



Let's Sing

2017

THE FINAL

Friday 1 March, 6.30pm
The Hexagon, Reading

£2



THE HEXAGON

Official Programme





THE FINAL

Welcome from the Mayor

Thank you so much for attending tonight's show and supporting this year's Mayoral charities. We are all set for an excellent night of entertainment which will showcase some of the best choirs in the area. I'm really looking forward to the show and hope to see you all cheering on the choirs and having a fantastic night.

Councillor Mohammed Ayub,
Mayor of Reading



Your Compare for the Evening

We're delighted to welcome Ady Williams, former Reading Football Club captain and Radio Berkshire presenter as compare for tonight's competition.

Meet the Judges

We are delighted that the following panel of expert judges will join Cllr Ayub tonight to help choose our winners for 2017.

Andrew Taylor

Andrew has been Music Director of Reading's Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) for 15 years, but his musical upbringing was as a chorister in Earley St. Peter's Church Choir. After reading music at Cardiff University and starting his journey into orchestral conducting, Andrew returned to form the Aldworth Philharmonic and has since conducted over 50 concerts.

Matt Foster

An FE lecturer for over 15 years, Matt now works with The Rock Academy Foundation teaching young people how to create, record and perform new original music alongside teaching music technology at Newbury College and working with local music and arts charity Readipop. With his own organisation, Creative People, he is also actively involved in the local arts community. He is also an active performer and regularly gigs with Ma Bessie, a blues/jazz band that performs the music of Bessie Smith and her contemporaries.

Cllr Marian Livingston

Marian founded this event when she was Mayor in 2014 and is a huge supporter of the local arts scene. We are really pleased she is able to join us once more and we hope she'll be pleased with the wide range of choirs we have performing here tonight.

Meet the Choirs



If you are interested in joining then please contact us via our website – www.barberettes.org.uk or telephone 07917205605 for further information.

The Barberettes

The Barberettes are a group of 38 ladies who sing 4 part a-cappella arrangements of songs from 1900s to the present day. We were founded in 1976 in response to a desire from local women who wanted to sing in the Barbershop style.

We are a true Community choir as we're open to all.

Our ladies are from the local area and come weekly on a Wednesday evening to our rehearsals at St John's Hall in Woodley to escape everyday life and enjoy the freedom of performing this style of music.

What is astounding is that the group is able to produce great sounding music when less than a third of the Chorus read music. They learn their parts purely by hearing the part and constant rehearsing.

We love performing and enjoy sharing our energy with an audience and we hope that you enjoy our performance tonight.



Crosfields Chamber Choir

Crosfields Chamber Choir has around thirty singers from years 6 - 8 who rehearse twice a week. However, only Year 6 pupils are performing tonight. This term we have sung at the Year 6 Performing Arts Roald Dahl Evening, Wellington College's Choral Day and we will be taking six choirs to Woodley Festival at the weekend. In February we went on a choir trip to see the School of Rock as a reward for their commitment to their singing. It is always a pleasure to have an opportunity to sing at the Hexagon and we are excited to be here.



Arborfield Military Wives Choir

The Arborfield Military Wives Choir formed 3 & half years ago but due to the nature of military life we have ladies joining and leaving quite regularly so in essence a new choir is formed every six months or so! We have 10 members currently and our ethos remains to sing, share and support. There are no auditions and we are all amateurs, no experience is necessary to join or any knowledge of reading music. Our Music Director is Dan Ticknor who does a fantastic job bringing out the best in us. We sing songs from the Military Wives Choir repertoire as well as a variety of favourites from across the decades. Through our singing we fundraise for the Military Wives Choir Foundation as well as supporting other charities.

The John Madejski Academy Choir

The John Madejski Academy Choir have been performing as a group for over 10 years now at various events and concerts. As well as performing regularly at school we are also called upon to sing around Reading, most recently at the Light up Reading festival and the Reading Buses Open Day event. This is our first competition and we are looking forward to bringing something a little “different”.



Time to Sing Community Choir

Time to Sing are a small, friendly and social community choir formed in May 2015. The 30 members meet once a week in Earley to sing a wide variety of music ranging from show tunes to pop / rock. We also love singing in close harmony. We love to perform at local events to raise money for local charities and to support the local community and theatre projects in any way we can while having a whole lot of fun in the process. We have had an exciting year performing in a production of the Great British Bump off at the Hexagon and raising funds for Babies in Buscot. We are ably led and accompanied by the very talented Dan Tickner. For more details regarding the choir please see our Facebook Page ‘Time to Sing Community Choir’. We are particularly interested in recruiting some gentlemen at the moment.



St Mary & All Saints Primary

We are a primary school choir that meets as an after school club every week. We love to sing and perform a variety of songs from different musical genres, including tackling a challenging vocal range and harmonies. Our youngest member is still just 6 years old and our oldest is 11. Whilst about half of us have been part of the group for two years now, our newest members only joined this term and have thrown themselves into the challenge of a competition with enthusiasm!



Achoired Taste

Achoired Taste grew out of a teachers choir for Reading and West Berks primary schools annual Junior Music Festival. We now meet weekly at Burghfield St. Mary’s Primary School and have been going for about 7 years. We have grown to include current and retired school staff as well as parents and other members of the local community. We sing at a number of local events including village fetes and hold an annual charity concert at the local church in the summer. Our repertoire ranges from choral classics to popular ballads.

Not everyone is a confident music reader but the choir is always ready to take on new challenges. Although striving to achieve the best sound we can, having fun singing together is at the heart of our choir.





Jewel Tones

Jewel Tones is a choir for girls between the ages of 10 and 18. The choir was started in 2012 by Suzanne Newman who also teaches piano and singing. The choir sings a wide variety of music and regularly take part in concerts, festivals and competitions both locally and further afield. Last year a group from the choir travelled to Wales for a weekend and a trip to Jersey is being planned. Jewel Tones are looking forward to taking part in Let's Sing Reading 2017 and hope you enjoy their performance.

*Musical Director: Suzanne Newman
Accompanist: Mary Daniels*



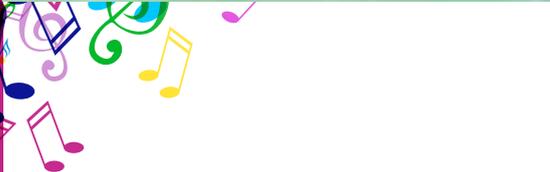
GLorEE

We are a group of singers from St John the Baptist Church in Crowthorne, who have fun singing 'pop' songs we all enjoy and offering them up to God in worship because of their Christian connotations. As well as singing in special services in our church, we also love sharing our songs with the wider community, whether it's out on the Morgan Rec at the May Fair, at our village Flower Festival, with the residents of local homes for the elderly or people out doing their Christmas shopping . . . we also sing at church social events and weddings. Although we are a small group we make up for it with big voices and big personality! We don't read sheet music, and instead take a song and put our own stamp on it . . . we 'GLorEE-fy' it!



St Martin's Glee Club

St. Martin's Glee Club began in 2012 with 10 members. Since then, it has grown to its current size of 42 members (aged between 7 and 11) who meet once a week after school to rehearse and share their love of singing. Glee Club reached the finals of the Barnardo's National Choral Competition in 2015, performing at the Royal Festival Hall. Last year, they were invited back to the Festival Hall to perform once again as part of the Barnardo's Young Supporters concert. For several years, the St. Martin's Glee Club have also performed in the Hexagon as part of charity concerts as well as concerts in school and their own summer cabaret evening.



Readiophonics

Readiophonics is a community A Cappella choir that meets weekly, every Monday evening at Readipop Studios. The group was founded by Readipop in 2016 and is currently led by Nathaniel Simpson. With a modern approach to choir arrangement, Readiophonics performs songs produced by nothing more than the voice, including lyrics, harmonies, bass parts and even percussion!

Bulmershe Ensemble

The Bulmershe Ensemble represent the Bulmershe School which is a Comprehensive school in Woodley with 1200 students from 11-19. The Bulmershe Ensemble was established at the Bulmershe School in January 2014 to enter the Hexagon Mayors Let's Sing Competition. The choir quickly grew from strength to strength with highlights including winning the Mayors let's sing competition in 2015 and 2016, A performance award at the Music for Youth National Festival in 2015 and coming third in Gareth Malone's Best of Britain competition on BBC2 in 2016!

The choir in this year's competition is an all new line up due to previous members moving onto University, Apprenticeships and Work. They are just as keen to work hard and have been inspired by the Ensemble's recent achievements. The choir helps provides the young people in it with a sense of belonging and helps instil confidence and improve self-esteem. The choir is non- auditioned and all are welcome as long as they are prepared to commit.



*Conductor:
Sarah Sharp*

*Assistant Director:
Abi Burrows*

The Sainsbury Singers

The Sainsbury Singers are one of Reading's Premier Musical Societies. Founded in 1938 by a local singing teacher, Frank Sainsbury, (nothing to do with the supermarket!), we stage two musical productions a year. Our next show is 'The Wizard of Oz' from 17th – 20th May 2017 at The Hexagon Theatre.

A registered charity, with a children's group, Kidz Alive, we also perform concerts and raise funds for other charities. Rehearsals are twice a week at the Grange Church, Southcote and we are always looking for new members to appear on stage, assist backstage or help front of House. For further details see www.sainsburysingers.org.uk or like us on Facebook.



Reading Theatretrain

We are delighted to welcome back to Let's Sing, Reading Theatretrain, who will once again entertain you whilst the judges deliberate and choose our final winners. Tonight Theatretrain will perform three special pieces for you;

Nowadays/Hot Honey Rag from Chicago the musical.

Drama performance from Boys Life by Howard Korder.

Jellicle Songs for Jellicle cats from CATS the musical.





The Mayor's Charities

This year the Mayor is fund raising for the following charities.

Dingley's Promise

Dingley's Promise was set up in 1988 and delivers life changing support to under 5's with additional needs & disabilities. The staff and volunteers are amazing and they provide specialist learning through play, provide family support and give advice to mainstream education settings.

The Alzheimer's Society

The Alzheimer's Society help people with dementia caused by the brain being affected by certain diseases or conditions. About 850,000 live with dementia in the UK and two thirds of the cost of dementia is picked up by people with dementia and their families.

Readibus

Readibus have been providing a dial-a-ride service for people in Reading with restricted mobility since 1981 when it was launched by Sir Peter Baldwin and the Mayor of Reading Cllr Basil Dunning outside the Reading Civic Offices. Readibus now drives more than 380,000 miles locally per year.

Find out how you can donate to the Mayor's Charities by visiting www.reading.gov.uk/mayor



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Theatre Regulations

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. No photography, video or tape recording. Please ensure all mobile phones are switched off duration of the performance.

In accordance with the requirements of Reading Borough Council:

1. The Public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and such doors at that time must be kept open.
2. All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction whether permanent or temporary.
3. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or sit in any of the other gangways

*ALL PROCEEDS FROM TONIGHT'S SHOW
GO TO THE MAYOR OF READING'S CHARITY
FUND WHICH THIS YEAR IS SUPPORTING;*

**Dingley's Promise, the Alzheimer's Society
and Readibus**

We will be collecting for the
Mayor's Fund during the interval
and after the concert
in the foyer.

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2017

