

# Nidus Children's Choir

## Newsletter – September 2019

This newsletter has an important update on the World Choir Games as well as a request to return red dresses and both black and white music folders on 21 September.

### World Choir Games 2020

As you know, we've been aiming to take the choir to the World Choir Games in Belgium in July 2020. However, we've only had 25 choir members sign up to this which will not be enough to adequately cover all voice parts to enable the choir to compete strongly at the games. We would be facing choirs with 80+ members. Given this, we can't go ahead with this. We will arrange to refund all deposits made to date by cheque. If you have made a deposit, please contact Heidi Nicholson ([heidinicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:heidinicholson@hotmail.com)) so that she can make out the cheque to the right person.

We will keep an eye on the European Choir Games in 2021, for which a host city has not yet been appointed, and the World Choir Games in 2022. We also want to give the current choir experience in competing, so we are now looking to see if we can take it to the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod next summer.

### Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2020

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod is a huge amount of fun and has been a hit with choir members and their parents when we have been before. It's a great alternative to the World Choir Games and would be much lower cost. Next year's dates are not yet published but we expect it will run from 6 to 12 July 2020, with the choir away for two or three nights, probably departing on Tuesday 7 July and staying until either Thursday 9 July or Friday 10 July. Initial estimates of costs are £80-£90 per person if we are away for two nights/three days and £110-£120 per person if we are away for three nights/four days, staying at a Premier Inn. These estimates include coach transport to/from Llangollen and to/from the hotel each day. We expect we would be able to subsidise choir members so that there is little or no cost for them to take part. Parents and other family members are welcome and encouraged to come with us.

We'll issue a registration form for this trip later in the term.

### Llangrannog Weekend Away

Given we have decided not to go to next year's World Choir Games, we will also look to go to the Urdd in Llangrannog over the first weekend of half term, arriving on Saturday 26 October in time for lunch and departing on Monday 28 October after lunch. The choir will hold rehearsals to perfect the Christmas repertoire and to learn new material. Inbetween rehearsals there will be a wide range of activities which in previous years have included zip lining, horse riding, dry slope tobogganing, go karting, traversing an aerial obstacle course, archery and quad biking. Parents and other family members are encouraged to come and take part in the activities with the choir members and they could also walk along the coast or explore the local area. There's also a swimming pool and a gym.

We also traditionally have a Halloween party on the Saturday night (fancy dress encouraged) and a film screening on the Sunday night. Parents normally bring snacks and drinks for these

evenings. It's a really fun weekend and highly recommended. Please note that if you went to the Urdd as a schoolchild you may be surprised at the standard of the new buildings and that speaking Welsh is not obligatory!

In previous years we've had parents drive to Llangrannog and take unaccompanied choir members with them, which keeps costs down. The Llangrannog weekend costs £125 per person aged 7 and up and £96 for 3-6 year olds. All meals are included. Each family will be allocated their own bedroom and unaccompanied choir members will be in shared rooms with other choir members. Each room has underfloor heating and an ensuite shower, basin and toilet.

We'll issue a registration form for this trip on 21 September.

### **Upcoming performances and other events**

The choir's next performance is at 3pm on **Sunday 22 September** at the Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden, Chepstow NP16 6NX. Doors open at 2.45pm and tickets will be on sale on the door at £5 each which will include cakes and tea/coffee. We will have a slightly different format this year, with seating in rows rather than at tables so we can fit more people in as last year's performance was completely sold out. Choir members should wear choir hoodies, black trousers and black shoes.

We will be holding a practice afternoon at 2pm on **Sunday 20 October** at St. Mary's Priory Church. This will be followed by an informal concert at 4.30pm for anyone who wishes to attend. We'll also be looking to fit red dresses during this afternoon.

To be confirmed we expect the choir will sing at the Christmas Fayre in aid of St. David's Hospice Care at the St. Pierre Marriott Hotel and Resort near Chepstow on **Sunday 1 December**.

To be confirmed we expect the choir will sing at the Abergavenny Christmas Fair on **Sunday 8 December**.

As in previous years, we will be singing at the Panteg County Hospital in Griffithstown at 5.30pm on **Monday 9 December**.

We have now confirmed that the choir will be singing in a concert also featuring the Chepstow Male Voice Choir at Chepstow Leisure Centre on **Saturday 14 December**. We expect the concert will start at 7.30pm, but please check this nearer the date.

Please keep an eye on the choir calendar at <https://niduschildrenschoir.co.uk/calendar> for more information on performances and other events. There will be almost certainly be more performances in December.

### **Rehearsals**

Weekly rehearsals take place at 1.15pm to 2.30pm every Saturday from 7 September to 7 December inclusive, apart from Saturday 26 October and Saturday 2 November when there is no rehearsal.

You can check to see when rehearsals are scheduled in the choir calendar at <https://niduschildrenschoir.co.uk/calendar>.

### **Music Folders**

We will be taking in all the black and white folders on Saturday 21 September so that we can ensure every choir member has the right music. You can help in advance by making sure your child's black folder contains the sheet music as set out on the website at <https://niduschildrenschoir.co.uk/current-repertoire>. Most white folders were returned after last Christmas but a few are outstanding. Please dig them out and return them!

We'll give the black folders back on the same day if your child is still there when we finish and if not we will return them at the performance the next day in Devauden.

### **Red Dresses**

Please return all red dresses on Saturday 21 September. We're aiming to have all these in so we can start refitting them. Re-fittings will take place at the rehearsal afternoon on Sunday 20 October.

### **Choir Fees**

Choir fees are currently £12 per term, an amount which has not changed since the choir was formed well over ten years ago. Due to increased costs of running the choir (including printing and website costs), we will be increasing the termly fees to £15 from next term.

### **Friends of Nidus Children's Choir**

As well as Evelyn Nicholson, the choir's musical director, the Friend of Nidus Children's Choir is the group that oversees the administration of the choir and its finances. The main people are:

Jo Courtney, Chair

Katie Davies, Vice Chair

Heidi Nicholson, Treasurer

Tim Walker, Secretary

Jacqs McConnell-Lawlor, Marketing Lead

Lisa Millard, Sheet Music Coordinator

Some of this group can normally be found at Nant Bran during rehearsals, so please do come and ask anything you want to know about the choir. You can also email [info@niduschildrenschoir.co.uk](mailto:info@niduschildrenschoir.co.uk), which goes to Heidi, Tim and Evelyn.

### **Thank you**

The choir is only possible because of the hard work and commitment of your child/children and also the support you give in terms of your time and money, so thank you! Also many thanks to Evelyn and Christian who give their time for free to train and conduct the choir.