

New Mill Male Voice Choir has lots of perks

To singers.

There are as many reasons for joining a choir as there are members. An affinity with music is a good start. Some singers enjoy a weekly two hours away from day-to-day pressure in the company of men who sing. Others thrive on the company and the camaraderie that spills over into social activities like cycling, crown-green bowling, clay-pigeon shooting and trips to the brewery.

With the help of our professionals (musical director and pianist) we are trained to sing in harmony and prepared for performance. Whatever our starting ability and confidence, most of us improve and want to keep improving, striving for our personal best. Our top times are on tour and at rehearsal weekends away in Scarborough.

To audiences.

A good to excellent varied musical experience: traditional male voice repertoire (hymns, anthems, spirituals, opera), show, folk and pop songs, and novelty items. Great guests and invitations to post-concert parties and tours. Why not become a 'friend' of the choir and receive special benefits?

To the community.

We are asked to sing by many organisations. Some of these concerts are free, but many are not and attracting a paying audience can focus the mind. Receipts may go to local charities and projects (Forget-me-not, MacMillan, Holmfirth Homestart, Holmfirth HS PTA). Local pride in the choir is important to us.

New Mill rehearses between 7.45 and 9.45 on Tuesday nights at New Mill Club.



New Mill Club from the rear, overlooking the bowling green.

For details of booking us, becoming a 'friend', or joining the choir, please consult the website

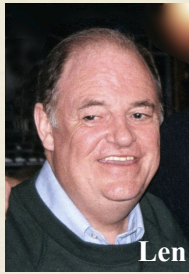


Harmony
Performance
Friendship

www.newmillmvc.org.uk

Beginnings

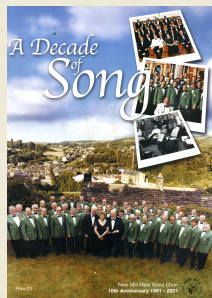
Late 1991, a few regulars at the Duke of Leeds pub in New Mill were having a singsong, when in walked a recently retired Welsh opera singer called Len Williams for a pint or three! So they asked him for some vocal tuition. There were 12 singers at the first rehearsal. By March 1992 this had increased to 20. The first concert was



held at the Durker Roods hotel in Meltham. A private event to prove to the wives and partners that they really were learning to sing each Tuesday.

Early progress

In May 1993, the choir joined 8500 male voices at the Cardiff Arms Park, with guest star, Shirley Bassey. Other early highlights included a concert of massed choirs at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research (October 1997), marking the re-opening of the Holmfirth Picturedrome, singing with Brighouse and Rastrick at The Cutler's Hall in Sheffield (2000), our 10th Anniversary at Huddersfield Town Hall (October 2001), Blackpool Opera House, the country's largest, for 2000 Inner Wheel ladies (2003) and Huddersfield in Harmony at Huddersfield Town Hall (2005), where local choirs raised over £25,000 for the SE Asia Tsunami Appeal.



10th Anniversary video

Terrific Venues

We have been fortunate to sing in some great spaces including: Royal Albert Hall, Cardiff Arms Park, York Minster, Sheffield Cathedral, Fountains Abbey, Elland Road, Scarborough Spa, Blackpool Opera House and Huddersfield Town Hall. In 2013 we attended the Cornish Male Voice Choir Festival where we performed at the Eden Project and Tate St Ives.



York



Star Performers

Our year peaks at the Huddersfield Town Hall when we share the stage with a high profile guest. Singers, conductor and pianist are all on their musical mettle and everyone works hard to ensure a commercial success.

We began in 2006 with Sir Willard White, the world's greatest living bass-baritone. He was followed, in 2008, by Aled Jones, and in 2009, we welcomed the premier Welsh choir, Morriston Orpheus. In 2010 it was Julian Lloyd Webber, accompanied by Di Xiao. Since then our guests have been the Band of the Yorkshire Regiment, Alison Balsom and Young Opera Venture.



International Tours

We have toured abroad since 2000. First in N Italy where we performed at Lake Garda and Venice. At the Roman Arena in Verona we did an impromptu version of *The Anvil Chorus*. The set for Aida was



being built so we had our own special anvil; workmen banging on steel girders with their hammers. Then came visits to the Czech Republic and Catalonia. In Poland we sang at the Frederic Chopin Institute in Warsaw, the Mariecki church in Krakow, Auschwitz and deep down in the Wieliczka Salt Mines. Our latest tour, early 2014, was to Flanders where we sang in Ghent and Bruges Cathedrals and at the Menin Gate. The longer-than-usual time spent together results in a great sound.



Menin Gate

S Yorkshire champions

We were not a competition choir until 2009 when we became South Yorkshire Champions at the Don Valley Festival held at the Elsecar Heritage Centre. We repeated the success in 2010 and came second in 2011. Performing with others helps to measure development, but being judged by a professional adjudicator is something else.

