

## Workshop at The Crucible

By Sophie Manson

The younger members of the choir recently took part in a choral workshop run by Bob Chilcott at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. We all went by coach and Sheffield was really quiet as England were playing in the Rugby World Cup!

When we arrived there was a small band to accompany the singing. The band included a French Horn, Drums, Trumpet and muted Tuba.

There were two other choirs taking part and we all had great fun learning new songs. We also sang one of my favourites, "Can you hear me?", which was composed by Bob. For this piece Sue Hollingworth conducted and Bob played the piano. Bob conducted the rest of the time. It was really good. I think everyone had a great day out.



**One of our older members, Mo, writes:** I'm 18 and I come from southern China. I have been in this choir for nearly 2 years and I've enjoyed myself very much. I went to the Christingle with my host parents and enjoyed the children's singing. I wished I could sing in a church one day. Now I've been to many concerts with the choir and this is a wonderful experience for me. Sue is a very good teacher as well as strict and funny. I've also enjoyed meeting new friends who made me feel very welcome. Although my friend Wa is leaving for university in September I feel part of the choir without her and I want to carry on next year.

I also wanted to join the choir to be part of the community. I will soon be going back to China and I can't wait to tell my friends that I am so lucky to have had this experience as in China there is such a strong work ethic that they don't see the value of leisure interests.



### Contact Details:

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Musical Director ... | 01724 852077 |
| Susan Hollingworth   |              |
| Chairman ...         | 01724 764705 |
| Trevor Hudson        |              |
| Secretary ...        | 01724 279309 |
| Jane Stevenson       |              |
| Newsletter ...       |              |
| Stephen Caldwell     | 01652 653575 |

[www.scunthorpecoopjuniorchoir.org.uk](http://www.scunthorpecoopjuniorchoir.org.uk)

# ALLEGRO!

Issue 1 Summer 2004

## SCUNTHORPE COOPERATIVE JUNIOR CHOIR NEWS

### EARLY SUCCESS IN CHOIR OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

On Sunday 23rd May we entered two Choirs in the first round of the BBC Choir of the Year competition. Both were chosen as Choirs of the Day and will be considered for inclusion in the Semi-Finals! A



significant achievement which we are proud of.

BBC Radio 3 has taken over from Sainsbury's as sponsor of the competition and there are three categories this year - Children's, Youth and Adult. Our Choirs have gone forward in the Children's and Youth sections.

Six choirs will be chosen for the semi-finals of each category, and two from each will go into the Finals, early in 2005. The semi - finals and finals will be broadcast on Radio 3 and finals will also feature on the digital channel, BBC 4.

The picture shows chorister Ya Wang receiving the Choir of the Day certificate from Adjudicator, Susan Digby.

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter.

The title is inspired by the English translation of the musical term Allegro which usually includes words like Lively, Bright and Quick. Most of these adjectives apply to the Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir!

We hope to make this a regular publication to keep choristers, ex-choristers, their families, our patrons and others aware of our activities and achievements.

If you have a story for us, see contact details on the back page.

*We've devoted this part of the newsletter to some recollections of the day by two of our choristers. Simon Falshaw took part in the Children's Choir section...*

I got up really early to go to Peterborough. It was the first time I'd got up so early and not been tired because I was so excited.

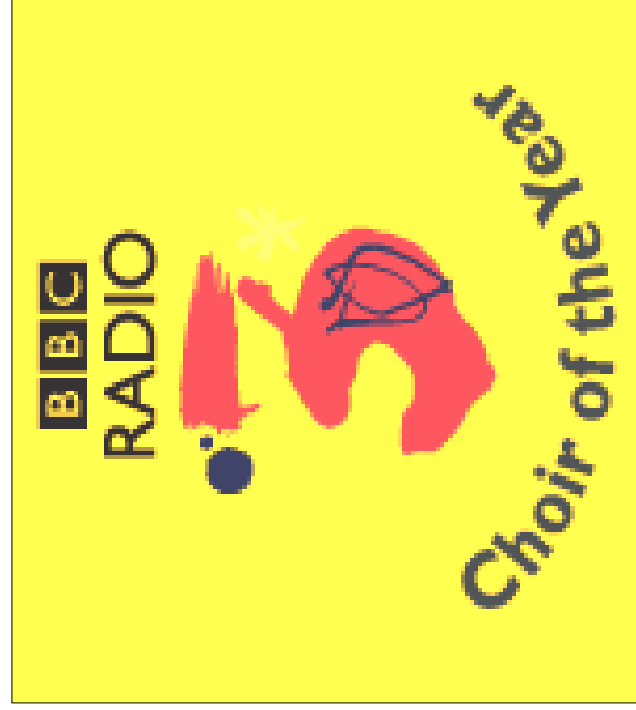
When we arrived there was a warm-up with Ken Burton. I was impressed because he's in the Guinness Book of World Records. We all sang Swing Low Sweet Chariot and a train song. It was fun with everyone singing.

Backstage we were nervous but when we went on stage we were excited. We sang Badgers and hedgehogs from Bless The Lord, Fair Daffodils, Cosy Cat Nap and Lost In Space. We all smiled in the happy song and looked worried when we went into space!

After we had sung everyone was wondering if we would win or if it would be the Westminster Boy's Choir. The judges decided that two choirs would go through and everyone started screaming and shouting. We were really excited when we were chosen.

On the bus home everyone was ringing up to tell their parents that we won the round. We sang on the bus too. That night I couldn't sleep as I was so excited.

We all loved it and had a great day. Fingers crossed that we'll get through and win!!



### *Hannah Frost sang in the Junior Section...*

The air was filled with excitement and anticipation as our coach pulled up in Peterborough on a sunny afternoon in May. As we clambered off, laughing and talking, we faced our competition for the first time. We have reached the semi-finals four times, but never the "grand final", a statistic that weighs heavily on the choir as a whole, particularly those who have been members for ten or even fifteen years. Our conductor, Susan Hollingworth also wishes to achieve this goal, if only to be able to stop calling herself "Semi-final Sue" at any meetings and conferences she attends!

For the short space of time in which the warm up took place, a certain unity was created between the choirs present in the auditorium, and for a short while at least, the nerves which had gradually crept up on me throughout the preceding hours,

disappeared. They were soon to return though.

Before we knew it, an escort was instructing us to walk down the stairs to the wings quietly, so as not to interrupt the performance of the choir presently on stage. I became more and more tense as the time for us to perform drew ever closer. Finally the announcer introduced our choir. At last we were able to walk on, and do what we'd been waiting to do all day.

This was my third "Choir of the year" competition, and yet I don't think I've ever had so many butterflies in my stomach as I did walking onto the stage that day. Our programme consisted of four pieces. We opened with Riu Riu, and a solo from Allison, one of our oldest and most experienced choristers. As she finished her verse, and we began to sing the chorus, the nerves which had been bothering me so much all afternoon were replaced by the sheer enjoyment of singing and performing the songs that we had worked on for so long in preparation for this day.

Fears about the tuning of Ave Maria were blown away, as Susan Digby, after what seemed like an age of waiting, announced that we, along with Surrey Youth Choir and Tees Valley Youth Choir, were to go through to the quarter finals. We were ecstatic!

It was a brilliant end to a great day for us, and it marked a huge achievement for Sue, as she had taken not only one, but two choirs through to the Quarter Finals. Whatever happens next, there is one attribute that no-one can ever take away from us: we are most definitely consistent!

*(Unfortunately we've now heard that we aren't going forward. Ed.)*