



# 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

DURHAM  
SCRATCH  
CHOIR

North Road  
Methodist Church

7pm on Sat 19 March 2016

*'For 60 years, every time I opened my mouth to sing, I was told to shut up. Then I saw a choir advertised which welcomes people who think they can't sing...'*

*'I love the Scratch Choir because it's always there whatever else is going on in my life; it's a constant that gives me stability and pleasure in equal measure.'*

# Welcome from our Chair

Phil Earnshaw

Welcome to our choir's Anniversary Concert. We are celebrating twenty years of a choir which started as a temporary phenomenon, a singing class at the Workers Educational Association, but which became a long-standing musical experience in many people's lives. Its staying power draws from the fact that it has always been informal, friendly and, most importantly, fun. That's not to say that the singing has not been taken seriously - it has, as evidenced by the willingness of choir members to assiduously rehearse for the many concerts and events that the choir has put on, up and down the country, over the past two decades. None of this would have been possible, of course, without the expertise, dedication, inspiration and, we have to admit, exceptional patience of our leader Andy Jackson.

Under Andy's direction, the choir remains active and vibrant. So, sit back, relax and enjoy this selection of the choir's twenty years' repertoire.



*'It's time to breathe, relax and share a lovely sound with other people.'*

*'Joining the choir was a gift to myself when I stopped smoking - 10 years ago. Singing is a much healthier addiction! I never want to give up.'*

*'Andy rocks!'*

*'Andy rocks!'*

*Newcomer: 'Does everyone know everyone else in this choir?'*

*Established choir member: 'No, but everyone talks to everyone else...'*



Courtesy of The Northern Echo

DURHAM  
SCRATCH  
CHOIR

*'I always remember our first ever performance - Durham Town Hall on Valentine's Day with the Cobweb Orchestra. We only knew about three songs and were terrified, but we looked really smart in black and white wearing beautiful little rosebud brooches handmade by Ros...'*



*'How much I have loved being part of such a lovely choir - everyone is so friendly and happy, and of course Andy is an amazing choir master, so patient, and he really makes it a fun evening with his sense of humour and the variety of music he chooses'*

*'This choir is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Music has set me free!'*

*'it's the most fun and the most friendly of all the choirs I've sung in'*



## From our Musical Director

Andy Jackson

A **few** words from Andy (there's a first time for most things).

Most of us have an idea of what a choir is: it's people singing together, probably at the same time, hopefully from the same sheet and pronouncing the words in roughly the same way. It gets better than that too. They may sing together in perfect harmony and/or with superb style or expression. They may combine these qualities in such a way that the hairs stand up on the back of your neck or a tear comes unexpectedly to your eye. Singing with other people is, without doubt, one of the most sociable and civilised activities created by humankind.

All the above is true of every sort of choir everywhere in the world, but our little group has yet more to offer because, from our very first meeting, it has welcomed and encouraged people regardless of their singing ability and this inclusive ethos has created a safe place where people can behave in a natural and relaxed way, gradually gaining confidence as they find their voice.

Every Wednesday evening, people arrive tired, sometimes distressed or even depressed, and, two hours later, leave the hall with a more positive outlook on life. Singing makes people better, and it makes better people.

# Running order

Step by Step

Senzenina

Awuthule Ma

Three Swans go sailing

Sylvie

Hungarian Round

Mr Miller

Santo

Lie Down Beside Me

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody

Stand By Me

Only You

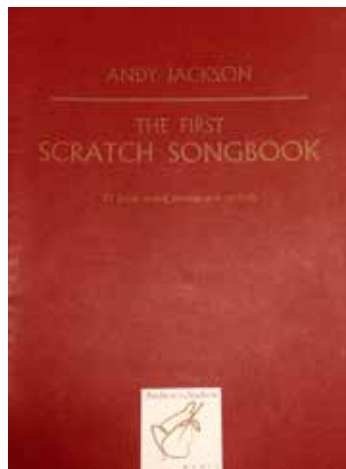
Sit Down

Something Inside So Strong

Food and Music

Belle qui Tiens ma Vie

We are Going



Sing About That Thing

Imagine

Slava Vichnih Bogou

Finlandia

Wait for Me

Gospel Medley

Stand up Now

Take My Heart Into Your Care

Joropo

L'Homme Armé (*'Hand' Film music*)

Nkosi Sikeleli'i Afrika

Final Lullaby

Children

Te Aroha

Morena Morena

Only Remembered

Singin' in the Rain

*Interval*

# Timeline

---

## 1995 – 97

Durham Community Scratch Choir starts life as a W.E.A class ‘*Singing from Scratch*’ in Alington House - led by Andy Jackson.

---

## 1997

**Feb** Our First Concert, on Valentine’s Day ‘Music for Lovers’ with the Cobwebs Orchestra

**June** Concert at Chilton Church Adult Learners Award for Founder Member Neil Bland (Cricket Maker!)

**Sept** Committee is formed to plan and create a People’s Opera

**Nov** Durham Scratch Choir Concert in Durham Town Hall.

---

## 1998

**Feb** Choir name changed temporarily to Durham People’s Opera Group

**May** Concert in Chilton Church

**Oct** ‘*Let’s write an Opera*’ classes with Michael Standen

---

## 1999

**Jan** Workshop on ‘Carmen’ with Opera North at Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

**Feb** Award of £10,000 from the Millennium Festival Fund towards the cost of writing and performing a community opera.

**June** Outdoor Concert at Van Mildert college, Durham University.

**Aug** Andy’s production of ‘*Wyrd Sisters*’ at Bishop Auckland Town hall.

**Oct** ‘*Now Write the Music*’ - short course for creating our own opera.

**Dec** First concert for ‘*Amigos*’ overseas students club at St. Nicholas’ Church.

---

## 2000

**April** Northern Arts grant us £22,400 from Regional Arts Lottery Fund!

**May** Scratch Choir Concert with The Cobwebs Orchestra at St Cuthberts Church.

**May** ‘*Durham Scratch Music Live*’ - a day of workshops at Gilesgate School.

**Sept** ‘*Sing On*’ course with Paul Beck begins - to improve singing technique.

**Sept** Gulbenkian Foundation grants £5,000 towards the Opera Project.

**Oct/Nov** Singing Days at Gilesgate with Alan Fearon.

**Dec** Concert at Darlington Arts Centre with Cobwebs Orchestra.

---

## 2001

**July** The People’s Opera ‘*Sell-By*’, performed at Stanley Lamplight Centre.

Performance of ‘*Sell-By*’ at Linbury Studio COVENT GARDEN.

---

## 2002

**Jan/July** Members help with two film projects:

‘*Tuned-in*’ project at Barbara Priestman School to help the children compose their own song – both words and music.

‘*Lullabies for Grown Ups*’ – looking at the way adults learn and remember. Film premiere at Lumley Castle.

**June** Kirkby Stephen - concert with the Cumbrian Cobweb Orchestra.

**Oct** ‘*The Dark Stream Beneath*’ - music composed by Andy to commemorate Ramsay Rutherford, former choir member.

**Nov** Repeat performance in London at Lauderdale House, Highgate.

---

## 2003

**May** Concert at Reg. Vardy Gallery, Sunderland.

Performance of ‘*In Some Small Way*’ at Crook Library.

**June** Blackhall Park - open-air concert in the new bandstand.

Alnwick - concert party and performance of ‘*In Some Small Way*’.

**Oct** Voices for Hospices at the Lamplight Theatre Stanley - ‘*Carmina Burana*’ with the Cobwebs Orchestra.

---

## 2004

**Jan** First residential weekend at Whitby Youth Hostel.

**May** Launch of ‘*First Scratch Songbook*’ at Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

**Dec** Performance at Newcastle Lit.and Phil to celebrate the launch of poetry by Keith Armstrong to celebrate the launch of poetry collection by Keith Armstrong and friends.

---

## 2005

**Jan** Residential weekend at Minsteracres.

**Aug** Music workshops in the Chapter House, Durham Cathedral  
Informal concerts in Cathedral.

**Nov** Concert at The Sage, Gateshead with Cobweb Orchestra and other N.E groups - performance of Andy’s ‘*A Gospel Requiem*’.

---

## 2006

**Feb** Residential weekend at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.

**July** ‘*A Gospel Requiem*’ performed with Cobwebs Orchestra at Framwellgate Moor Methodist Church.

**July** Performance of Gospel Requiem in Chester-le-Street.

**Aug** Children’s workshops at Durham Cathedral, ending with a performance ‘*A Gospel Requiem*’.

**Oct** ‘*Performance of ‘Words from a Swahili Phrasebook*’ by Keith Armstrong, music by Andy, filmed on the beach at Marsden Rock!

---

## 2007

**Jan** Residential week-end at Whitby.  
**Feb** St Saviours Shotton Colliery, performance of *'A Gospel Requiem'*  
**April** *'Scratchettes'* children's choir is formed under Bridie Jackson.  
**May** Singing from Scratch holiday in the Dordogne.  
**Dec** Pubcrawl round Durham for Marie Curie Care and Butterwicke Hospice.

## 2008

**Jan** Residential weekend at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.  
**Aug** Children's workshops with Bridie Jackson at Cathedral Chapter House.  
Durham Scratch Choir is registered with the Charity Commission.

## 2009

**Jan** Residential weekend at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.  
**July** Summer Concert with Darlington Orchestra.  
**Oct** Voices for Hospices Day performance of *'Heaven Beneath Our Feet'* at Elvet Methodist Church.

## 2010

**Jan** Residential weekend at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.  
**June** WEA Centenary Concert. Elvet Methodist Church.  
**Oct** Scratch Choir and Cobwebs' Cabaret ensemble Concert with Bridie Jackson at Chester-le-Street Community Association.

## 2011

**Jan** Residential weekend in Whitby.  
**May** Foyer performance at Sage Gateshead.  
**Oct** Gospel Requiem in Middlesbrough Town Hall for Voices for Hospices.  
**Dec** Fundraising Concert at Oaks School Spennymoor.

## 2012

**Jan** Residential weekend at Rydal Hall, Cumbria.  
VSO Fundraising Event at County Hall.  
**June** Come and Sing day Gospel Requiem at Elvet Methodist Church.  
**July** Fundraising concert for Oaks School Spennymoor.  
**Sept** Singing in Old Durham Gardens.  
**Oct** Welcome for Tax Justice Bus - songs from *'Heaven Beneath Our Feet'*.

## 2013

**Jan** Residential weekend at Rydal Hall.  
**Mar** Gala Theatre with London Community Gospel Choir.  
**May** St Cuthberts Church Fundraising Concert.  
**July** Visit to *'Darlington Sing'* for combined session.

**Sept** *'Heaven Beneath Our Feet'* - at Wigan Diggers Festival.  
**Oct** Voices for Hospices *'Big Sing'* in Darlington.

## 2014

**Jan** Rydal Hall Residential weekend.  
**Mar** *'Hand Music'* event in Darlington with film maker Anton Hecht.  
**Mar** Joint Session with *'Darlington Sing'* in Durham.  
**May** Lunchtime Performance on Sage Forecourt.  
Concert with N.E. Recorder Orchestra at St George's Jesmond.  
**June** Open Day at Old Durham Gardens.  
**Nov** Singing for Peace at First World War Alternative Remembrance.  
Event in Durham Town Hall.  
**Dec** Carmina Burana Workshop at the Sage with Cobwebs orchestra.  
Seasonal Music at Alnwick Gardens.

## 2015

**Jan** Rydal Hall Residential Weekend.  
**Mar** Joined Darlington Sing for singing and Ceilidh.  
**June** Fundraising Concert at St Mary's Church West Rainton  
Lunchtime Concert in Durham Cathedral.

## 2016

**Jan** Rydal Hall Residential Weekend  
**March 19th** *Celebration Anniversary Concert!*

*Much valuable material provided by Ros.*

*We hope no favourite event has been inadvertently left out...*



*'The Scratch Choir has sung in some pretty unusual places over the years but the one I remember the most was a Saturday afternoon filming on Marsden Beach. Andy wore a Hawaii shirt specially for the occasion - the sun almost shone...'*

---



*'The most enduring (and endearing) thing about the Scratch Choir over 20 years has been Andy's infinite patience with us learning to sing. He still manages to smile no matter how many times we get it wrong!'*

---



*'What it may lack in clinical precision, it makes up for in spades with warmth, inclusiveness, relaxed good humour, and pleasure in shared music making ...'*

---

*'For some of us the Scratch Choir can be a Bridge Over Troubled Water'*

---

*'I came to Durham some years ago as a foreigner and immediately felt warm and welcome in this wonderful choir. Though I'm not an active member anymore it still has a firm place in my heart and I will always remember how the weekly rehearsals helped me to get settled in a foreign country. Thank you.'*

---

*'We laugh a lot!'*

---

