

VOICES ACROSS THE HUMBER

KEY PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS

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Choirs	Hull Choral Union	Chorus Master Laurence Rugg (acting)
	Hull Choral Union Junior Chorus	Leader Gabrielle Awre
	Grimsby Philharmonic Choir	Conductor Susan Hollingworth
	Grimsby Bach Choir	Musical Director Steven Maxson
	Scunthorpe Junior Co-operative Choir	Musical Director Charles Rhodes
Workshop facilitator	Susan Hollingworth	
Steering Group	Suzanne Brown, Susan Hollingworth and Laurence Rugg	
Digital imagery	Sarah Daniels and Jon Robson	
Projection Team	Hull City Hall and Saville's Audiovisual	
Concert Conductor	David Lawrence	
Venue	Hull City Hall	

BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID LAWRENCE

SUSAN HOLLINGWORTH

LAURENCE RUGG

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GRIMSBY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

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DAVID LAWRENCE

David Lawrence Concert Biography



David Lawrence is one of the UK's most versatile conductors, working with orchestras, symphony choruses and national youth choirs. He was recently nominated for a Gramophone Award for his conducting, and currently holds the Guinness World Record for conducting the UK's largest choir - 6,846 singers! David's work has taken him to Singapore, Colombia, Canada, the United States, India, the United Arab Emirates, throughout Europe, and Australia. His positive and engaging manner makes him a popular guest conductor, and he is an experienced and respected trainer of choral conductors. He teaches regularly alongside Ghislaine Morgan in Portugal, and delivers management training and team building through the media of singing and conducting.

With particular experience in the field of contemporary music, David has prepared and conducted première performances by Per Nørgård, Pierre Boulez, Iannis Xenakis, Mauricio Kagel, Graham Fitkin, James Wood, Bob Chilcott and others. As a guest chorusmaster of the Netherlands Radio Choir he has worked with many conductors such as Kenneth Montgomery, Frans Brüggen, and John Adams, and in 2002 working closely with Stockhausen he also conducted this exceptional choir in the German première of Scene II from his opera *Sonntag aus Licht*. David has conducted the London Philharmonic Choir, the Hallé Choir, the CBSO Chorus for whom he is an Associate Conductor, as well as the national youth choirs of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. He has also directed large scale education projects with the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, the English Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and of course the CBSO. In 2011 David conducted an award winning performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Barrier Reef Orchestra in Queensland, and recently conducted the CBSO in a massed performance of *Carmina Burana*, the Orchestra of Opera North with their Inspiration Choir, and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Huddersfield Choral Society for the BBC's Songs of Praise.

David is the conductor of two of the London Symphony Orchestra's Discovery Choirs, and as Principal Conductor of Young Voices, a position he has held for 18 years, directs massed choirs in an annual series of concerts with some choirs incorporating more than 8,000 singers. Forthcoming engagements include a collaboration with Sir Simon Rattle on a Peter Maxwell-Davies premiere, an international Schools Music Festival in China, and this summer David makes his 13th visit to Australia

SUSAN HOLLINGWORTH

A graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music where she studied voice, Susan divides her time between her work as a Choral Director and Music Educator. In 1990 she was awarded a Churchill fellowship for her work with choirs. In 2010, she was awarded "Choir Master of the Year" by the Gramophone Magazine. In 2013 she received a Royal Philharmonic Award for co-directing Cycle Song, an opera for the Cultural Olympiad based on the legendary Scunthorpe Cyclist, Lal White. Over 1500 local residents took part and 4000 people watched the performances.

Susan is Creative Director of The Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir, an open access upper voice choir, which won the overall title of BBC 3 Choir of the Year in 2008. With this choir, she has performed at the opening of the Millennium Dome, at the Sydney Olympics, at The Albert Hall and most of the major venues in the land. They have a national reputation and are ambassadors for Scunthorpe.

She is Musical Director of the Sine Nomine International Touring Choir. All members of this choir are themselves choral directors. This choir has been the guest choir at Presteigne Festival, performed at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester and international festivals in Italy, Spain, Poland and Edinburgh. Susan also conducts the Grimsby Philharmonic Society and the North Lincolnshire based Lydian Choir. With the Lydian Choir, she has toured Southern Spain, the French Alps and rural churches in North of England. This choir has recently commissioned original music from Tim Sutton to be performed in a staged version of Paradise Lost in 2016.

BBC Radio 3 invited Sue to lead performances of the Hallelujah Chorus in Glasgow and London with participants who are new to singing and who were encouraged to join a choir. For the BBC she also conducted an afternoon Family Prom at the Albert Hall and has presented her own edition of The Choir for Radio 3. She has worked for the National Youth Choirs of Scotland and Great Britain and has been a guest conductor for Leeds Lieder.

Sue is a visiting lecturer for the Royal Northern College of Music, an associate lecturer of the Manchester Metropolitan University and has given lectures and seminars for the Universities of Hull, Ripon and St. John, Huddersfield, York, Bath Spa, Cambridge and London. Other Music Education work has included creating Melody Monkey's Marvellous Music Box, being an Advocate for Sing Up, working for the Voices Foundation and she regularly gives workshops for BKA, Sing for Pleasure and Making Music. She has adjudicated for BBC3 Choir of the Year, Coleraine, Elgin and Don Valley festivals. Susan is a Vice President of the Association of British Choral Directors.

LAURENCE RUGG

Laurence was born and brought up in London. He came to Hull to study Music at Hull University. Beginning working life as a peripatetic cello teacher, he soon moved into primary teaching before returning to Hull Music Service as Music Curriculum Co-ordinator. In his time with Hull Music Service, he conducted the City of Hull Youth Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles. Twenty years ago he set up 'Singing Days', a week in June when around 700 primary children come each day to Hull City Hall to sing together. Laurence has also conducted the annual Festival of Carols since his teaching days. For these events, he has written much of the music. Nine years ago, he was invited to take a workshop for a community choir in Orkney. He continues to do this, writing new songs for them each year. His desire to bring music to a wide range of people continues in his work for 'Good Vibrations', a charity which takes gamelan projects into prisons and secure hospitals. In 2015 he was asked to write the music for 'Sing as One', a successful massed choir piece which was performed in Hull City Hall in March 2016 with 10 local choirs and the City of Hull Youth Symphony Orchestra, as part of the Singing City Hull initiative.

Laurence has been acting Conductor for Hull Choral Union during the interregnum 2015-16 and has introduced a different repertoire to the choir, again including some of his own pieces. He is the orchestra secretary of both the Hull Choral Union and Hull Bach Choir and regularly plays the cello in the orchestra of both choirs. He will be engaging the orchestra for this project.

SARAH DANIELS

Since 2000 I have worked as a freelance facilitator, artist, project manager, arts coordinator and designer and have successfully managed and completed numerous long and short-term commissions, contracts, programmes and events, locally, regionally and nationally.

Initially I worked as a freelance photographer where I specialised in collating photographs for books, publications and events but in recent years my work has evolved from its principally photographic base into a design practice that has become cross-disciplinary and thematic in approach. The photographic skills of understanding composition, colour, space, light and surface have been transferred into practice when creating designs for enhancements to multi-million pound public realm and capital-building schemes. Commissions have included hospitals, health centres, schools, public conveniences, libraries and police stations.

I have also been heavily involved in devising, commissioning and project managing arts and learning programmes, which have included outside and festival based pop-up events, gallery exhibitions and cultural excursions aimed at engaging young people and diverse community groups in arts activities, expression and informal education and training. I truly believe that by engaging young people and the community in valuable cultural activities enables them to develop into culturally rich, talented and confident individuals.

HULL CHORAL UNION



Registered Charity No. 1071325

For over 85 years the Hull Choral Union has played a major role in the musical life of the city of Hull. The choir was formed in 1929 when two local societies, Hull Harmonic Society, founded in 1842, and Hull Vocal Society, founded in 1850, amalgamated. Both societies made substantial contributions to the musical life of the city with concerts of oratorios, madrigals, part songs and orchestral items. Occasionally they joined forces, as in June 1914, to mark the royal visit for the opening of King George Dock.

Hull Choral Union originally performed its concerts in Holy Trinity Church. After the war the Queen's Hall was used, before the choir finally moved to the **Hull City Hall**, when it re-opened in 1909 following renovations and Hull Choral Union has had a long association with this magnificent venue ever since, attracting loyal audiences for many years

From 1929 the Hull Choral Union has continued the tradition of performing an ever-extending repertoire from early a cappella music and large-scale oratorios to contemporary works. One of these contemporary works was "Bridge for the Living", a setting by Anthony Hedges of Philip Larkin's poem which was premiered and recorded by the choir in Hull City Hall in 1981 to celebrate the opening of the Humber Bridge.

During each season two major concerts are presented as well as Handel's Messiah or a family Christmas carol concert. Recent highlights include a performance of Verdi's Requiem with the Lincoln Choral Society conducted by Neville Turner and participation in a massed choir concert in Hull called Sing as One. Sing as One was a specially commissioned choral work in 7 movements, created for the massed choirs of Hull, as part of Hull City Council Arts Developments 'Singing City' initiative 2015-2016.

Over the years the choir has had a number of choir masters / conductors including Alec Redshaw (1959 – 1974), Alan Spedding (1974 – 2000), Martin Hindmarsh (2000 – 2010) and Sam Gardner (2010 – 2015). The choir has also worked with guest conductors including Sir Arthur Bliss, Sir Charles Groves, Malcolm Sargent, James Loughran, Richard Hickox, David Lloyd-Jones and Andrew Penny.

Hull Choral Union currently acquires many of its soloists from **Davies Music** (<http://www.daviesmusic.com/>) most of whom have sung on both national and international stages.

The society has always attracted soloists of international reputation and the first season's soloists included Heddle Nash and Isobel Baillie. Early records show the eminent names of Kathleen Ferrier, Norma Proctor and Peter Pears. Della Jones, Lesley Garrett, Stephen Varcoe, Laurence Albert and Willard White have also featured in the society's programme whilst more recently the society has sought to provide a platform for singers who are embarking on their careers.

Hull Choral Union is fortunate to have its own orchestra of local and regional musicians but has also sung with visiting professional orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hallé.

The society is keen to encourage all young people to enjoy singing. The choir has performed with the City of Hull Youth Choir and Symphony Orchestra on several occasions, including Karl Jenkins *The Armed Man* in 2012 and with Yorkshire Young Musicians in 2013. 2009 saw the formation of the Hull Choral Union Junior Chorus for young people aged 7-15.

GRIMSBY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR



Registered Charity No. 702717

President: Hon. Dr. Anne Holmes MBE **Chorus Master:** Susan Hollingworth

General Secretary: Estelle Foulkes, 30, Ings Lane, Waltham, N.E. Lincolnshire

Background:

Based in Grimsby N.E. Lincolnshire, we are one of the area's leading choral societies. Originally established in 1852, the same year that the Grimsby Dock Tower was built, we have undergone a number of changes of name and conductors but, from January 2003, we have performed a variety of classical choral works under the baton of Chorus Master, Susan Hollingworth, who is well known throughout the choral world.

Over time the choir has performed with a number of internationally famous conductors: from 1934 until his death in 1977 the choir's Choral Director was Alec Redshaw, who also conducted the Hull Choral Union from 1959 until 1974. In the early 70's the two choirs joined together for a performance of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis conducted by Alec in Hull City Hall and for a performance of Walton's Belshazzar's Feast, again conducted by Alec, but was performed in Lincoln Cathedral. Since then we have worked with guest conductors such as Sir David Willcocks, his son Jonathan Willcocks, David Lawrence, John Rutter, Andrew Padmore, Andrew Carter, Richard Howarth, Jeremy Jackman and Simon Wright.

We use a variety of forms of accompaniment for our concerts: we have worked with such orchestras as the Manchester Camerata, York Guildhall Orchestra, Viva Chamber Orchestra and Eastern Sinfonia. On occasions we create our own orchestras e.g. the Grimsby Philharmonic and the Grimsby Baroque Orchestra: these are made up of players from the surrounding areas and include players who are teachers with the Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Hull, Lincoln and Doncaster Music Services. As alternative forms of accompaniment we have used organ with such organists as Andrew Shaw, Tony Pinel and Steven Maxson as well as the internationally respected piano duettists Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow.

Our soloists come from a variety of sources: we frequently use **Davies Music**, a classical **music** artist management company which includes Concert Directory

International. For our joint concert with Hull Choral Union and Grimsby Bach Choir during Hull's Year of Culture Jill Davies has already proposed Sarah Leonard as she was a prizewinner in the Great Grimsby Singing Competition in 1983 and was bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate from Hull University in 2014.

For one concert most seasons we like to offer a platform to young and promising soloists, having worked with ones from such music establishments as the Royal Northern College of Music, The Royal Academy of Music in London, The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and The Birmingham Conservatoire, in works such as Mendelssohn's Elijah and Handel's Messiah.

During our time with Susan Hollingworth we have organised various workshops to support the development of current members and encourage new members to join us: their titles include 'Find Your Voice', 'Come and Sing' and 'De-Mystify the Dots!' We are also members of the North East Lincolnshire Hub and where possible work alongside young people to promote the future of musical education in the area.

We are affiliated to Making Music and in 2012, our 160th Anniversary year, we were chosen to take part in their 'Adopt a Composer' scheme. Our composer was Lauren Redhead and the result was 'Grimsby Psalter': the performance was recorded and excerpts were included in a programme on BBC Radio 3.

We have also been involved in a number of joint ventures with such choirs as the Kammerchor Oberpleis V Königswinter, Scunthorpe Choral Society, Lydian Choir and Grimsby Bach Choir. Joint rehearsals / workshops were held and resulted in some very exciting, successful performances of great works such as Haydn's Creation, Verdi Requiem, Bach B Minor Mass, and Elgar's Dream of Gerontius.

GRIMSBY BACH CHOIR

~~Grimsby Bach Choir~~ exists

- to sing choral music from all periods and genres to the highest possible standards
- to seek to innovate in both choice of repertoire and delivery
- to provide education through music to both its members and audiences
- to introduce new people to the joys of choral singing
- to promote high standards of music-making through enjoyment
- to develop, support and encourage emerging musical talent from both the local and wider community

The Choir was formed in November 1968 by its first conductor, Robert Walker, and developed its own identity by performing, annually, two concerts of major works and a Christmas Wassail.

Jeffery Babb was appointed as the Choir's 3rd conductor in 1979, during his time the choir continued to sing with considerable success with works ranging from a cappella 16th Century music and Bach's B Minor Mass, to specially commissioned Madrigals composed by its first Conductor along with music by 20th Century composers including by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Britten, Bernstein, Ravel and Debussy. The Choir has joined forces with other Choral Societies to perform larger 19th century works such as Verdi's "Requiem", while intending to remain a small chamber choir for authentic performances of the Baroque and Classical repertoire. The Choir has visited Germany and has sung with the National Sinfonia and the English Chamber Orchestra. The Choir has also performed on BBC Radio.

The Choir is keen to work with future generations of musicians, and frequently works with local young musicians, as well as using up and coming musicians as soloists and within orchestras, often current students of the country's top music colleges or conservatoires.

November 2001 saw the appointment of Steven Maxson as the Choir's fourth Musical Director since which time the Choir has performed music by composers including Bach, Brahms, Karl Jenkins*, Handel, Haydn, Faure, Mozart, Poulenc, Verdi, Walton amongst others as well as a concert of Jazz. April 2009 saw a performance of Handel's Messiah, as part of the Choir's 40th Anniversary Season. We performed J S Bach's *B Minor Mass* in Grimsby Central Hall in October 2014, with the Grimsby Philharmonic Choir.

*For the Karl Jenkins Requiem we had an Arts Council Grant