



Chairperson's message for 2020

Well, what a year this has been, a year like no other which has unfortunately put a hold on Dare to Sing's spectacular progress. It started so well with three excellent concerts. In January we sang with the Cardiff Arms Park Choir, then came the Daffodil Festival in Green Street Chapel followed by a performance at the Royal Mint, Llantrisant. Then the virus struck, and everything stopped.

Little did we anticipate that it would stop us meeting for the rest of the year. There has been some progress however, as Llinos and Rebecca took the initiative and introduced us to Zoom. Each week our music team have met with us on our computers and smart phones and have really kept the spirit of the Choir alive. It is not perfect but at least it keeps us in contact and allows us to keep our songs fresh in our minds. Dare to Sing was also thrilled to hear at the beginning of the year that our brilliant musical director, Llinos Davies, had been awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Music in the Queen's New Year's honours list. It could not have been awarded to a more deserving lady.

Obviously, all our lovely gigs we had lined up for the year have had to be abandoned, however, the various organisers have promised that all being well they will be reorganised for next year, so there is some hope on the horizon.

So, as you can imagine there is not a lot to comment on for this year to date so I'll finish by wishing all our wonderful choristers, patrons and friends a happy Christmas and lets all look positively forward to next year when hopefully we will have beaten this bug and the Choir will be back, doing what we all love, practicing our songs and performing to packed audiences.

Denise

Concerts

2021 Events!

We had some great events planned for this year that we were looking forward to, however lots of these are being rearranged for 2021, including a visit to Hereford Police Choir, and an even bigger and better annual concert - watch this space!

Recording at home

Catch up on Facebook with our tribute to Dame Vera Lynn - all recorded remotely in chorister's households! Along with a great collaboration with Treharris Male Voice Choir.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and our website!

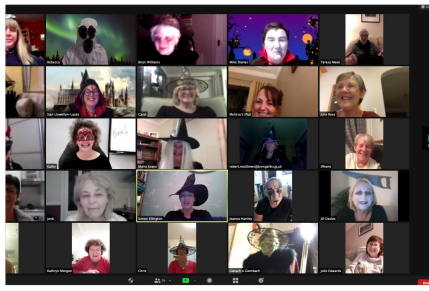
<https://daretosing.co.uk>

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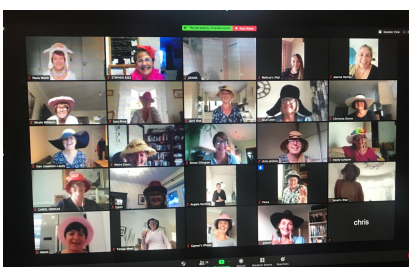
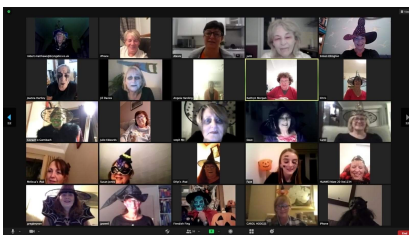
We did manage to get some great concerts in before the lockdown; a visit to the Royal Mint, the Daffodil Festival in Green Street Chapel and a fantastic evening in Cardiff with the Cardiff Arms Park Choir.





..... ZOOM!

Who would have thought we would be partying and practising on Zoom?! Llinos and Rebecca have had us singing, taking part in quizzes and chatting in breakout rooms! An excellent way for us all to still keep connected and keep up with our singing.



Thank you to... as always, Llinos and Rebecca, we couldn't do any of it without you both. Big thanks also to Emma Mann and everyone at Cwmdare Club, we hope to see you open again soon, and a huge thank you to our patrons, friends, family and supporters.

Dare to Sing's Annual Bursary Award

This year we were thrilled when our chosen school, St John the Baptist High School, on being asked to choose a promising student, chose our very own Faye Jones! Faye has been attending Dare to Sing Ladies Choir since 2019 as a trainee accompanist to Rebecca, and we couldn't be prouder! Here is a bit about Faye's music career from her mum and a word from the lady herself.

Faye is currently a pupil at St John's, Aberdare, studying A levels. Faye began playing the piano at the age of 5 and through her love of piano and classical music, Faye has had the opportunity to try out new instruments and join different ensembles. Faye started playing the clarinet and tenor horn through primary school and later developed a love for tuned percussion and drum kit, two years ago. She is currently a member of the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra, Rhondda Cynon Taf Youth Orchestra, Four Counties Youth Orchestra and shadows Rebecca Rabjohns, accompanist for Dare to Sing Choir, to learn new skills and genres of music. She has previously helped out for the Hibernian Brass Band in Mountain Ash and plays the organ at St Winifred's Church in Penrhiwceiber, too. During the pandemic, she has joined Llwydcoed Brass Band and has taken part in virtual concerts and recordings for the band. Faye is hoping to continue her music journey by studying English Literature and Music at university and is grateful for the opportunities she has had.

"I would like to say a massive thank you to Dare to Sing Choir for giving me the support and I am incredibly honoured to play with them in rehearsals and concerts. I've especially enjoyed adding percussion to the performances. Thank you for showing encouragement, and awarding me the Young Musician Bursary, as it will definitely be used for good use. I would also like to thank Mrs. Williams at St John's for nominating me for the bursary. I am excited to get back together and play again."



Merry Christmas! Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021 for all choristers, patrons, families and friends. Keep Zooming and we will meet again soon!