



singalong

Beckenham Youth
Voices

sponsored by



Spring 2017

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

One of our Brothers is a Lion!

Our choirs now have an ambitious musical project for 2017, which they hope will create a lasting artistic legacy. They have commissioned James Olsen, a leading young British (Beckenham born) composer ('brilliantly imaginative'—The Guardian), to write a children's opera based on the story of Saint Jerome and the lion. Some gifted mums have already started on the masks and costumes and it promises to be a big hit with children and adults alike.

John Webber said: "I am proud to be associated with James's opera for the Beckenham choirs. I am immensely looking forward to this opportunity for our young musicians to work alongside a composer who has been proved to write for enormously varied groups and individuals."

Having already raised more than half the funds required, Beckenham Junior Choir is hoping that more people or businesses will want to be part of this wonderful musical adventure and become patrons of this project. As well as being invited to the premiere performance on May 20th, this is what is on offer to donors:

- Become a patron of the arts for as little as £50
- See their name and personalised message in the published score
- Create an unforgettable experience for a young musical community
- Give a unique gift to a loved one by having their name on the published score.

Patrons receive a complimentary copy of the score signed by the composer, plus additional benefits (some lion-themed).

To find out more, please contact:

w: jamesolsen.eu/lionopera e: bjc@jamesolsen.eu
t: 020 8650 9164 @beckjuniorchoir

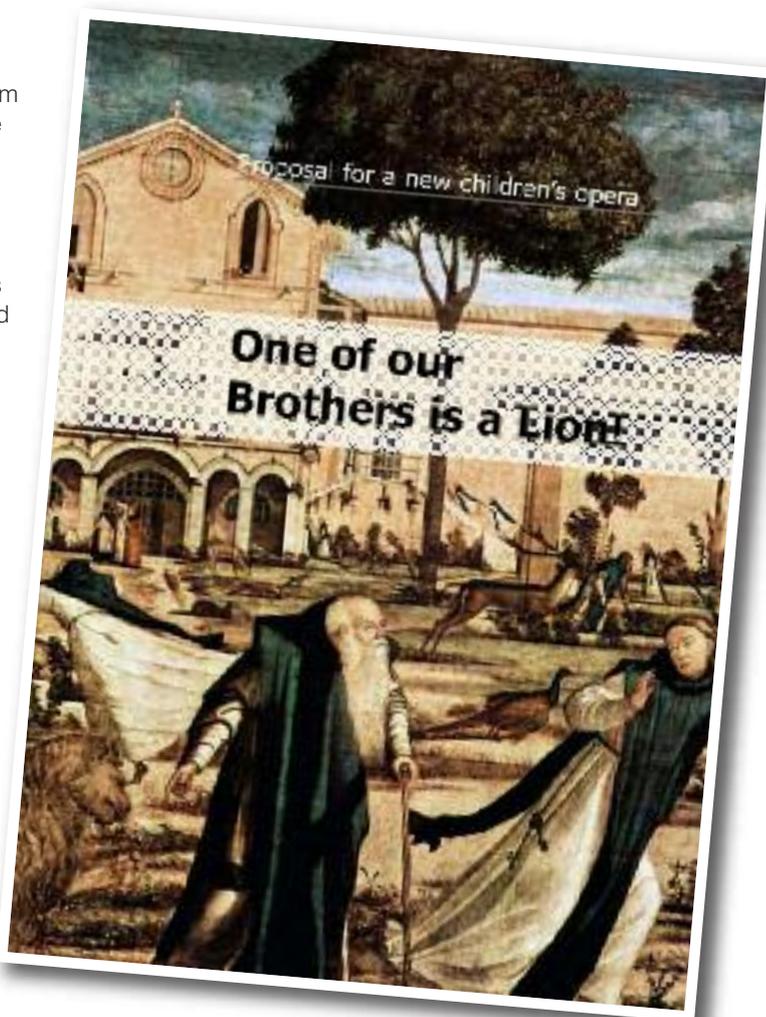


photo by Nick Charles

James Olsen and BJC

James Olsen's link to Beckenham Junior Choir goes back over twenty years, when he came along as our pianist. He also helped with some of the Choir training, whilst still at St. Olave's School. James wrote "The Golden Touch", his first opera, for us in the late 1990s. It was about King Midas and we performed the music at Anerley Town Hall. James went on to write music which was performed at the South Bank and broadcast on the BBC.

John

www.beckenhamjuniorchoir.co.uk

Recent Concerts



Emily Swift Pays us a Visit

It was lovely to see Emily in October when she visited the choirs and sung for us.

"I sang with the Youth Voices from 2009 to 2014, and over that time performed with the choir everywhere from Beckenham, Bromley and Sydenham to Broadstairs and Rochester Cathedral. I loved the variety of music we sang; with show tunes, 70s classics and liturgical settings all making regular appearances. It is fantastic to have had the opportunity to sing such a mixture of music from a young age.

The experiences of singing both in a group and solo which I had with the choir improved my confidence greatly and have given me an ongoing love of singing and appreciation for the diversity of music. I now study medicine at Christ Church, Oxford, where I sing with the college choir. We are very lucky to be able to sing regularly in the beautiful Christ Church Cathedral, and I hope to remain involved in music throughout my time at university.

In October I visited the Youth Voices to say hello and sing them some songs which I had been working on, my favourite of which had to be *Après un Rêve*, one of Gabriel Fauré's 'Trois mélodies'. It was lovely to see some familiar faces, and that BYV is still going strong! I'm so grateful to John and all the people who work hard to make the choir such a great organisation and I wish all current members good luck in their musical pursuits. "

Concert Success

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year with some successful concerts for both BJC and BYV with lots of new members as well as long serving members and look forward to our concert on May 20 when we will perform our Opera!

Junior Choir Concert

14 October 2016 St George's Church

John said: "Well done to the Junior Choir and our many, many pianists for some wonderful music making today, in the first concert of our new season, at St. George's Church in Beckenham High Street. This is a much loved venue for us, as it is a very friendly and welcoming place and light and spacious..."



photo by Jenny Fraser

Some singers had never done a concert before - ever! Others were quite experienced and some even had solos. We had a large and appreciative audience..."

Elm Road Singers Joined BJC and BYV

26 November 2016 Penge Congregational Church

John said: "A terrific occasion which we'll all be remembering for a long time! It was a great building to sing in, and extra good to have the Elm Singers, a very knowledgeable group of musicians, sharing the programme. They were very impressed with you all!"

Junior Choir:

1. Our newest members tried really hard at word learning, watching the bossy conductor and making announcements. Well done to them!
2. The more experienced singers lived up to the expected high standards: paying attention, keeping still at the right time (the behaviour was very good throughout!) and making a grand sound (loud and soft at the right times, etc.).
3. The solos were very special.....and not easy, either!
4. Singing in parts is something which the Junior Choir is starting to achieve well. Another challenge!

Youth Voices:

BYV were "on the ball" every time, starting the songs very well (especially "A foggy day", which begins very suddenly). A highlight has to be "The wild rover", which the audience loved.

Well done to Stella with her flute playing; this gives another dimension to the programme. All the pianists excelled themselves. A big "thank you" to Stuart for his support, as ever. A very high standard was achieved for all the solos which he had prepared.

Thanks to all the people who helped on ways that supported the music and helped it to go so smoothly, such as the food and drinks, the announcement preparation, looking after the Junior Choir, doing the photography, and to Jenny for the welcome and conclusion. Ant Westgarth did a vital job as well as he always does with the sound system. Thanks to Niamh, as Choir Secretary for lots of preparation in advance, only some of which I am aware of!"

BYV at the King's College Hospital Carol Service

21 December 2016

Youth Voices sang with about 25 other singers at St. Luke's Chapel at King's College Hospital on December 21st. and led the music at the annual Carol Service for 200 or more people. This event is hugely appreciated by many patients and their families, as well as members of staff.



photo by Ali Holder

100 Voices Sing Evensong

4th February 2017 in Southwark Cathedral

On February 4th, exactly one hundred singers provided the music for Choral Evensong at Southwark's Anglican Cathedral at London Bridge. BYV was well represented and Stuart Kale heped prepare Sabrina Giampieri-Smith who sang the solo in S S Wesley's "Blesséd be the God and Father". John has brought this group of musicians together every two years since 1999.



photo by Ali Holder

BJC Spring Concert,

11th March 2017 at St Michael's Church, Ravenscroft Road, Beckenahm

The Junior Choir concert on March 11th. at St. Michael's Church in Ravenscroft Road, Beckenham was well received and we had a grateful and enthusiastic audience. This is our first visit to St. Michael's and we were well looked after by Fr. Graham Lunn, who assured us that a return visit would be welcomed.



photo by Ali Holder

Thank You to Our Pianists

It is an enormous help to John that other musicians accompany the Choirs. By using pianists from our families, John can concentrate on the singers and get more from them. This system is very unusual in young choirs. It also gives confidence to those who are more used to playing solos on the piano, at home and in private.



Joe



Maya



Nehara

photos by Jenny Fraser

Musical Achievements

Anna Leary:

Cello Grade 5 - Distinction
School prize - 'Highest attainer in music'

Rachael Leary

Piano Grade 1 - Distinction
Flute Grade 1 - Distinction

Isabel Soole Sanchez

Piano Grade 2 - Merit
Cello Grade 2 - Distinction
Trumpet Grade 4 - Merit

Claudia Adams

Recorder Grade 3

Rachel Leary

Flute Grade 2 (distinction)

A big thank you to...

We would like to express a big thank you to all the volunteers that help with the choirs. Without your help, no matter how small, the choirs wouldn't be able to run so smoothly.

A big thank you to **Ant Westgarth** who looks after our sound system and is at rehearsal every week setting up and packing away, as well as spending a lot of time at every concert setting up the sound system which helps our concerts sound fantastic. He is always there at every event and his help is really appreciated. If anyone would like to help Ant at our concerts or on Wednesday rehearsal setup, please let us know. You will gain a wealth of knowledge too!

Thank you to **Rev Neil Draisey** who gives his time each week to attend the BJC rehearsal and accompany the choir so that John is free to conduct and teach the children their songs. His help is invaluable.

Thank you to **Ali Holder** who looks after our facebook page, **Ant Westgarth** who looks after the twitter account and **Kicki Frisch** who keeps our webpage current. They keep our information up to date on social media so that the world knows what we are doing!

And finally, **Mark and Christina Edwards at Lancasters Design & Marketing**. A big thank you for all the printing of posters, letters and programmes. We appreciate your help.

If you have a skill or just a little time to help with the choirs we would love to hear from you.

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.

BJC & BYV Committee

Chair	Elizabeth Beroud	020 8777 8605
Treasurer	Joanna Carpenter	020 8650 1993
Secretary	Niamh Brooks	07903 818 570
Head of Fundraising	Angela Sevastakis	07885 266 874
Head of Publicity	Jenny Fraser	020 8658 2886



@beckjuniorchoir

Forthcoming Events

Morning Concert

1 April at 11am at St. George's Church, High St, Beckenham BR3 1AX

First Performance of our Opera

20 May at 7pm at Bromley Rd Methodist Church, Beckenham BR3 5JE

Summer Seaside Concert

1 July at 5pm at Holy Trinity Church Broadstairs, Nelson Place CT10 1HQ

Junior Choir Concert

Saturday 14 October at 11 am at St. George's, High Street, Beckenham BR3 1AX

Youth Voices

Wednesday 18 October at 7.30 pm at Beckenham Baptist Church, Elm Road, followed by refreshments.

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 Head of Sponsorship, Angela Sevastakis, would be pleased to hear from anyone who can offer sponsorship.



Join the Friends of BJC & BYV

By joining the Friends of BJC and BYV and if you wish donating to the choirs, you will help give children and young people the opportunity to sing, in a friendly and non-competitive environment. Friends can receive free copies of the choir newsletter and information on forthcoming concerts.

Please return the enclosed letter with your contribution.

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