

HALIFAX

Choral Society

**The world's oldest choral society
Making music continuously since 1817**



*Merry
Christmas*

from

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Carols and Brass, with Black Dyke Band and Bradshaw School choir went with a bang, to an audience of around 1200.

Overheard on the way out of the Victoria Theatre after the concert:

Well, we really enjoyed that! We should make this an annual outing!

That's what we like to hear!

The audience was generous with their money as well as with their praise. We are delighted to say that the bucket collection at the end of the concert in aid of [My Mito Mission](#) raised £1,459.73, to which Gift Aiding added a further

£364.93, making a grand total of £1,824.66!

DON'T FORGET! Our Candlelight *Messiah* at Halifax Minster on 16 December promises to be a magical event - more details [here](#).

Introducing our first Choral Scholar

HCS is committed to encouraging young singers, and to this end we are offering four [Choral Scholarships](#). We'd like to introduce you to soprano Emily Costigan, who is our first Choral Scholar.



You are our first choral scholar - how did you hear about the Halifax Choral Society scholarship?

I heard about the HCS scholarship through Royal Northern College of Music. It was advertised as an external opportunity to gain experience and work with a well established Choral Society.

Have you always been interested in singing?

I started singing at pre-school in an after school club and loved it from then onwards. I was also, as a toddler, forced to record songs by an older sister which I'm still not sure spurred on my interest or hindered it! I continued to sing through school and at university decided it is something I may want to pursue as a career, so after a few years out of higher education I re-focused by auditioning for music colleges.

Where did you grow up, and where do you live now?

I am originally from Oxford, but moved to Leeds for university and stayed there for seven years. I moved to Manchester in 2021 to attend RNCM and am still living there now as I complete my masters.

Do you come from a musical family?

My family is very musical, most of my paternal side attended the Royal College of Music for various instruments. My mother majored in Music at UCLA on cello and academic music. I have four sisters and we have all played some sort of instrument or sung for a period of our lives.

Do you play any musical instruments?

Because my grandfather made stringed instruments as a hobby I played violin and viola all the way through school, but also did piano lessons for many years (but don't ask me to sight read anything!) I have also dabbled with guitar, bagpipes and tenor horn.

What kind of music do you like singing and listening to most?

I sing very different things to what I listen to. I sing a lot of Oratorio and Early Opera, but I have been doing a lot of art song/ lied during my training at RNCM. I love listening to anything live. My favourite opera is *Così fan Tutte*, but I have been know to attend heavy metal gigs. My favourite band is Oh Wonder, although I haven't seen them live yet. I also love to listen to jazz and will never get bored of Ella Fitzgerald's voice.

What is your ambition for the future?

I would really love to have a career that includes singing professionally. I want to perform Oratorio regularly as a soloist travelling around to sing with lovely choral societies like HCS. I would also like to get into the opera scene, focusing mostly on Handel, Mozart or early composers. I think I would also enjoy getting into music education teaching privately or possibly in workshops as I gain more experience.

Did you know ...?



Halifax Choral Society and Black Dyke Trombone Ensemble will be performing again this year in the Spiegeltent erected in The Piece Hall. The word 'spiegeltent' is a combination of the Dutch words for 'mirror' (*spiegel*) and 'tent' and reflects (pun intended) the fact that the original structures made of wood and canvas were decorated with mirrors and stained glass. They started life in the late 19th century as temporary dance halls which could be moved from town to town. Few originals from the late 19th and early 20th centuries survive, but one of the oldest, the splendid De Parel Spiegeltent built in Belgium in 1905, is still in use. Originally, the spiegel tents were part of the 'fin-de-siècle' nightlife, where the mirrors allowed the dancers to make discreet eye contact. Dim lighting and individual booths made them a popular spot for private assignations. One of the most lavishly decorated, The Famous Spiegeltent, dating from 1920, housed the cabaret where Marlene Dietrich sang 'Falling in Love Again' in the 1930s. It's still in use, and is a mainstay of the Edinburgh Festival. Perhaps sadly, visitors to HCS's concert in The Piece Hall Spiegeltent can't expect such a louche experience!

Spring concert



Our Spring concert in 2023 will be Benjamin Britten's *Saint Nicolas* and Fauré's *Requiem* on Saturday 25 March in Halifax Minster. Skipton Camerata will again be providing able accompaniment. The Britten may be less familiar than the Fauré, but is an exciting and interesting piece, which, incidentally, has nothing to do with Christmas! More on this event in a future newsletter, so watch this space!

Dates for your diary:

16 December 2022 Candlelight *Messiah* in Halifax Minster
21 December 2022 Carols in the Piece Hall's Spiegeltent with Black Dyke Trombone Ensemble
25 March 2023 Spring concert in Halifax Minster

If you have any suggestions for what you would like your Newsletter to include, or any queries about HCS, please email

coordinator@halifaxchoral.org.

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