



singalong

Beckenham Youth
Voices

sponsored by



Autumn 2019

The newsletter for the members and friends of Beckenham Junior Choir and Youth Voices

25 years and the Brothers make a comeback!



BJC 25 Year Anniversary

October 2018 marked the 25th anniversary of Beckenham Junior Choir. We celebrated with a short concert followed by the obligatory cake!



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Fraser

Lion Opera - One of Our Lions is Missing by James Olsen

Our second opera with James Olsen was a HUGE success! Well done to all the singers, especially those who were also acting as well. Jenny and Karen did a great job in getting everyone to such a high standard and a lot of people used weekend afternoons attending special rehearsals for the acting. Lots of other people helped "behind the scenes" and their hard work made a big difference - thank you all.

James's music grew on us and we loved his very personal sense of fun. I learned some Very Long Words from James's script and I am sure that other people did, too! Thanks to him for his time and boundless energy.

John Webber



Photos courtesy of Olsen Verlag



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Fraser

Hayes Free Church Christmas Tree Festival

On December 1st, we sang the opening concert at Hayes Free Church. We performed a lovely concert with guests including the Mayor who lit the many Christmas Trees.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Fraser

www.beckenhamjuniorchoir.co.uk

Recent Concerts



December at St George's

Both choirs performed a really good concert to end our Autumn Term. St. George's Church always makes us very welcome and we had a large audience, a mix of our own loyal families and of lots of friends who like to come and hear us.

This was a very typical and happy occasion and the Choir (with a little encouragement) smiled a lot and looked as if they were enjoying themselves!



Photos courtesy of Ali Holder



Spring at St Michael's

This concert was a classic example of our local, "everyone was involved" sort of event. Beckenham Junior Choir was highly committed and learnt how important it is to watch the conductor, while Beckenham Youth Voices went from one style of song to another without batting an eyelid: country and western to church anthems to Irish ballads. We had a good variety of solos and also a large quantity of pianists, as well as people on violin, 'cello, oboe and flute. There was almost 100% attendance from both Choirs. It was good, as ever, to have a group of adults joining in two items, which improved the four part harmony!

It was great to have a large audience and thanks to everyone for their support. Thank you too to the many individuals who did their bit to make behind the scenes, to let the event flow along so easily.

St. Michael's Church in Beckenham is a lovely building, light and spacious and a pleasure for performing music and we were made very welcome by the clergy.



Photos courtesy of Ali Holder

Youth Voices Sing at Kings College Christmas Service

As every December, BYV sang in the Carol Service at King's College Hospital Christmas service which was attended by staff and patients of the hospital. It was a lovely service followed by a short bus ride to Kennington where we enjoyed a meal at Pizza Express.



Photos courtesy of Ali Holder

January, Evensong at Rochester Cathedral

In January, Youth Voices sang with fifty or so other singers at Rochester Cathedral; Sabrina, a former member, sang a significant solo.

Thank you from the Chair

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Beckenham Junior Choir and Youth Voices this past year.

Whether you sang in BJC, YV, or as an adult accompanying the choirs, your voice made a big difference. We have some lovely and talented individual voices in our group, but it's together that we create a really special musical community.

Those who accompanied us on instruments, or even played a solo, did a fantastic job. You are a great asset to our group.

Thank you parents, carers, and family members for supervising on Wednesdays, helping out at concerts, and for undertaking the many other tasks that make our rehearsals and concerts so successful.

I am extremely grateful to the committee: **Jenny, Joanna, Claire, Kicki, Martin,** and **Chris** for all their work behind the scenes. **Jenny,** in

particular, has been an amazing multi-tasker, turning her hand to stage management, logistics, newsletters and programmes... and even finding time to sing and play piano!

Pete has stepped up brilliantly to the role of sound engineer, and **Chris and Lil** have filled the much needed roles of treasurer and book keeper. At this point, we should also thank **Peter Brooks** as he steps down from the position of book keeper after several years.

Martin has done an excellent job reworking our website and has led a highly effective social media campaign that resulted in several new recruits.

James Olsen generously gave us rights to perform his second 'Lion' opera in November, and came to Beckenham to help us stage it. Thank you James for all your input in bringing this exciting project together.

Mark and Chris Edwards continue to be our stalwart supporters, with Mark accompanying the choirs on Wednesdays and both he and Chris providing our print, publicity and web services. Thank you both for everything you do for us.

The choirs have benefited this year from sponsorship from **Allen Heritage**. Special thanks to Kim Allen and everyone at AH for their support, which, we are pleased to say, continues for another academic year.

And finally, everyone at BJC and YV will join me in saying a huge thank you to **John** and **Stuart** for their ongoing enthusiasm and hard work in preparing our children for performances. It's been a wonderful year.

Niamh
(Chair, BJC/YV)

Salvador Heads to the Brit School!

I joined BYV in September 2016. I have always sung in school choirs, and wanted to strengthen my voice by singing twice a week. I enjoy BYV choir. I like the people, and the opportunity to learn songs that widen my singing repertoire. I really enjoy the Broadstairs concerts and singing carols at Christmas in the hospital.

I play a bit of ukulele and guitar and sing along, but nothing serious. I also played trombone in the school Big Band, which is good practice for reading the bass clef and playing with others. In July I took my LCM Grade 3 musical theatre singing exam and my Grade 5 Jazz dance, and LAMDA Grade 4 Verse and Prose.

My main love is dancing and acting. I do ballet, tap, modern, Jazz, street and acting at Betty Wivell Academy of Dance where I get to perform musical theatre shows, last year we performed *Our House*. I also performed with Beckenham Theatre's youth production as Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* in May half term week.

I applied to the BRIT school for the musical theatre strand, GCSE Key Stage 4. I will be doing yr 10 and 11 there. The application process started when I was 14. Not everyone is

short listed for an interview, so you have to put something memorable in your application form to make you stand out from the thousands of applicants. The catchment area is very wide

For musical theatre you have to sing one of two choices of songs, complete a choreographed dance workshop, and perform a poem or monologue in a drama workshop. I performed *Little Red Riding Hood* by Roald Dahl; as *It was funny comedy*, and *If I Only Had a Brain from Wizard of Oz*. Stuart Kale gave me some very helpful singing lessons before my audition. The dance choreography was taken from the musical *Hairspray*. It was difficult to remember all the steps. I just tried to style it out, and add in my own moves if I forgot any. You also have to be interviewed by the head of the strand you apply for, and another teacher. They asked me why I wanted to study there, and some other questions.

In the audition week they audition about 60 kids for the musical theatre strand per day. It was a long excruciating wait to hear if I was successful. After 23 days I received a letter and when I read that they had offered me a place, I had to read it over several times for it to sink in. I was ecstatic! It felt such a relief to finally know I



had a place as I've always wanted to go there since I was really small. I like all the amazing facilities which include two theatres, various studios, the latest computers and digital equipment, recording studios, camera's dark rooms etc. There is a stage in the canteen and anyone can perform or play music during the lunch break. There are lots of shows and concerts by pupils who attend the school throughout the year which are open to the public

Salvador

Summer in Broadstairs

On July 13th. the Choirs sang at Broadstairs and were joined by the Elm Singers and by members of the Choir of St. John's, East Dulwich.

The choirs sang wonderfully at the concert in Broadstairs. The solos were good, the choir items were great and we had lots of lovely pianists and other players. Thanks to the parents who helped in lots of different ways, too.

The other Choirs were very impressed with your singing and we shall remember the concert for a LONG time - thank you so much!



Maggie Webber - reading the coastal waters forecast, on which the songs were based as we travelled around Britain.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Fraser



Where are they now?

Hannah Knowles

Ella and I have such happy memories of BJC. "Since leaving the Beckenham Junior Choir in 2011 I have continued to sing and perform. As a member of the Youth Opera Company at the Royal Opera House I enjoyed taking part in productions including *La Bohème* on the main stage. I joined the BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy in 2017 and took part in John Adams' *Harmonium* at the First Night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and I also passed my Grade 8 singing exam with Distinction that year. I am currently studying History at the University of Birmingham but I am still enjoying singing. I took part in Sir William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham earlier this year with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra as a member of the University Women's Choir and in Haydn's *The Creation* at the Royal Albert Hall with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra as part of this year's BBC Proms Youth Choir.



Thank you John and BJC for giving me the opportunity to sing and perform, something that I am continuing to enjoy eight years later."

Hannah

Concert Dates for the Diary!

St George's Church Beckenham

Saturday, December 14th. at 11am at
St George's Church, High Street,
Beckenham, BR3 1AX.
(Rehearsal at 10am)

King's College Hospital Carol Service

Thursday, December 19th, at 5pm
Lead by a group of singers to include
members of Beckenham Youth Voices,
and then we'll return to '500 Degrees'
Pizzeria in Clock House, to round off
the day.

BJC & BYV and Beckenham Concert Band Concert

Saturday, March 21st. at 7.00pm at
Holy Trinity, Lennard Road, Penge,
SE20 7LX. (Rehearsal at 4pm)

BJC & BYV Summer Concert

Saturday, July 11th. at 7pm
All Saints, Trewsbury Road, Sydenham
SE26 5DP (Rehearsal at 3.30pm)

You are very welcome to these events, for
which admission is usually free.

Musical Achievements

Klara Trojer

Piano Grade 2, Distinction

Julia Trojer

Piano Grade 1, Distinction

Ella Fraser

Piano Grade 1, Merit
Oboe grade 3, Merit

Rachael Leary

Singing Grade 2, Merit
Flute Grade 5, Merit

Maya Channing

Piano Grade 5, Merit
Flute Grade 4, Distinction

Nehara Fernando

Piano Grade 4, Merit

Olivia Fraser

Singing, Musical Theatre Grade 2, Merit

Salvador Glasgow

Singing, Musical Theatre, Grade 3, Distinction



BeckenhamJuniorChoir

Visit our website for all the photos and to
find out more

www.beckenhamjuniorchoir.co.uk

Our choir needs your help...

Parents fill an important role as Committee members by helping to plan the non-musical aspects of events and by reviewing recent ones. It is always good to admit mothers, fathers, carers of the families of more recent Choir recruits, as the children's own membership gradually changes over the years and there are always roles to fill.

Thank you! John.

Sponsorship Opportunity

The Choir would be pleased to hear from any local businesses that can give sponsorship to the two Choirs. In return we can offer sponsors the opportunity to have their logo on our advertising material, concert programmes and website.

We are largely self-funding, but the cost of music and paying for rehearsal and concert venues mounts up. This would be a chance for local people to work to support children in their community. As we deliberately do not audition the young singers, and keep our membership fees very low, we are open to children of very different individual backgrounds and abilities. The Beckenham Choirs are very unusual in their wide range of music and in having a non-auditioning policy. This is a cause to be encouraged! Our Heads of Sponsorship, Niamh. Brooks and Jenny Fraser, would be pleased to hear from anyone who can offer sponsorship.

BJC & BYV Committee

Chair & Secretary	Niamh Brooks	079038 18570
Treasurer	Chris Chorazewski	08402 3613
Head of Publicity	Jenny Fraser	075527 57910



Join the Friends of BJC & BYV

By joining the Friends of BJC and BYV you will help give children and young people the opportunity to sing, in a friendly and non-competitive musical community.

Friends will receive free copies of the choir newsletter and information on forthcoming concerts.

Should you wish to support the choirs, please contact:

Friends of BJC and BYV Treasurer,
Chris Chorazewski, 39 Churchfields
Road, Beckenham, BR3 4QQ
Email: randmore@yahoo.co.uk.

BJC Account no 79161480.

Sort Code 60-23-22

(use your name as a reference and email our Treasurer Chris Chorazewski)

Come and join us to experience the magic of music

The choir is a not-for-profit organisation.
All are welcome, we don't hold auditions!

**"...the chance to play and make
music with other children
of similar ages from many
different schools..."**

The choirs meet each Wednesday evening during term times
BJC from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm, BYV from 7.20pm to 8.10pm
at Beckenham Baptist Church Hall, Elm Road, Beckenham.

Please get in touch with John Webber on

020 8650 9164

or visit our website for more information

www.beckenhamjuniorchoir.co.uk