

WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR



"The Choir has a long and distinguished history. Its roots are deep within the Christian tradition. It was nourished within a small industrial town in the North of England. Across the generations, men from every walk of life have blended their voices together to make music. There have been times in the history of Warrington when life has seemed dark indeed. Times when unemployment with all its attendant evils has stalked the town. In good times, as in bad, the Choir has continued in the belief that music has the capacity to raise our spirits to a higher plane and to breathe harmony into troubled souls."



TERRY WAITE CBE
Patron, Warrington Male Voice Choir

Warrington Male Voice Choir is one of Great Britain's oldest choirs, tracing its formation to 1898. During its long history the choir has travelled widely and has performed in many famous concert halls and cathedrals throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe and Canada. A century of musical excellence has brought numerous festival honours including, most recently, National Champions of Great Britain, several times prize winners at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, and premier male choir at both the Sligo and Bangor International Choral Festivals. Following the IRA terrorist bombing of Warrington town centre in 1993, the choir

became deeply involved in promoting peace and an end to violence in Northern Ireland. Close links were forged with Irish peace groups and, for the past fifteen years, cross-community concerts for Peace and Reconciliation have been performed throughout the island of Ireland, helping to break down sectarian divisions. The fostering and financing of 'grass roots' reconciliation activities with young people in the interface areas of West Belfast contributed to the choir's initiatives being acknowledged at the highest level by the Irish, British and United States governments. In 1996 Terry Waite CBE became Patron in tribute to the choir's humanitarian role, and now frequently supports the choir's performances in British and Irish prisons, assisting rehabilitation programmes. During 2008 the choir was shortlisted for Ireland's prestigious peace prize, the Tipperary International Peace Award.

Fellowship within the choir is legendary and, with a full strength of ninety voices and an age range of seventy years, the choir enjoys an international reputation as one of England's foremost choirs – and as a 'Choir for Peace'.

CENTENARY THEATRE COMPANY

The Centenary Theatre Company (formerly Crosfields) was established in 1901. The group produces two musicals and two plays each year at the Brindley Theatre, Runcorn, and also gives regular concert performances in aid of charitable causes. Recent musicals have included classics such as Guys & Dolls and Singin' in the Rain, to more challenging productions such as the critically acclaimed Sweeney Todd in 2008. The Company has been nominated for – and has won – many awards for the quality of its productions, covering Direction, Musical Direction, Choreography, Acting, Staging, Set Design, Production and Programmes. Centenary is a registered charity

and is proud of its work in the community, educating the public in the performing arts, and actively developing the talents of its members.

The 2008 production of Hobson's Choice has received six award nominations and the recent sell-out productions of Brassed Off and The Liver Birds demonstrate that the performing arts are alive and well in Cheshire. As a Warrington company, the group is delighted to be performing this evening as guests of the Warrington Male Voice Choir.

HARMONY IN BLUE



Harmony in Blue is the young men's section of the Warrington Male Voice Choir. The four-part vocal group was formed in January 2008 to give greater prominence to the Male Voice Choir's younger members and to encourage the recruitment of others. The ensemble currently comprises fourteen voices and several of the singers were former members of the Warrington Boys' Choir during the 1990s. The group is building a diverse repertoire representing the broad range of male choral music and complimenting the rich repertoire of the full choir. This choral initiative has already been successful in attracting new, young singers and augers well for the future development of the full choir.

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The Invitation (Gwahoddiad)

L. Hartsough arr. J.T. Davies

The Lost Chord

A. Sullivan arr. D. Arnold

I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me

C.H.H. Parry arr. R. Paterson

CENTENARY THEATRE COMPANY

Broadway – A medley of favourite songs from

Kiss Me Kate, Hello Dolly, West Side Story, Guys and Dolls, Gypsy, Oklahoma, and Annie Get Your Gun

THE CHILDREN OF NAVAN, Ireland & DALBEATTIE, Scotland

The Galway Girl

S. Earle

Caledonia

Scottish traditional

The De'il's Awa'

R. Burns

Over The Sea To Skye

Scottish traditional

We Want True Peace

Irish traditional tune

Drummers For Peace

D Bordalo

WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

With A Voice Of Singing

M. Shaw

Ave Maria

G. Faure

Sanctus

C. Gounod arr. D. Littlemore

PROGRAMME

WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

Heart So Pure (Calon Lan)

J. Hughes arr. A.D. Bellis

The Lord's Prayer

A.H. Malotte arr. C. Deis

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Blaen-wern)

W.P. Rowlands arr D.W. Edwards

ANTHONY WHITTAKER

War March Of The Priests (from Athalie op 74)

F. Mendelssohn

HARMONY IN BLUE

Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel)

B. Joel arr. K. Shaw

Another Day

D. Rees arr. V. Hoppe

Walk Away

U. Jurgens arr. A. Simmons

CENTENARY THEATRE COMPANY

The West End – A medley of songs from

The Boyfriend, Oliver!, Aspects Of Love, My Fair Lady, Me And My Girl, and Scrooge

WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

Let There Be Peace On Earth

S. Miller arr. H. Ades

I Believe

E. Drake, I. Graham, J. Shirl & A. Stillman

arr. H.R. Wilson

Guide Thee O My Great Jehovah (Cwm Rhondda)

J. Hughes arr. W.O. Jones

Anthem (from Chess)

B. Andersson & B. Ulvaeus arr. H. Jones

ALL

You'll Never Walk Alone (from Carousel)

R. Rodgers arr. A. Humphreys

THE CHILDREN OF NAVAN, Ireland & DALBEATTIE, Scotland

In February 2006 the headteachers of Navan Educate Together National School, Co. Meath, and St. Peter's RC Primary School, Dalbeattie, met in Belfast as delegates of a conference organised by the British Council and Leargas (an Irish national agency).

The conference was to encourage schools throughout Britain and Ireland to form educational links and to work together to help, in a small way, to enhance the Peace Process in Northern Ireland. The two schools' joint curriculum project was based on Cultural Connections.

This project, through shared curriculum activities, letter writing, visits and exchanges, has enabled the children to develop their social skills through working and cooperating together, and is ongoing. It has also brought pupils from different cultures together.

During the exchanges, once the initial shyness was overcome, an observer could not tell which pupils were from Ireland and which were from Scotland! Both schools are delighted to have received the invitation to join together in Warrington for this concert.

Russell Paterson
Musical Director



Russell Paterson first became interested in choral music as a boy chorister at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. After graduating in Music from Manchester University he went on to become Assistant Musical Director of the renowned Manchester Chorale and, since January 1994, has been the Musical Director of the Warrington Male Voice Choir.

He is a composer and arranger of choral music, and has had compositions performed at the Royal Northern College of Music, the National Concert Hall, Dublin, the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, and the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. His concert appearances include sharing the stage with Jose Carerras and Luciano Pavarotti, and his many media performances include directing live performances on BBC Radio, Classic FM, ITV, S4C, RTE and Channel 4. He is also in demand as a performer, making regular appearances both as a soloist and with the vocal group, Quintessential. Russell is an elected Fellow of the Academy of St. Cecilia.

Anthony Whittaker
Accompanist



Anthony Whittaker is a pianist, organist, composer and singer. He holds the LRAM diploma in piano, ARCO and LTCL diplomas in organ, a BMus (Hons) from the University of London and a MMus in Composition from Liverpool University. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of St. Cecilia and is currently working on his PhD in original composition.

Anthony is a freelance musician and an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, for whom he has worked in the UK, Ireland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. He has directed and accompanied various choirs and, as a performer, has given recitals in the UK and overseas. His media performances include BBC Radio, S4C and RTE. Several of his choral and instrumental compositions have been published. Anthony has been associated with the Warrington Male Voice Choir since December 1994, and is heading the campaign to retain the Cavallé-Coll organ in Warrington.

Bob Williams
Presenter



Bob Williams has completed the Warrington Male Voice Choir's principal 'home' concerts for more than a decade. He has also travelled extensively with the choir and presented major concerts across the island of Ireland as well as in London, Manchester, Scotland and Canada.

In addition to his involvement with the choir, Bob is increasingly being called upon to host charity dinners, and annual business and sports Awards presentations. Most recently he hosted the Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust employee awards night at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

THE PARR HALL CAVAILLÉ-COLL ORGAN

The Parr Hall's magnificent pipe organ, affectionately named the 'Bracewell Queen', is the only tonally unaltered instrument in the United Kingdom produced by the celebrated French organ builder, Aristide Cavallé-Coll - and possibly one of only two in such condition in the World. Originally built in Paris in 1870 for Bracewell Hall, near Skipton, it was removed to Ketton Hall, Rutland in 1883 before being purchased for £2,000 in 1926 by Warrington Corporation for installation in the Parr Hall.

It has become an important part of Warrington's cultural heritage, yet is under threat of being lost to the town, and to the North West, as part of Warrington Borough Council's refurbishment plans for the hall.



Warrington Male Voice Choir, strongly supported by Choir Patron Terry Waite, is opposed to its removal, and takes the view that its loss would demean the Parr Hall as a concert venue.

If you agree that the organ should be retained in the hall, please support the Choir by visiting the website below and signing the on-line petition to the Prime Minister:

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Cavaillecoll/>

Warrington Male Voice Choir pictured in 1992 with the choir's junior section, the Warrington Boys' Choir, in front of the Cavallé-Coll organ.

AN INVITATION TO SING WITH THE CHOIRS

Warrington Male Voice Choir is always delighted to welcome new members. If you are interested in singing with the choir and becoming part of a wonderful fellowship, then please contact **Ian Scholes**, Choir Secretary, telephone **01925 815095** or e-mail ianscholes@warringtonchoir.org.uk

There are no formal auditions, and there is no special requirement to be able to read music. Enthusiastic voices are what are needed.

If you would like to sing with **Harmony in Blue**, please contact

Gareth Roberts, Administrator, on mobile **07802 329392** or email harmonyinblue@warringtonchoir.org.uk

The group welcomes young men over the age of fourteen.

FRIENDS OF WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

J & J Ashcroft, Stone Merchants

Steven Broomhead, Northwest Regional Development Agency

Kath & Neville Davies

Barrie & Muriel Johnson

John Knowles

Mr G Owen

Eileen Mainwaring

Gareth & Jane Roberts

Bill Smith, Design Consultant

Tim Wenmoth, Allmec Engineering

Stephen Westley, Kemtile

Sheila & Neville Woodyatt

Warrington Male Voice Choir has a very long-standing tradition of raising funds for other charities through its concerts. The choir meets its own significant costs principally by the success of the three annual Parr Hall concerts and by maintaining the Friends Scheme. The Scheme has recently been revised and now enables patrons to offer three levels of support, Bronze, Silver or Gold.

If you, or your business, would like to become a Friend of the Choir, to help us help others, please contact **George Hill** on **01925 266762**.

Programme designed by Bill Smith

Warrington Male Voice Choir: UK Registered Charity Number 1015320



www.warringtonchoir.org.uk



KEY CHOIR DIARY DATES 2009

Please note that ticket orders for the choir's special June Parr Hall concert will be accepted from 1st May. To avoid disappointment, book early by telephoning **John Knowles** on the ticket hotline: **01606 42181**.

Saturday 27 June

'At home with Warrington Male Voice'

Parr Hall, Warrington

With guests from WMVC's own ranks

Saturday 19 September

'Voices of the North'

Parr Hall, Warrington

With The Houghton Weavers

Friday/Saturday 18/19 December

'Christmas Voices Christmas Brass'

Parr Hall, Warrington

With Bactiguard Wire Brass

WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR VOICES IN THE HALL SEASON 2009

'Spring in Parr Hall'

WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

Musical Director: **Russell Paterson**

Accompanist: **Anthony Whittaker**

CENTENARY THEATRE COMPANY

Compilation and Direction: **John Corcoran**

Accompanist: **David Wheeler**

HARMONY IN BLUE

Musical Director: **Russell Paterson**

ANTHONY WHITTAKER

Organist

The children of

NAVAN EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL County Meath, Ireland

ST. PETER'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL Dalbeattie, Scotland

Presenter: **Bob Williams**

SATURDAY 25th April, PARR HALL, WARRINGTON

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