

BECKENHAM JUNIOR CHOIR and BECKENHAM YOUTH VOICES

A BRIEF LOOK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

Beckenham Junior Choir was established in 1993 to provide an opportunity for girls and boys aged six to eleven to enjoy music making away from a school environment and to perform different styles of singing in a variety of venues. At least a dozen schools are usually represented. The Youth Voices began in 2004 for the 11+ age group.
First meeting - Wednesday, October 13th, 1993

First concert - Wednesday, December 15th, 1993 at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main item: "Jonah-Man Jazz," by Michael Hurd. Instrumental soloists: Michael Segal (organ) and Karen Adams (piano).

Saturday, March 12th, 1994 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Items included "Going West," by Barry Hart and Terence-J Cooling. Soloists: Mary Smith (piano) and Lucy Steel (horn).

Saturday, June 18th, 1994 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Included "Captain Coram's Kids" and "Jonah-Man Jazz" by Michael Hurd, and "Going West" by Hart and Cooling. Soloist: Andrew Walker (clarinet).

The annual picnic at Croydon Road Recreation Ground in Beckenham began this summer, on the Wednesday following the summer concert.

Saturday, October 15th, 1994 - singing from 1.00p.m. at the Craft Fair at Beckenham Baptist Church.

Saturday, November 26th, 1994 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main item: "Captain Coram's Kids," by Michael Hurd. Instrumentalists: recorder consort from Dartford Girls' Grammar School and Anna Dibsall (cello).

Saturday, March 25th, 1995 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main item: "Adam in Eden," by Michael Hurd. Instrumentalists: Antonia Duffield and Rebecca Applewhite (saxophone and piano).

Summer Term 1995 - James Olsen became involved in helping to run the Choir.

Saturday, July 8th, 1995 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main item: "Mister Punch," by Michael Hurd. The children themselves were the instrumental soloists.

Friday and Saturday, October 6th. and 7th, 1995 - Community Day at Beckenham Baptist Church, at which the Choir had a stall.

Saturday, November 25th, 1995 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Sweeney Todd, the Barber," by Carey Blyton (who attended). Serena Aylward sang "The Water-Melon Seller" and "Twilight," by Aubrey Beswick. Instrumentalists: Sarah Humphrey (alto saxophone), Claire Bridge (flute) and Anna Dibsall (piano).

Wednesday, December 20th, 1995 - Christmas concert at Beckenham Baptist Church.

Instrumental music came from James Olsen (horn) and from two organists: Marissa Evans and Revd. Kenneth Walker.

Saturday, March 23rd, 1996 - "Come to the Fair": concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Rooster Rag," by Michael Hurd. Soloists: Sam Dwinell (recorder) and Nicholas Bryant (treble singer).

Saturday, July 6th, 1996 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work "Rooster Rag," by Michael Hurd. Instrumental musicians: Marissa Evans and Clare Moody (piano duet), Natalie Sooboodoo (trumpet) and John Webber (organ).

Saturday, November 2nd, 1996 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Jonah-Man Jazz," by Michael Hurd. Guest: Alysha Deionno (bassoon).

Sunday, November 10th, 1996 - performance of "Jonah-Man Jazz" at St. John's Church, East Dulwich.

Wednesday, December 18th, 1996 - Christmas concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Christmas Cards," by Barry Hart, who was invited and attended. Instrumental items from Ken Walker and Serena Aylward (organ) and Julia Capon (oboe).

Saturday, March 1st, 1997 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Going West". Instrumentalist: Holly Hawks (flute).

Saturday, July 12th, 1997 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church, in aid of their Romanian link Church in Bucharest. Main work: "Dracula," by Carey Blyton. Instrumentalists: Gemma Wearing (clarinet) and Serena Aylward (recorder).

Saturday, October 25th, 1997 - singing in Bromley Town Centre.

Saturday, November 29th, 1997 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Captain Coram's Kids," by Michael Hurd. Instrumentalist: Martin Kingston (cello).

Wednesday, December 17th, 1997 - Christmas concert at Beckenham Baptist church. Main item: "Christmas Cards," by Barry Hart. Instrumental music included some organ solos from Ken Walker and Michael Segal.

From Spring 1998, Michael Segal and Louisa Abraham assisted in the running of the Choir.

Friday, May 8th, 1998 - concert at Beckenham Public Hall. Main work: "Mister Punch," by Michael Hurd, starring Owen Grafham. Guest musicians; the Senior Wind Quintet of the Bromley Youth Music Trust.

Saturday, June 27th, 1998 - concert at Holy Trinity Church, Beckenham. Invited musicians; Stuart Kale (tenor) and Rowland Sillito (clarinet).

Saturday, July 4th, 1998 - concert at St. James's Church, Elmers End. We invited Cannington Young people's Orchestra from Somerset (director: Jackie Ayres) to share the programme with us.

Saturday, October 17th, 1998 - workshop at Balgowan Primary School, Beckenham, led by Tessa Fineman.

Wednesday, December 16th, 1998 - Christmas concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main item: "Dick Whittington," by Jan Holdstock. Organ music came from Revd. Kenneth Walker and the trumpet soloist was Ben Reeve.

Sunday, January 3rd, 1999 - items sung at carol service at St. George's Church, Bickley.

Sunday, February 21st, 1999 - Choral Evensong at St. George's, Beckenham. Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by John Wood; anthem: "Examine me, O Lord," by William Boyce. Some Choir Mums augmented the children's voices.

Saturday, May 8th, 1999 - concert at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Main work: "Jonah-Man Jazz". Instrumental items from Serena Aylward and Marissa Evans (recorders) and Luke Aylward (saxophone).

Wednesday, June 30th, 1999 - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church, directed by James Olsen in his last official appearance as Assistant Director. Solo tenor: Dominic Greer.

Summer 1999 - the last founder member, Elizabeth Spicer, left the Choir as she moved on to her secondary school after six years with us!

From September 1999, Serena Aylward joined the team.

Wednesday, December 15th, 1999 - Christmas concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Main work: "Cinderella," by Peter Hutchings. Soloist: Jonathan Abraham (trumpet).

Saturday, March 4th, 2000 - concert at Beckenham Methodist Church. Soloist: Helena Nicholls (violin and clarinet).

Friday, April 7th, - concert at Anerley Town Hall. Main work: "The Golden Touch," by James Olsen. Instrumental soloists: Bryony Mycroft and Celal Kazim.

Saturday, July 8th. - concert at St. John's Church, Eden Park. Main work: "Sweeney Todd, the Barber," by Carey Blyton. Guest soloist: Lisa Matthews (soprano).

Wednesday, December 14th. - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Included "Christmas Cards" by Barry Hart. Guest soloist: Rosemary Beecher Bryant (viola).

Saturday, February 3rd. 2001 – joined an augmented choir, gathered and directed by John, for Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral, by London Bridge. Michael Segal contributed an organ piece; the sung items included music by S S Wesley and Herbert Murrill.

Saturday, April 7th. – concert at St. Paul's Church, New Beckenham. Included "Jonah-Man Jazz". Our soloist was Timothy Walker (oboe).

Saturday, June 16th. – a second workshop with Tessa Fineman at Balgowan School.

Saturday, July 7th. – concert at St. George's Hall, Albemarle Road, Beckenham. Main item: "Up the Beanstalk," with music by Peter Hutchings. This was the last concert with Michael Segal and Louisa Abraham as assistants before their "gap" year and university.

Sunday, October 28th. – Choral Evensong at St. George's Church, Beckenham.

Wednesday, December 12th. – Christmas Concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Included "Dick

Whittington," by Jan Holdstock. Guest soloist: Rebecca Segal (violin).

Saturday, February 16th. 2002 – contribution ("The Policeman's Song" from "The Pirates of Penzance") at a Gilbert and Sullivan evening at Beckenham Methodist Church.

Saturday, March 2nd. – several items contributed to a Young People's Concert at St. George's Church, Beckenham.

Friday, March 15th. – Concert at Public Halls, Beckenham. Main work: "Yanomamo," about the rain forests, by Peter Rose. Guests: Crockenhill School Wind Band.

Saturday, May 11th. – Concert at St. Edmund's Church, Southwold, on the Suffolk coast, including "Yanomamo".

Saturday, July 6th. – Concert at Beckenham Baptist Church jointly with the Elm Singers. Madrigals, folk and popular songs, spirituals, solos, duets and "Jonah-Man Jazz". We raised £331 for Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Saturday, November 9th. – "Dracula," by Carey Blyton and other items in a Concert at St. George's, Beckenham, celebrating famous local people. We were accompanied by the Crystal Palace Band. Guest pianist: Tom Chapman.

Wednesday, December 12th. – Christmas Concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Guest soloist: Kay Whitehead (violin).

Saturday, February 8th, 2003 – Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral with many other singers.

Wednesday, February 19th – a group of children sang to the residents of Isard House, Hayes

Saturday, April 5th. – concert at Elmers End Free Church. Main work: "The Enormous Turnip," by Jean Gracie (based on the Russian folk tale). Guest pianist: Tim Segal; guest soloist: Luke Aylward (saxophone).

Saturday, July 5th. – concert at St. Mary's, Shortlands. Main work: "Alexis, the Circus Boy," by Jan Holdstock. Guests: the orchestra of Hayes Primary School. Our regular pianists are now Tom Chapman and Rebecca Segal.

Saturday, October 11th. – concert at Bencurtis Park (retirement settlement) in West Wickham. Guest soloist: Jessica Rogers (flute).

Wednesday, December 10th. – Christmas music at Beckenham Baptist Church, including "Christmas Cards," by Barry Hart. Additional pianist: Judith Goddard; guest soloist Catherine Tucker (oboe).

Friday, March 26th, 2004 – concert at Anerley Town Hall. Main work: "The Singing Game," by Barry Hart. Guest soloist: Kay Whitehead (violin).

Saturday, May 8th. – concert at St. James's Church, North Cray. Main work: "The Singing Game," by Barry Hart. Guest musicians: Crockenhill School Wind Band.

Saturday, July 3rd. – concert at Eastbourne Parish Church (St. Mary's, Old Town). Main work: "Rooster Rag," by Michael Hurd. Instrumental contributions from Nathan Waterfield (saxophone), Tomek Edwards (trumpet) and Becky Segal (violin).

September 8th. – Beckenham Youth Voices (BYV) began today. It meets after the younger group and caters for girls and boys aged 11 to 14.

Saturday, October 2nd. – 45 minutes' of singing at Crofton Halls, Orpington, where BJC and BYV were the guests of Bromley Talking Newspaper for the Blind.

Saturday, October 9th. – BYV and older members sang at the Evening Mass at St. Edmund's, Beckenham. For this service, 320 people were present. Music included Taize chants, a responsorial psalm and a mass setting; three people sang solos and former member Rebecca Warren provided organ music.

Following the service, the combined Choirs gave a concert, in which "Rooster Rag" by Michael Hurd was the main item and the guest soloist was Libby Coates (trumpet).

Friday, October 22nd. – the joint Choirs were featured in "Clubwatch" in the local paper, the Kent Messenger.

Saturday, December 4th. – BYV and older members of BJC were invited to be guests of the Crystal Palace Band at their concert at St. Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham. Included "Three Canadian Folk Songs," by Carey Blyton (with Terry Heard, clarinet).

Wednesday, December 8th. – concert at Beckenham Baptist Church, Elm Road. Guest flautist: Naomi Lask. Included "Three Canadian Folk Songs," by Carey Blyton (with Terry Heard, clarinet).

Saturday, January 29th, 2005 – BJC and BYV joined other singers (about 130 in all) for Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral.

Saturday, March 5th. – BYV in Young People's Concert at St. George's, Beckenham. Included solos and items for all of BYV together.

Saturday, March 19th. – Workshop, run by Tessa Fineman, at Balgowan Primary School, Beckenham. Over thirty children attended.

Saturday, April 23rd. – concert by BJC and BYV at Penge Congregational Church. With piccolo music from Hari Waterfield.

Saturday, July 9th. – concert at St. George's Hall, Albemarle Road, Beckenham. Included a production of "Jack and the Beanstalk," with words by Roald Dahl and music by Matthew White and Ana Sanderson. Our guests were 26 children from Weald Primary School, who both played and sang. Very hot - about 200 in the audience!

Saturday, October 1st. – Mass at St. Edmund's, Beckenham, sung by BJC Yr.6 and BYV. Organist: Becky Warren, who is now one of our regular pianists, too.

Saturday, October 15th. – Concert at Goddard Road URC, Elmers End, with Julian Bell and Tomek Edwards, guest trumpeters.

Wednesday, November 2nd. – BYV members joined an augmented choir at St. John's, East Dulwich for a liturgical performance of the Requiem, by Gabriel Faure.

Wednesday, December 7th. – concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Guest instrumentalists: Catherine Tucker and Emily Chapman, oboes.

Friday, March 31st, 2006 – concert at St. David's College, West Wickham. Our own large

instrumental ensemble accompanied some of the singing . BJC sang "Captain Coram's Kids" and BYV (and a few of BJC) sang "Jonah-Man Jazz," both by Michal Hurd.

Saturday, May 13th. – concert at SS Peter and Paul, Newchurch, on Romney Marsh. Guest soloist: Luke Baxter, violin.

Saturday, July 8th. – concert at St. James's, Elmers End. A joint event with the Crystal Palace Band. This was Becky Segal's last concert as one of our pianists.

Friday, September 1st. – lunch-time recital at St. George's, Beckenham. Members of BJC and BYV sang solos and all sang "Jonah-Man Jazz," by Michael Hurd.

Saturday, October 14th. – concert at St. Mary's, Hayes Village, including our instrumental ensemble.

Wednesday, December 6th. – concert at Beckenham Baptist Church. Soloist: Catherine Tucker (oboe).

Friday, December 22nd. – some of the Choirs sang outside on Beckenham Green in a pre-Christmas outdoor fair, organised by Beckenham Town Centre management.

Saturday, January 27th, 2007 – many of the two Choirs sang with a large body of singers for Choral Evensong at Rochester Cathedral, under the name "Amici Cantantes". Music included canticles in G by C V Stanford and the anthem "O thou, the central orb," by Charles Wood.

Saturday, March 17th. – concert at St. John's, Eden Park, together with Beckenham Concert Band.

Saturday, May 19th. – concert at Beckenham Methodist Church in Bromley Road, with our instrumental ensemble. Programme shared with the Elm Singers.

Sunday, June 10th. – performance at St. Barnabas' Church, Dulwich Village, SE21. Seventeen members of the two Choirs made up the Gallery Choir in Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas".

Saturday, July 7th. – concert at St. John's, East Dulwich, SE22. Members of St. John's Church Choir joined us for a few items. This was Tom Chapman's last concert as one of our pianists.

Saturday, October 13th. - concert at Beckenham Baptist Church with Beckenham Concert Band. This was the first concert with new regular pianists Charlie Warren, George Godsmark and Sophie Kale.

Wednesday, December 5th. – concert at St. James's Church, Elmers End, with our own string and woodwind ensemble. Included "Three Canadian Carols," by Carey Blyton (obbligato: Terry Heard)..

Saturday, March 8th. – concert at Penge Congregational Church in their centenary year. With our own brass group. Included "Sweeney Todd," by Carey Blyton.

Saturday, May 17th. – concert at St. Nicolas' Church, Brighton. Included "Sweeney Todd," by Carey Blyton and violin solos played by Luke Baxter.

Saturday, June 28th. – concert at Christ Church, Anerley. Included "Yanomamo," by Peter Rose.

Friday, August 22nd. – lunchtime recital at St. George's, Beckenham by members of BJC and BYV.