

# Vivacetc...

*The Newsletter of the Vivace Singers*

**Issue**

**1**

**January '06**

Welcome to Issue 1 of Vivacetc... the official newsletter of the Vivace Singers. We hope you enjoy finding out all about us, what we have been up to recently and what we hope to get up to in the future.

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## Space – the final frontier!

We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding for a new choral work by John Hardy to be entitled *Spaces - Beyond the end of the world*. This piece will be performed in conjunction with Cor Cymru winners 2005, Serendipity as well as Cor Cymru male choir category winners in 2003, Only Men Aloud! The singers will be joined by specially invited instrumentalists on **Saturday 24 June 2006 at Chapter Arts Centre**. Please contact us if you wish to be kept informed of developments relating to this premiere performance.

This work is supported with funds from the Arts Council of Wales and the PRS Foundation.

### **In This Issue:**

Space – the final frontier!  
VivArgentina  
Meet the Singers  
Forthcoming Concerts  
News in Brief

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## VivArgentina: Bound for Buenos Aires

Following our successful adventures in Mexico during 2004, Vivace are delighted and honoured to have been invited to represent Great Britain and Wales in a concert tour, international choral festival and choral competition in September 2007, in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Trelew, Patagonia. The venture will need to be self-funded and we would welcome any suggestions regarding finance raising to take up this prestigious invitation.

# Meet the “Singers”

Ever wondered who's who in Vivace? Who sings high and who sings low? Or what we would be doing if our original career plans had panned out? Well wonder no more. Here's the rough guide....in no particular order

## **KIRSTEN OFFER**

Kirsten is most often found singing amongst the ranks of the second soprano. As the boss lady she dedicates inordinate amounts of time to getting us organised, which is good, because she is quite possibly the most organised person in the world. Being the clever girl that she is, she runs the Vivace website. She loves Marmite, but we are still friends with her in spite of this.

## **SYLVIA STRAND**

Norwegian Sylvia is not only the tallest member of Vivace, but she also boasts the longest hair and the native language with the best swear words. Had her career path gone to plan, Sylvia (a qualified sea captain) would now be at the helm of a replica Viking ship picking up stranded tourists. As it is we are very glad that didn't happen and she now sings with us and arranges top tunes for the girls!

## **KATHERINE SQUIRE**

Mezzo Soprano Katherine's original vocation was to own and run the kind of village post office that would greet pensioners on a Thursday with open arms, but would not have the facility to cope with car taxing and might frequently run out of passport forms. She would however have an in Post Office bakery supplying a variety of freshly baked bread, cakes and pastries.

## **NIA EDWARDS**

Native Welsh speaker Nia is our alternate accompanist and mistress of ensuring that what we sing can actually be understood by the audience – a furrowed brow would indicate we need to “listen and repeat”. We are also convinced that she is related to Emelda Marcos.

## **JO SCULLIN**

When she's not grumbling away on inhumanely low alto lines (so low in fact that only dogs can hear them), Jo can usually be found taking requests for cocktail-lounge music at the pianoforte (hence the nickname and web site “joscullinatthepiano.com”). A self-confessed chocoholic and third-rate “comedienne and tap dancer,” Jo is obsessed with the ITV drama “Bad Girls.” She also enjoys jazz music, and arranging and writing music. She tries to make her arrangements for Vivace hard to sing just for a laugh.

## **MARTHA MCLORINAN**

Martha has the curliest hair in Vivace and because she is the youngest we move her around so that she feels like a chameleon. Always an ensemble to nurture the talents of its members her ability to sing very high and very low is therefore put to good use, as are her excellent sight reading skills.

## **LIZ CORDINGLEY**

When she's not complementing the alto division, Liz is very clever and works as an engineer mending various bits of the BBC. She has lovely Winnie the Pooh socks and a very funny, very dry sense of humour

## **ANNA GEORGE**

Anna is a real live Mummy. She fell naturally into this role as she has had loads of practice looking after us. When the altos are not leading her astray, she is at home with the gorgeous Miss Emily and honing her skills as a cracking bread maker.

## **CAROLINE CARRAGHER**

Caroline used to have the longest hair, but she had it all cut off! She has several piercings and always wears sparkly eye make-up. When she's not singing with the second sopranos in Vivace, she can be found scouring the world for fine wines and beers after her stint working in the off licence, often helping to maintain Jo's appreciation of the delights available.

## **ALISON SHONE**

Soprano Ali is a dedicated Nottingham Forrest supporter who boasts a sweet left foot, and a singing career that started on the terraces. The repertoire she sings now is a little more refined than some of those chants, but recent rumour suggests that she is in the process of arranging the song “Come on you Forrest” for Vivace's next album

# Forthcoming engagements

<p>Friday 17 March 2006 (St Patrick's Day) @1900hrs (1 hour programme no interval)</p>	<p>St Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea</p>
<p>Thursday 23 &amp; Friday 24 March 2006 (private booking for mixed choir)</p>	<p>Recording: Church music of John Ireland - Priory Records</p>
<p>Friday 5 May 2006</p>	<p>Grand Theatre, Swansea. Guest artistes of Gwalia Singers at 40th anniversary concert.</p>
<p>We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding for a new choral work by John Hardy to be entitled <i>Spaces - Beyond the end of the world</i>. This piece will be performed in conjunction with Cor Cymru winners 2005, Serendipity as well as Cor Cymru male choir category winners in 2003, Only Men Aloud! The singers will be joined by specially invited instrumentalists on <b>Saturday 24 June 2006 at Chapter Arts Centre</b>. Please contact us if you wish to be kept informed of developments relating to this premiere performance.</p> <p>This work is supported with funds from the Arts Council of Wales and the PRS Foundation.</p>	
<p>Friday 7 July 2006 (mixed choir)</p>	<p>St Michaels and all Angels, Ledbury @1930hrs. Programme of early music for the Ledbury Festival.</p>
<p>Saturday 29 July 2006</p>	<p>Bishopston Comprehensive School. Guest artistes of Morryston Orpheus Choir at Eisteddfod fundraising concert.</p>

# News in brief

Congratulations to Caroline Carragher on passing her Masters degree.

With Sylvia studying for a doctorate, could we soon take over the world with our amazing knowledge? Watch this space...

We are fast-gaining an international reputation which includes working in collaboration with New York based, award winning composer, Steve Cohen whose work is regularly heard in venues including Carnegie Hall. Vivace Singers premiered a number of his pieces during 2005.

We are also in discussions with Welsh-Canadian composer, Allan Bevan who has sent us some of his pieces to sing.

Watch out for advertisements for a concert featuring guest accompanist Bryan Davies who has kindly offered to play for us for one night only! It promises to be a great evening and is likely to take place in the South Wales Valleys area. Please let us know if you would like more information as it becomes available.