar more. [I had done quite a lot of folk singing when I was at University in London and wrote many songs while at school in the 6th form, but once I had children the only songs I had sung were nursery rhymes! I made a cassette of nursery rhymes when my children were very young which I sold through playgroups and nurseries] so I started to learn some traditional folk songs and sing on singers nights occasionally in folk clubs. I now sing in folk festivals, and charity concerts have had many bookings on my own and with flautist Alison Battye. The folk booking at the Aubergine Café in Woodside, Queens, NY was my first folk booking abroad.

I like the way we practice for about 2 hours, go out for a drink and meal together then perform a concert. It helps us get to know each other and feel relaxed before a concert. Recently we have started touring and have been to Belgium and New York. I would never have got to sing in these places had I not been with Masterworks.

I also like the way we are treated as a choir by Tim. He expects us to learn the music between practices and expects a lot of us, but we never want to let him down.

I am looking forward to more travelling with Masterworks: Paris and wherever the singing takes us. I also have much more time in retirement so hopefully will be able to perform better. I recently also joined the Heritage singers – after singing in cathedrals over the last 3 years in the summer with the Eldon singers – and am enjoying singing challenging liturgical music.

Some of my favourites we have sung with Masterworks are: Cantique de Jean Racine – Faure, When David heard – Tomkins and Sanctus – Craig Courtney

If any church is raising funds and would like a folk concert please get in touch.

heather.woodhead@gmail.com ;

<http://www.reverbNation.com/heatherwoodhead>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/heatherwoodhead>

