

persona arts | ...

**WE ARE LOOKING
FOR CHORUS SINGERS
FOR THE FLYING DUTCHMAN**

Do you want to be part
of an opera chorus?

Do you have a passion
for a challenge?

Do you have a willingness to try
something different and new?

If Yes, then this project
could be for you.

Persona Arts invites you to be part of the epic opera chorus of Wagner's Flying Dutchman. Whether you have choral experience or just enjoy singing, we welcome anyone from all walks of life!

We aim to give you the experience of singing in an opera chorus. Recently funded by Arts Council England, Persona Arts will stage the whole opera in July 2024 at the Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. In partnership with Birmingham Choral Union (BCU), we would like you to be a part of this exciting community chorus led by the renowned Colin Baines.

Featuring some of the UK's finest opera soloists, the Central England Camerata under the baton of Jack

Ridley it will be staged by the Artistic Director of the Commonwealth Games 2022 ceremony, Iqbal Khan, a formidable talent in the world of opera and theatre. This plans to be an exciting project!

- **There are no membership costs to take part in the rehearsals and the performances**
- **Free scores will be provided for you to keep**
- **Free learning and language tracks available for each voice section**
- **Friendly and supportive atmosphere**
- **Tea, coffee and biccies available!**

Persona Arts has at its helm the international opera singer, Byron Jackson FRSA. Born, raised and trained in Birmingham, he has excited audiences all over the world with his powerful stage presence and voice. Recognised also for his passion in bringing the opera and classical arts to new audiences and communities.



The confirmed rehearsal and performance dates are below:

Chorus Music Rehearsals with Colin Baines.

Venue: St Hilda's Church, 269 Abbey Rd, Smethwick, Birmingham, B67 5NQ *

Sat 20 April 2024 | 10am-12.45pm

Thu 9 May 2024 | 7-9pm

Thu 23 May 2024 | 7-9pm

Thu 30 May 2024 | 7-9pm

Sat 1 June 2024 | 10am-12.45pm

*** PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FROM PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED**

Rehearsals with soloists

Venue: St Mary's Church, Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 2RW

(parking available across the way at St Mary's Primary Academy)

Tues 4 June 2024 | 7-10pm (BCU men & any volunteer male choristers)

Thu 6 June 2024 | 7-10pm (women only)

Sat 8 June 2024 | 11am-2pm (women only) | 3-4.30pm (women & men)

Wed 12 June 2024 | 7-10pm (men only)

Sat 15 June 2024 | 11am-4.30pm (women & men)

Chorus Rehearsals with Orchestra
Venue: St Anne's Church, Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8DU

Wed 19 June 2024 | 6.30-9.30pm

Thu 20 June 2024 | 6.30-9.30pm

Sat 22 June 2024 | 3-6pm

THE BRADSHAW HALL, ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, 200 JENNENS ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B4 7XR

Thu 27 June 2024 | 6.30-9.30pm

Fri 28 June 2024 | 6.30-9.30pm

Sun 30 June 2024 | 3-6pm

Tues 2 July 2024 | 7-10pm

Wed 3 July 2024 | 7-10pm

Sun 7 July 2024
(PUBLIC DRESS REHEARSAL) | 2-5pm

Performances

Wed 10 July 2024 | 7-10pm

Sat 13 July 2024 | 7-10pm

We appreciate that you all have very busy lives and want you to be an integral part of the project. We understand that some volunteer singers cannot attend all the rehearsals, but a firm commitment to a majority of them is required. However, Persona Arts will be flexible with you as best as we can!

If you are interested please sign up via email to: projects@personaarts.org.uk giving the information below.

Voice Type:

Soprano 1 / Soprano 2

Alto 1 / Alto 2

Tenor 1 / Tenor 2

Bass 1 / Bass 2

Contact Details:

Originally known as BJ Music Events (BJME), it was founded in 2008 as a not-for-profit initiative to bring opera as an art form to the people of Birmingham in their communities. Co-founders Byron Jackson and Amanda Doyle recognised that there was a need for engagement with the classical arts through awareness, audience development and direct participation.

Since then, BJME has held music events across the West Midlands, including 'come and sing' workshops, opera concerts, recitals, and live music nights, facilitated by some of the country's top performing artists.

An opera concert in a central community venue in 2009 was a sell-out, raising hundreds of pounds for charity. Workshops in local primary schools over the following two years were also a success.

In September 2012 BJME hosted a 'come and sing' Messa di Gloria by Puccini with conductor Colin Baines. We had over 80 singers participating in this event from across the West Midlands and beyond.

In 2015, BJME hosted an opera gala in the former prestigious concert venue, the Adrian Boult Hall. Four top British opera singers performed an exciting range of music with the Sinfonia of Birmingham. This was led by the renowned opera and symphonic conductor Michael Lloyd. Over 50% of the audience came from BME communities.

In 2019 BJME held an open workshop in Gospel music, led by Carol Brewster. Gospel music has a powerful, spiritual and vocal message which should be accessible to all, not just within the Black Church community.

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Get in touch

info@personaarts.org.uk

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www.personaarts.org.uk



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