

Glorious Chorus – a summary

Glorious Chorus is an a-cappella choir, founded and led by Helen Yeomans, based in Buckfastleigh in South Devon. Helen writes original songs and arrangements for the choir with a message that move audiences and performers alike, covering topics such as love and loss, care for the environment and the yearning for peace.

Glorious Chorus comprises approximately 40 people from across the South West, with a wide range of ages and backgrounds. The predominantly amateur singers are all trained in vocal technique and performance to achieve polished performances, whilst retaining passion and spontaneity.

Glorious Chorus has performed at a range of festivals including Glastonbury, Port Eliot and the Home Festival at Dartington in recent years. The choir will also premiere *One World* in June 2011, a themed production of song and spoken word inspired by imminent human evolutionary change. See details about this innovative new project further on in this document.

Helen Yeomans is self-taught, having come to choir directing and composing in her mid-thirties. Her music has been given an 'Honorable Mention Winner' award by the Unisong International Songwriting Competition and her songs are taught to choirs around the country.

Details about forthcoming performances including *One World* can be found at www.gloriouschorus.co.uk

One World themed production

A 'conceptual' show, including spoken word and visual effects, *One World* is a themed programme inspired by the idea of imminent human evolutionary change anticipated by several ancient and indigenous peoples around the world. The human change anticipated by these groups focuses on us entering an age of unity rather than duality currently experienced. All aspects of ego-based interactions, including greed, fear, competition and conflict will be replaced over time by a more caring, compassionate, conscious way of relating to ourselves, our environment and each other.

The programme will feature a selection of original songs and arrangements, linked by spoken word, background choral sounds and tuned percussion. The music in the programme will pick out topics within this theme, starting with a 'wake-up call' about the impending threat to the environment. The programme will flow from human darkness (including warfare and slavery), linking with other aspects of our ego-based industrial / military might-based culture through spoken word, continuing through the gate of redemption, understanding, grace, forgiveness; ending with triumph of love over hate, truth over lies, peace over war and great hope for the future.

This is not a doom-ridden world, but a hopeful and joyful one.

One World will be premiered in Totnes in June 2011 with a view to it being performed further afield over a two year period in venues and at events sympathetic to these themes. The intention of this production is to promote thought and consideration and rather than delivering "razzmatazz", inviting a more contemplative approach and reaction.

The production is designed to be profoundly moving, ultimately leaving the audience with a sense of hope and positivity for the future. The essence of the theme is that *One World* is not about doom or catastrophe, but represents a new era of hope and positivity – a new dawn, a better day.

Details of all Glorious Chorus performances including *One World* can be found at www.gloriouschorus.co.uk

Glorious Chorus – the “Transition” choir?

Just a few miles away from its rehearsal base in Buckfastleigh is Totnes, where Glorious Chorus has its roots. Totnes is known as the pioneering 'Transition Town' - the first in the country to receive the full backing of its town council in taking concrete steps towards a less carbon-dependant community. Glorious Chorus's music shares many themes with those of the Transition Town movement, primarily creating awareness of the fragility of our environment, respect for the inter-connectedness of our ecosystems and concern at the unsustainability of our current energy consumption.

These themes are brought into sharp relief in the One World production.

Participating in a dynamic, community-orientated choir such as Glorious Chorus is fully in line with the recent suggested ways of increasing our feelings of personal and society well-being. The social awareness and positive content of the songs of Helen Yeomans contribute enormously to a personal sense of uplifting and joy. The passion of the performers draws the audience directly into this feeling of shared well-being.

Glorious Chorus subscribes to the view that measurements of societal progress need to move away from an unsustainable focus on narrow economic factors. Aspects such as community, relationships and non-work activities are more important tests of the relative health of a community. In this respect, singing with a choir like Glorious Chorus fulfils many of those, often unrecognised needs of the individual to belong and participate in local community. Glorious Chorus is an eclectic mix of individuals from different backgrounds, lifestyles and stories bound together by a shared love of singing and performing.

Glorious Chorus holds annual auditions for new singers and Helen additionally runs a community choir (open to all without audition) in Plymouth. Further details can be found at www.gloriouschorus.co.uk and *Plymouth link* respectively.