

Newsletter

New Year 2012

A message from Catherine & Annie



Well, the unseasonal weather when we first started rehearsing for Christmas seems a very long time ago now, and we've managed a little bit of snow & ice but fortunately not the Big Freeze which we had to endure during last year's concert season! As a result all the Cantata Choirs concerts were well-attended and great fun for all involved. Read more about the action-packed Christmas season... And we've got another year of exciting events lined up for you.



Updates can be found on our website:

www.cantatamusic.org

Christmas with Cantata Choirs...



Singing in the Stable—Cantata comes to Tatton!

We had a great series of Christmas concerts and events, with concerts for all our choirs, including the newest addition to the Cantata Family—WOWsingers in Wilmslow. More of them later... We also managed to go out & about to sing for a variety of community groups such as the Stroke Communication Group in Poynton, Cavendish Court residents in Alderley Edge and of course, for visitors to the living nativity at Tatton Home Farm.

A big thank you to everyone who put so much effort into making the Christmas season so special. It was such a relief for us to have so many good audiences after the disappointments of last winter. We had lots of lovely feedback on all the choirs. More pictures of concert events over the page....



More scenes from the stable...



Margaret from Mace practising for helping Santa next year!



ANOTHER NEW CHOIR WOW!



A warm welcome to the newest members of the Cantata Family—WOW Singers! 'Wilmslow on Wednesdays' started life on 14th September and here they are pictured at their first concert only 11 weeks later.

WOWsingers is a small choir, usually numbering around 8/10, with 12 on a good day. But what these lovely ladies lack in numbers, they certainly make up for with quality singing. They make a super sound on a Wednesday morning and would dearly love some more people to come and join them. So if you know of anyone in the Wilmslow/Alderley area who would enjoy singing for an hour, tell them to come along to Chapel Court on Hawthorn Street at 11am on Wednesdays.

DIARY DATES:

- **Choirs resume w/b 9th January**
- **Thurs 12th Jan:** 7pm—10pm Cultural Olympiad rehearsal at Poynton Methodist Church (with Matt Baker)
- **Sun 26th Feb:** 2pm—6pm Cultural Olympiad rehearsal in Chester
- **Sat 3rd March:** 10am final rehearsal at the Chester Amphitheatre, then 2pm performance w/b 13th Feb: Half term for all choirs

GARETH IN THE TELEGRAPH

Britain's favourite Choir Master was the subject of a recent article in the Daily Telegraph...



Singing refreshes the parts other forms of entertainment can't reach. If we are honest, not many of us are up to snuff when it comes to synchronised dancing in public. Many thrust themselves upon stage to act, but it's mostly excruciating to watch...

No, singing is the most democratic, inclusive and, above all, forgiving art form. Even if few in a choir are good enough to turn out a solo, a choir is a microcosm of a perfect society in which the good smother the bad and the ugly to create a satisfying whole. In every sense, it's all about harmony.

The other useful thing about choral singing is that it's a broad church - in fact, it's mostly not about church at all. The repertoire stretches from complex polyphony to boilerplate three-chord ballads.

Singing in a choir answers a deep human need for community. It explains why rugby teams and football crowds open their larynxes in unison. Perhaps they wouldn't want to put it into words, but the instinct to be a cog of a larger musical mechanism is all about a group giving expression to its own coherence. It's the team strip, but in the form of sound.

Of course, we already know all this, but you may have friends who haven't yet experienced the joys of singing! If that's the case, bring them along to the first rehearsal of the new season and get them hooked!



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The combined choirs of MAPS & Dawn Chorus

Here are another couple of photos of Christmas concerts. Apologies to WAKS Lyrical and CounterPoynt that we didn't manage to get any photos of you in performance. Maybe there are some pics lurking out there which you could send to us... There seemed to be several people snapping away at the concerts and it would be lovely to have a photographic record of your excellent performances.

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The ever-increasing numbers at MACC