



Chorus celebrates best ever convention performance



High spirits and smiles as judges award best ever marks to Capital Chorus

Members of Capital Chorus enjoyed a record-breaking weekend at the annual convention of the British Association of Barbershop Singers, held in Llandudno at the end of May 2015.

The West London club achieved their best ever score from the competition judges. The nine judges awarded them an overall score of 64.2 per cent, placing them 18th out of thirty-six competing choruses.

Afterwards the chorus's recently-appointed Musical Director Pippa Goodall said: *"I am so proud of everyone who took part - we put a lot of hard work into the songs and it obviously showed! I lost count of the amount of people who came up to*

congratulate us, and so many mentioned the enthusiasm you showed on stage, which made me very happy."

The result is an improvement on the chorus's previous best score of 63.6 per cent, achieved last year. Pippa, who was appointed in February as Chorus Director continued:

"if we can do that in 4 months, I am extremely excited to see what we can do with a whole year!"

The chorus's competition set comprised two songs, the First World War ballad "If You Were The Only Girl In The World" and the upbeat revue number "Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia".

You can watch the Capital Chorus convention performances by clicking on the links below

Only Girl https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL_KpLJ2Rno

Sentimental Gentleman <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVuiaVl0q7I>



New Learn to sing course starts soon

[Singers on a previous course](#)

Capital Chorus will once again be running our Successful Learn To Sing in Harmony course during the autumn of 2015, with the first session beginning at 7.45pm on Monday, September 21st.

The course is designed for men, young or old, who'd like to sing with others. We cater for all levels of experience, so whether you've been in a choir before or simply enjoy singing in the shower, you'll be very welcome.

The six week course is always a great deal of fun, and there will be the opportunity at the end to invite family and friends to a special performance where you can impress them with your new-found skills.

You don't need to be able to read music to take part, and all learning materials, including audio teach tracks will be provided. We make a one-off charge of £15 to cover our costs.

The venue is Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfields Avenue, W13 9PR, and you can find more details on our website at <http://www.capitalchorus.co.uk/Learntosing>

Incidentally, if you're wondering, the course covers songs in the male barbershop range –we're happy to put women in touch with choruses who run similar courses for female voices.

Barbershop In Barnes



The annual Barnes Fair (July 11th) is always a great day out with music, entertainment, exhibitions and stalls for all the family. This year, to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, there's a medieval theme. As in previous years Capital Chorus will be there to sing a selection of favourite songs in close harmony. We're on from 11-11;45am, and we hope to see you there.

Behind the scenes. Continuing our series on the work that goes on beneath the radar at Capital Chorus, our bookings manager Rob Nathan gives his....

Top Tips to light up your event with Capital Chorus



Marriage proposals, Christmas Parties, hospital wards, street and community festivals – Capital Chorus can bring joy, humour and jolly good choral entertainment to small and large audiences alike. We have sung in front of 8000 at Saracens’ Rugby ground, and brought more than the occasional tear at other important occasions.

So, how can you get the best out of your event when you hire Capital Chorus? Here are my **Top Tips**:

1 Ask me for advice on whether the full Chorus, a small chorus or one of our quartets would suit your event. You want the show to go brilliantly –so do we! Make sure the space you give us to sing is big enough for the size of the Chorus.

2. Consider background noise – we don’t want it! Four part harmony acapella singing literally requires fine tuning – we need to be able to hear each other, not a rock band close by! I well remember the time we sang at the City of London Festival, only for the Bow Bells to blast their way through what would have been a lovely song!

3. Choosing the songs: our Musical Director Pippa Goodall has the final say, but I can go through our song list and advise you on the range of ballads and upbeat numbers we can sing for you. It would **not** be a good idea for us to sing six ballads to an elderly audience after Christmas lunch!

4. How long will the show be? The minimum is one song!! (one of our quartets did that recently to back up a marriage proposal!). The maximum is probably about 45 minutes, and we can always provide variety with some ‘whole Chorus’ songs interspersed with a couple of quartet numbers.. Consider also two sets of about 20 minutes each.

5. Fees: like everything else, we should agree this up front. We are flexible about our charges, but we do have to cover costs – we all love to entertain, but some guys will be travelling from quite a distance. Rates are always negotiable and depend on the kind of event, numbers of singers, timings and so on.

5 The best events are a collaboration – look on me as your partner – and we can build a fantastic show together that hits just the right spot!

Rob Nathan
Bookings Manager

Quartet Engagement



Happy couple Luke and Laura with Apocappella quartet

“Well, this is strange” said Kuz, our baritone. The four of us were huddled in the far corner of a darkened living-room, our eyes fixed expectantly upon the front door.

Our lead, Greg, had been asked by his friend Luke if our quartet, **Apocappella**, could help with a special mission; Luke was going to propose to his girlfriend Laura on the doorstep of their new home in Uxbridge, and we were hiding inside with a few friends and family to surprise them.

The idea was that as the door opened we would burst into song with “Ain’t Misbehavin”, the number chosen by Luke to express his feelings for Laura. But they were 45 minutes behind schedule and the pitch-pipe had been poised for quite some time.

“Things got a bit tense”, said Greg, “when one guest arrived just before the couple, and started frantically ringing the doorbell and hiding in the bushes. Everything went to plan though, Laura said yes, we sang, and they really enjoyed it, there was even a few tears... Kuz, and afterwards we were invited to enjoy a glass of prosecco with the happy couple”.

As so often happens, the chorus helped hugely with our preparations. Grateful thanks go to Aidan and Pippa, chorus directors past and present, for singing with us in practice when one or other quartet member was away, to Li-Wen for recording us in rehearsal and offering feedback, and to the entire chorus for putting up with the same song week after week. It was worthwhile though, if only for the surprise and delight on the faces of Laura and Luke. You can watch what happened by following the link.

<http://www.getwestlondon.co.uk/news/west-london-news/see-uxbridge-mansheartwarming-barbershop-9472901>



Two of our baritones, Kuz and Li-Wen (left) sing tags with two members of the Cottontown Chorus at the annual BABS convention in Llandudno.

Tag along....

The Tag is one of the most distinctive, and perhaps one of the strangest aspects of barbershop harmony singing. What we do is to take the dramatic bit at the end of a song, and then sing it even more dramatically.

Now it might seem incredibly lazy to bother learning only one small portion of a song, but the tag has an important social function. Wherever barbershoppers gather in large numbers you'll find groups of complete strangers "breaking the ice" by singing a tag or two together.

There are hundreds of tags being continually passed around – so you can share them and swap them, in much the way that children have made friends for generations by sharing their enthusiasm for trading cards.

And because tags tend to be sung with heightened emotion, not to mention volume, you can sometimes sense the singers getting high on the endorphins they help release. Tags really can be quite addictive!

The chorus has recently introduced tags as a part of our regular Monday night rehearsals. You're welcome to join us and try singing one or two for yourself, or you browse huge numbers of tags at the link below.

<http://www.barbershoptags.com/>

Join us on social media



www.facebook.com/CapitalChorus

@Capitalchorus

Visit our website at www.capitalchorus.co.uk

Or come and meet us in person any Monday night at 7;45pm. You'll find us at Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfields Avenue W13 9PR. Map <http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=516906&y=179693&z=0&sv=W13+9PR&st=2&pc=W13+9PR&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf>

Editor; John Beesley.