



www.teesvalleyvoices.org.uk
 email: info@teesvalleyvoices.org.uk

Report for Young Members

1 August 2010 – 31 July 2011

In this year, quite a lot of new singers joined, and you sang well in seven concerts. We started the opera project, and the people running the choir worked hard to make it even stronger.

Activities

The Opera Project. Although we did not get the first amount of money we asked for, we did get a big grant from Youth Music in February. This meant that you could work with composer John Forsyth on the words, tunes, and story for the opera. By the end of the year 'A Kingfisher's Tale' was finished. Middlesbrough College students filmed some of your work. The grant paid Stephanie Ross to learn to conduct the choir, and Katie Hibbard to teach her. In the end, Stephanie was able to conduct *Souallé* in two concerts. Also, seven singers have started work on Arts Awards based on the opera project.



Working with John Forsyth on the story of Act 2

Not everything has gone right. We had hoped that some older singers would be taught how to film sections of the opera so that you could suggest improvements, but the person who was going to help moved away. Changes at the college meant that they could not give as much help. John's wife had to have an operation, so the opera will now be in January 2012.



One good thing has been that we have got to know Sarah Braithwaite who knows a lot about making costumes. Many of you came to Saltholme to her workshop, to look at birds and learn how to make a bird costume and do facepainting.

Amazing facepainting!

Concerts The first one, in October 2010, with Darlington Youth Choir, was called 'Journey to Africa'. Money from the concert helped two DYC members to go to Africa to help in a school. We did two concerts with VOX, a Christmas one, and 'A Summer Cocktail' one in June 2011. Both had songs specially arranged for the choirs to sing together. We took part in the Christmas Cracker charity concert, when you had to work hard to sing from grown-ups' music.



Then we sang for our sponsors at The Wilton Centre, and enjoyed a fantastic lunch afterwards.



Singing with VOX in December 2010

In March you joined Ian Ramsey School singers and orchestra for a concert in their hall.

'The Rhythm of Life' summer concert, pictured on the right, was with the lively Middlesbrough Community Choir at The Trinity Centre, Middlesbrough.





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Running the choir

We were pleased that you took part in the Annual General Meeting on 21 October 2010. A new person started work with the group (the committee) which runs the choir, so now there are five of us. Amanda (Charlotte's Mum) took over from Jan Currie as Treasurer – that's the person who looks after the money. It is very kind of all these busy people to give up their time to help the choir.

The choir became a charity in December 2010, and that helps us in a lot of ways. We also worked on keeping you safe, and making sure that the choir was easy for any singer to join and take part in.

Foster Wheeler, Sabic and The Wilton Centre have given money to help the choir, and the money your parents pay and the money from concerts have all helped to keep the choir going.

Katie and Kate

They have been brilliant at teaching you the music, and how to sing - and making it fun. Katie left to have her baby, but hopes to come back next year. We are very pleased that Kate will continue, and we are working to find another leader.



Kate conducts at the Christmas Cracker Concert



A present for Katie's baby!

To finish: You have been very busy with the choir this year, and we are very proud of your singing and your good behaviour. Lots of people have said that the choir makes a really good sound. Thank you! It would be great if you could encourage other young people to join the choir, as the older ones will eventually leave, and we need a big choir to sing well in concerts.

Please say a big thank you to all the kind people who encourage you to sing in the choir and drive you to rehearsals and concerts.

We who run the choir will carry on working to make sure that there is plenty for you – and those who listen to you - to enjoy in the future.

Joan Carter
Chair, Tees Valley Voices
October 2011

