

ATTENTION ALL CHORISTERS: LONDON GIG 7 JULY 2012

Well gang, things are well underway for this stellar choral event. As you are aware, the Choir has now formally committed to being a participant in this internationally sourced Choir of one thousand voices in the 7000 seat auditorium of the magnificent Alexandra Palace which is located on a hilltop set in 196 acres of parkland in North London with spectacular views over London proper.

We have advised the organisers that our numbers will be around 21 – 35 depending on decisions by some choristers who are not currently in a position to commit. This Concert is an opportunity of a lifetime that should not to be missed by any chorister who loves singing, enjoys life, and has the funds and enthusiasm required for this wonderful opportunity. When the Olympic Games were awarded to London in 2007 every arts body in the UK was challenged to contribute to a cultural Olympiad to run throughout the period of the Games. Given Britain's strong choral tradition, it is entirely fitting that the Games Organising Committee accepted a submission from the London Welsh Male Voice Choir (LWMVC) to stage a spectacular Concert incorporating the world premiere of an epic specially commissioned 20 minute choral work. This is the endeavour that our Choir (and you individually) are privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of.

ARC LONDON GIG SUBCOMMITTEE FORMED

The following persons kindly offered their services to assist with ensuring the success of the London Gig:

Ric Dresser (ARC Committee)
Max Brennan (ARC Committee)
Keith Jones (the younger) (ARC Committee)
Des Grayson
Keith Brent
Ian Culloden
Frank Bergersen
Wal Cooper

NEWS FROM "THE FRONT"

The LWMVC has now issued its first Newsletter for participating Choirs and it can be viewed in all its glory and detail on our Choir Website (www.rugbychoir.org.au). Click on the "Latest News" tab, then click on the item "Choralympiad Sheet & Newsletter #1 Sept. 2010" item, then click on "more". Further information is also available by clicking on the related file "Info News 13 Sept 2010". Paul Green has done (and is doing) a wonderful job on our website, so please have a good look at what is there on a regular basis. For those who require quick gratification, click on the following link: www.choralympiad.londonwelshmvc.org/

The Choralympiad Newsletters are mandatory reading for committed London Gig attendees, and are highly recommended reading for those still making up their mind or who merely have a passing interest in what your Choir is doing. As a service for the time challenged, the following are the most significant bits of news:

CONCERT FORMAT:

The **Format** for the Concert is:

1st Half: Each continent performs their own music – 10 minutes for continental section.

2nd Half: Traditional massed choir pieces plus the newly commissioned 20 minute work (4 movements, each self contained) titled “The Hero’s Journey” by composer Karl Jenkins (the most performed living composer in the world).

WHO’S INVOLVED?

The **Musical Director** for the Concert is PAUL BATEMAN (conductor for Royal Philharmonic, Phantom of the Opera, Bryn Terfel, Santana, Sir Paul McCartney etc) and the **Chorus Master and Deputy Conductor** is DR HAYDN JAMES whose amazing conducting skills we have enjoyed twice in the Sydney Opera House and in Carnegie Hall in New York.

The **Compere** for the Concert is HUW EDWARDS (Britain’s most popular television news presenter) and the Concert Band will be the CORY BAND from Rhondda Valley in South Wales. There will be two renowned world class concert soloists – Sir Willard White and Lesley Garrett. Concert **piano accompaniment** will be by Annabel Thwaite – a very attractive young blonde lady who has accompanied the London Welsh MVC since 2004.

The **Concert Choirs** Are:

AUSTRALASIA: Australian Rugby Choir, Melbourne Welsh MVC, National Male Choir of New Zealand, Metropolitan Choir of South Australia, Orange MVC.

EUROPE: London Welsh MVC, City of Cork MVC, Dubna Boys Choir (Moscow), Lira Choir (Slovenia).

AMERICAS: Burlington Welsh (Ontario), Canadian Orpheus, Vancouver Welsh, Saengerfest Men’s Chorus (Boston).

AFRICA: Cape Town MVC, Shoprite Jonge Studente (Cape Town).

ASIA: Hong Kong Welsh MVC, Madras Musical Association.

Nominations are currently being received/considered (by the Music Director and Chorus Master) for the position of **Continental Coordinators** for each Continental Group. Whoever is selected to coordinate the Australasia Group will be responsible for “pulling together” the Continent’s contribution to the first half of the Concert and ensuring common pieces of the 2nd half are up to standard. Wouldn’t it be great if Andrea were to throw her hat in the ring and be selected!!

THE MUSIC

The music for part 2 of the Concert will be provided to each Choir in January 2011, accompanied by a CD of notes on interpretation and Musical Director's preferences.

THE LONDON PROGRAM

Thur 5 July 2012 All Choirs arrive at their hotels in the London area.

Fri 6 July 10.00 – 12.00: Continental rehearsals of 10 minute program for part 1 of Concert.
 13.30 – 14.00: Staging/seating/stage management
 14.00 – 17.00: Full choir rehearsal (mass music + Jenkins commissioned piece).
 18.30 – 21.30: First run of complete choral program.

Sat 7 July 10.11 – 12.00: Rehearsal of 10 minute slots if necessary.
 14.00 – 17.00: Dress rehearsal.
 19.00 : Concert commences

AIR TRAVEL TO LONDON

This aspect will be further discussed by the subcommittee, however the "Carnegie Model" (which was to allow each individual to make their own arrangements) which was highly successful, is likely to be followed for London.

ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON

We are advised that over 800 rooms have been secured in London to accommodate choristers and their partners performing in/attending the Concert. More details on what is available and at what prices will be obtained and advised to you as soon as possible. Collocation of our entire choral contingent in the one hotel for the three days Thur 5 July – Sat 7 July is seen as highly advantageous and will be a goal. Outside of that timeframe, you will be welcome to stay wherever you choose.

WIVES & PARTNERS

There is heaps to do in London and the "Friends of the London Welsh MVC" is developing a program of events (shows, shops, sights etc) for wives and partners so that they can be fully occupied (if they so choose) during the lead up to the Concert while their choral companion is at rehearsals etc on 6 and 7 July.