

THE DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL OF SINGING

Sheffield

Reg. Charity No. 1043131



sponsored and administered by
The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir

Patron: Mollie Petrie FGSM, FRSA

President: Mark Wildman FRAM, FRSA

Vice-Presidents: Elizabeth Watts Hon. D. Mus
Richard Clover LTCL, FASC
James Kirkwood LRAM, LTCL, ARCM

SINGERS' PLATFORM DAY Handbook and Entry Form

Closing date for entries: 14 November 2015

www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk
email: dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk
The Festival is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals

The object is not to defeat a rival, but to pace each other on the road to excellence.

(H. Walford Davies)

Competitions really help you to develop as a musician because you try to do your best and learn as much as you can.

(A young competitor)

SINGERS' PLATFORM DAY
THE DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL OF SINGING
Sheffield

Reg. Charity No. 1043131

Established 1979

WELCOME TO
THE SINGERS' PLATFORM DAY

Saturday 30 January 2016

Tapton Hall,
Shore Lane, Fulwood,
Sheffield, S10 3BU

Adjudicators: Julia Dewhurst, Mark Wildman, Ralph Green

The David Clover Festival of Singing is affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech of which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron

The Festival is also a member of The Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Regional Forum of The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech



www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk/singers-platform
dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

SINGERS' PLATFORM DAY - PERFORMER INFORMATION

This is a new initiative in the David Clover Festival of Singing and is intended to give the opportunity to singers already studying at Universities and Conservatoires, to postgraduates, and to those being privately tutored, to continue the development of their art with substantial prize money.

Eligibility to this section of the David Clover Festival is for singers between the ages of 19 and 28 on the 30 January 2016. Entrants in the Singers' Platform Day are eligible for classes in this part of the Festival only. Performers will receive further and more specific details of the timetable, procedures, etc., after the final date of the receipt of the Entry Form.

Preparation for the Singers' Platform Day

- It is requested that singers dress appropriately for the occasion
- **An official accompanist** will be available throughout the day, but performers may bring their own if they wish
- Please adhere to all the required deadlines detailed in this handbook

Contact at the time of the Singers' Platform Day - the Festival may be contacted on **07836 474972** or **07762 631613**.

Music for the official accompanist MUST be unfolded and legible and sent to the accompanist by 2 January 2016 in an A4 sized envelope. **It will require a large letter stamp.** Please do **NOT** send music for the official accompanist with the Entry Form or with any other correspondence. **NB: original copies are required by the adjudicator on the day.**

Song Choices - A performer must NOT sing the same piece in more than one class.

CLASSES

Class 1: Recital

A recital of up to 20 minutes chosen from the following:

- (A) An aria from a cantata, opera or oratorio of any period
- (B) 1 or 2 songs, excluding (A), written before the 19th century
- (C) 1 or 2 songs, excluding (A), written during the 19th century
- (D) 1 or 2 art songs, excluding (A), written during the 20th or 21st centuries
- (E) A song of the performer's own choice of any period and style
- (F) An unaccompanied song or traditional unaccompanied folk song

The programme need not contain songs from all categories A – F. Any category should only be chosen once and category F **MUST** be included.

Class 2: Opera

One aria in the original key and language. Time limit of 8 minutes.

Class 3: French Song or Lied

One song in the original language. Time limit of 6 minutes.

Class 4 : English Words and Song

The performer should recite the text from memory and then sing the song. The adjudicators will judge both the speaking and the singing and will be looking for clarity of communication with understanding and imagination. The words must not be a translation from another language, but the composer need not be English. There is a time limit of 6 minutes which includes the reciting of the text.

Time Limits - All performances must adhere to the time limits. Any re-starts which are the fault of the singer are included in the performance time limit. Any re-starts which are not the fault of the singer will not be included in the time limit. Should a performer exceed the time limit, an adjudication will be given, but the Festival reserves the right to withhold a placing.

Entry Fees

Class 1: £25

Classes 2 – 4: £15 each

Prizes - The President's Bursaries

Class 1: Winner £1000, Runner-up £200

Classes 2 - 4: Each Winner £100

Entries – It is anticipated that there will be a high demand for places in the Singers' Platform. Early application is therefore advised. All entry forms, fees and an A5 sized stamped addressed envelope **MUST** be received by 14 November 2015 otherwise entry may not be accepted.

Photographs, Recording Equipment and Mobile Phones - Due to copyright law and the Festival's safeguarding policy, members of the audience, as well as performers and their supporters, are **NOT ALLOWED** to take photographs or make audio or video recordings at the Festival. Therefore, the use of any kind of camera, recording equipment, mobile telephone or other computerised device is **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN**. However, the Festival may appoint a designated, authorised photographer for publicity purposes to promote the work and ethos of the Festival and for the benefit of the performers. **Performers should indicate on the Entry Form a) if they or their supporters have any objection to being included in any of the photographs taken by the official photographer and b) if they give permission for any photographs taken to be used for publicity purposes, etc., without further consultation from the Festival.**

Order of Classes – once the Entry Forms have been received, the order in which the classes will take place will be determined and all performers will be informed.

KEY DATES

14 November 2015

Last date for the receipt of the Entry Form

2 January 2016

Last date for submission of copies of music to the official accompanist for all classes and for receipt of all song choices via email dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk or post
DCFS, 9 Carlton Rise, Pudsey, W. Yorks LS28 7LS

30 January 2016

Singers' Platform Day
Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, Fulwood, Sheffield, S10 3BU

We look forward to meeting, welcoming and hearing all the performers and wish you a happy, enjoyable and profitable time at the Festival.

2017 FESTIVAL DATES

Singers' Platform Day: 28 January

Festival Weekend: Friday 3 – Sunday 5 February

SINGERS' PLATFORM DAY - GENERAL INFORMATION

Adjudicators – All adjudicators are appointed by The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir Committee. No performer, teacher or member of the audience may approach the adjudicator in each class venue unless invited to do so, nor engage the adjudicator in conversation or discussion on any matter, before or after a session, or whilst the session is in progress, otherwise disqualification may be incurred.

Audience – an audience is welcome at all Festival sessions, so please support and encourage the Festival and its performers in their endeavours and appreciate and enjoy the talents of all the participants by being in the audience.

Audience Admission Charges – per session – payable at the door

Saturday 30 January

	Adult	Accompanied children 12 years old and under
Per person per session	£3	£2

Cancellation of a Class - in the event of a class being poorly subscribed, it may be withdrawn at the discretion of the Committee and the entry fees returned.

Car Parking – Car parking at Tupton Hall is plentiful and is free of charge.

Entry and Exit – No person will be allowed to enter or leave the hall during any performance or adjudication as movement tends to distract the performer, the adjudicator and the rest of the audience.

Equal Opportunities Policy – No person shall receive less favourable treatment or consideration on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, age (i.e. 9 or over), disability or marital status, or be disadvantaged by any requirement or condition that cannot be justified. The opportunity for people to compete in the Festival is provided through a variety of classes. All sessions of the Festival are open to a public audience and the Festival will only use venues that have made provision for people with physical disabilities. The Festival will keep under review its policy, procedures and practices on equal opportunities.

Festival Help – We want to see the Festival continue to provide opportunities for the encouragement and development of all its entrants, the competitive element being a means to this end. Even if you are a prospective performer or performer's supporter, you could still help to further our cause by helping in two ways – as a volunteer helper and/or providing financial support. **Volunteer helpers** are a welcome and essential part of running the Festival and there is always a need for new people to assist in various ways. There is no need to be an expert, you just need to be committed, sensible, unflappable and a member of a team, but above all, have a sense of humour! You don't have to be there all day, every day. Helpers can choose how much time they are able to give. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Joy Bowler via email: joybowler@googlemail.com for details. To continue to mount the Festival and engage specialist adjudicators, we need ongoing **financial support** and assistance from individuals and businesses who are interested in helping the amazing range of vocal talent to flourish. The cost of running the Festival increases each year, and despite the sponsorship of the City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir, we are faced with raising more financial support in the future.

Maybe you, or someone you know, can help to support the Festival in any of the following ways by:

- becoming a Friend of the David Clover Festival
- sponsoring the Festival
- advertising in future publications of this Handbook and/or the Festival programme
- making a donation
- making a bequest

If you can help in any of these areas of financial support please contact the Festival via the email address: dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk. Any financial assistance offered can be increased in value if you are a tax payer and by 'gift-aiding' your contribution where appropriate.

Liability – the Festival does not hold itself responsible for any injuries sustained by any performer or member of the public whilst at Festival venues.

Lost Property – The Festival will not be responsible for property lost or damaged during the Festival.

Queries – any queries which are not covered in this Handbook may be made at: DCFS, 9 Carlton Rise, Pudsey, W. Yorks LS28 7LS (0113 256 5320), or by email: dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk.

Refreshments - At Tapton Hall food and drinks will be available during the day. Food may also be obtained locally. Please ask for details at the time.

Safeguarding Policy – A copy of the Festivals' safeguarding policy will be on display at the Festival and is also available on the Festival website. This policy relates to children (under the age of 18) and also to members of vulnerable groups of any age who are identified to the Festival before their arrival at the Festival. Contact should be made by parents and/or teachers via letter to DCFS, 358 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield S11 9PY or via the Festival email address. The Festival will actively seek to meet the needs of children from ethnic groups and children who are disabled. Any subsequent reference to 'children' includes members of other vulnerable groups.

Safety of performers – Teachers and parents should be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers with limited physical capabilities or special needs. They should pass on any such information that might impact on the Festival's work, in writing, before the start of the Festival, to Joy Bowler, 358 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield S11 9PY

Supervision of Children – please note that all children under 16 years must be accompanied and supervised effectively. Supervision may come from a parent, an adult acting on their behalf, a teacher or a group leader. The David Clover Festival of Singing can not take responsibility for unsupervised children at the Festival venues. Any person acting in a supervisory capacity will be expected to pay the normal admission fee.

Withdrawals and Class Start Times – As it is impossible to foresee the number of last-minute withdrawals from classes due to illness or for any other reason, the Committee reserves the right to start classes early, except for the first class of a session.

Please make sure that you arrive in plenty of time.

THE DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL OF SINGING

Dr. David Clover came to Sheffield in 1966 having been appointed as the city's Music Adviser to the Education Department. It was one of the earliest residential courses for music teachers and its daily choral sessions, organised by David, which brought the first members of The Sheffield Teachers' Choir (as it was then known) together at the Buxton Conference Centre in the autumn term of 1968.

Following David's untimely death in 1979, The Teachers' Choir committee at the time decided that there should be a fitting and lasting tribute and memorial to his work. The result, in 1979, was the establishment of *The David Clover Vocal Prize*, the first competition being held in 1980. *The David Clover Vocal Prize* later became *The David Clover Competition for Singers*, and in 2010 was re-named *The David Clover Festival of Singing*. The original *Vocal Prize* provided an opportunity for singers to perform songs of their own choice with a view to being helped and encouraged by experienced judges of singing, and that ethos is still as strong as it ever was.

The Vocal Prize started in a very small way with only two classes for those of secondary school age. Since its inception, it has grown into a competitive event of worth, high standing, credibility and stature in the eyes of discerning musicians not only in and around the city of Sheffield, but also nationally. It has also proved itself a worthy vehicle of encouragement and support for young singers, but the re-named Festival is now open to **all** singers from the age of nine, and its chief objective is to foster this branch of music making which was ever one of Dr. Clover's greatest loves - singing. Much of his work was devoted to fostering the use of young voices whether as soloists or choralsists and he believed that the voice deserved equal status with other musical instruments.

Over the years, internationally famed singers and teachers of singing have adjudicated at the *Festival*, including Constance Shacklock, Marjorie Thomas, Jean Allister, Rae Woodland, Nigel Perrin, Mollie Petrie (first Patron) and Mark Wildman (President). Previous winners include Elizabeth Watts (international soprano and Vice-President), Ella Taylor (BBC Radio 2 Choirlord of the Year, 2010) and many others (including Cari Searle, Jessica Greaves, Harriet Eyley, Anna Harvey and John Savournin) who have joined the singing professions.

Once the annual Festival has ended, *The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir* is always delighted to invite singers from the Festival to share in its concerts whenever possible.

2016 ADJUDICATORS

JULIA DEWHURST

Julia's extensive performing career spanning more than thirty years has encompassed opera, concert and recital repertoire from Early Music to first performances of contemporary works. A lyric-coloratura soprano, she has appeared with opera companies throughout Britain including the Royal Opera, English National Opera, Kent Opera and English Touring Opera. She has broadcast for BBC TV and Radio and has sung in many of the country's leading concert venues as well as having undertaken concert and opera engagements throughout Europe, the Middle East and for the Seychelles Festival of Classical Music.

Julia has extensive teaching experience across the entire age range and has been an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals for more than 14 years. As a member of the Association of English Singers and Speakers she was one of the judges for the Association's 2015 Patricia Routledge Award. She is also a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, the Association of Teachers of Singing, the British Voice Association and is a Friend of the Society of the Teachers of the Alexander Technique. She is delighted to be making a return visit to the David Clover Festival of Singing.

No stranger to Yorkshire, she is married to a Yorkshireman and has adjudicated extensively in the Midlands and North of England.

As a soloist she has appeared with many of the region's choral societies and music clubs including Sheffield Bach Choir, Doncaster Choral Society, Keighley Vocal Union, Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir and Wakefield Choral Society.

MARK WILDMAN

Mark received his early musical education at The King's School, Gloucester and as a chorister in Gloucester Cathedral. Later on he studied at The Royal Academy of Music where he was awarded the Westmorland Scholarship, the Recital Diploma and the Frederick Slinn Fellowship. In 1976, whilst still a student at the RAM, he won a Choral Exhibition at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where he sang for three years.

Mark has traveled throughout Europe, Scandinavia, the British Isles and the USA, where as well as works from the standard repertoire, engagements have included Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*, Elgar's *The Kingdom*, Stravinsky's *Les Noces* and *Pulcinella* and Rachmaninov's *The Bells*. In 1976 Mark sang in the first of a series of performances of the complete Church Cantatas of J.S. Bach. To date he has performed nearly 200 of these including the solo cantatas *Ich habe genug* and *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen*. He has sung with most of Britain's foremost orchestras, at the Promenade concerts and at a number of British and European Festivals. In recital, Mark has a wide repertoire ranging from the works of Purcell, Boyce and Arne to those of Roger Steptoe, Philip White, Arthur Wills and Giles Swayne, of whose works he has given first performances.

He combines a busy performing career with that of a Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music where he was appointed Head of Vocal Studies in 1991. He is a much traveled adjudicator and is an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 1994 and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1995.

RALPH GREEN

Ralph Green was born in Oldham and was educated at Chadderton Grammar School. He owes much of his earliest musical experience to Marian Barnett with whom he studied piano and organ at Macedonia URC in Failsworth, and to the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, where he regularly attended the Halle Concerts and sang from its platform in the choir at school speech days.

He went to Sheffield in 1966 to train as a teacher of Music and Mathematics at the then City of Sheffield College of Education, and remained to pursue a career in teaching Music in secondary schools at CSE, GCSE and A-levels. This extended into the public examination sector by becoming a Moderator for GCSE Music. He attained the ARCM diploma in school music teaching in 1982.

While still a student he conducted the College Operatic Society and became a member of Opera 14 (later to become part of The South Yorkshire Opera Company). In 1972 Ralph was appointed Musical Director of the Southey Musical Theatre Company, a position he held for twenty two years, and he has been its President since 2002. He joined the City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir in 1974, becoming its secretary in 1984 and its conductor in 1986. This has led to a huge commitment and involvement in the David Clover Festival of Singing and he has adjudicated in preliminary selection rounds in the early days of the Festival.

Since 1981 he has sung with The Sheffield Chorale and he retired from teaching in 2006.

DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Annual subscriptions to the Festival Friends are available in various categories.

Each category entitles the subscriber to:

- Free admission, and their guest(s), to all Festival sessions
- Receive a free programme at the Festival on production of the Friends membership card
- Have their name acknowledged in the Festival programme unless otherwise requested by the subscriber

The various categories are:

- Personal Membership - a minimum of £20 for the subscriber and 1 guest
- Family Membership - a minimum of £30 for the subscriber and 3 guests
- Corporate, Organisation or Group Membership - a minimum of £50 for 6 people, or a minimum of £75 for 7-10 people.

Any Personal Member, or a member of a Family or Group, who is a tax payer, can gift-aid their subscription which would allow the Festival to reclaim income tax on your donation.

Any queries about the Festival Friends scheme may be addressed to Di Hallatt (0114 249 0402) or by email (dhallatt@beachcroft.co.uk).

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO: DCF, c/o 12 Byron Road, Sheffield S7 1RY

Name of subscriber

Name for inclusion in the Festival programme (if different from above)

.....

Address

..... Post Code

Tel : email:

Subscription £ (cheques payable to David Clover Festival of Singing)

Gift Aid - If you are a UK tax payer and wish to gift-aid your donation, please tick this box []

Signature Date