

Lancashire Libraries



Music & Drama Newsletter

April ~ September 2024

lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire

County
Council



Comms: 9236

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A 'record' of the Music & Drama Service

(A brief history)

From traditional hymns and vinyl LPs to dramatic plays and orchestral scores, the Music & Drama Service has been providing performance sets to societies across Lancashire since the 1960s. Our journey started in 1947/1948, with an annual library report at the time stating, 'Developments such as a separate information service, a music department and drama library are unfortunately quite impracticable at the present time and though urgently needed, must wait till additional accommodation is available.'

Fast forward to 1963 and the Lancashire Library Headquarters were established in premises previously utilised by the Motor Licensing Department in County Hall. Although this didn't resolve accommodation issues completely, an extension to an existing Reference Room at a later date provided a small room for a Music and Drama Collection, which was shared with other library services.

As county services grew to meet public demand across all areas, it became increasingly obvious that these premises were inadequate and after preliminary consideration had been commenced by a county architect, a further report from 1964-1966 concluded, 'Over-riding all other plans for the future, is the need for a new County Library Headquarters', and throughout the next two years, work proceeded on the alterations of two buildings in Corporation Street and Bowran Street, Preston, which had been assigned to serve as the new County Library Headquarters and Bibliographical Services Department.

The music collection, which then consisted of Vinyl LPs, cassettes and CDs, with a small number of vocal scores and orchestral parts, did not follow to the new County Library Headquarters, but was instead sent from County Hall to the Harris Library and Museum in the early 1970s and was designated its own library room in the 1980s.

With various genres of music available to borrow, the service proved extremely popular with library users, and it was thought to be very 'on trend' to be seen out and about on the streets of Preston, carrying a bright orange carrier bag emblazoned with the library music logo.

But as CDs became more popular and public demand changed, the LP and cassette collection was subsequently withdrawn from Lancashire's Music Collection in 1999 and sent to the National Sound Archive in London.



The Music Collection at the Harris Library and Museum in the 1970s/1980s

The remaining music collection, which included single copy scores and sheet music, was relocated to the new Library Headquarters in the Bowran Street building shortly after, along with the drama collection, which had been stored at Earby Library on a temporary basis, and this building went on to become the home of the Music & Drama Collections until 2015.



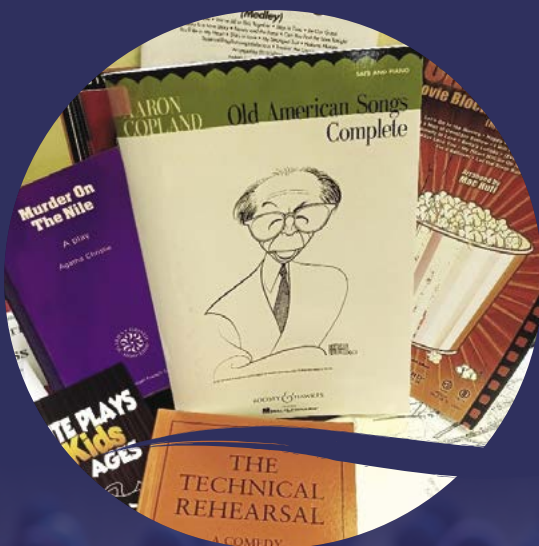
The Drama and Orchestral Set Collections are stored in a separate part of the building but can be accessed during library opening times without appointment.

During this period, the collections had grown significantly and although well used by registered members of the service, Bowran Street was not a public building, with registered societies only able to view the stock on rare occasions.

But another change of location was on the horizon, which would bring the collections a step closer to public access. In 2015, while discussions to close the Corporation and Bowran Street buildings were ongoing, the Music & Drama collections were relocated once again and returned to the Harris Library and Museum, where the full collections were housed in the basement for three years, until the decision was made to close the Harris building for a complete refurbishment. This decision resulted in the collections being relocated once again, to their current home, Lostock Hall Library, where our extensive collection of play sets, vocal scores and orchestral music are now available to view during library opening times.



The main body of our Vocal Score Collection is now stored on open shelves opposite the lending library.



Some examples from our Collections.

We now serve many choirs, orchestras and drama groups throughout Lancashire and take immense pride in helping new and long-standing members alike, by providing quality performance sets for concerts and theatre productions. We also provide play sets to Reading Groups, for an interactive reading experience without the performance element.

Over the years, some of our registered societies have also kindly donated their time and incredible talents to entertain the residents of Lancashire at some of our events, such as 'Care Home Concerts' and 'Make Music Day', which have been a great success and brought happiness, fun and a chance to engage with others to many people.

Throughout our operational years, we have been privileged to hear some amazing stories from our societies, including this article which has been shared with us by **Lytham St. Annes Choral Society**.

Once upon a time a woman cycled from the village where she lived with her husband. When she arrived at her destination 5 miles away, she was soaked, as was the copy of music she carried in her bicycle basket.

She entered the room where a choir was assembled ready for a rehearsal, "Is this the place where the rehearsals take place?" she asked.

The conductor then said to her "Are you an alto? You sound like one".

"No, no," she said, "I don't sing". She had apparently come after hearing that the choir wanted an accompanist.

However, the conductor, so impressed by her voice said, "You get that voice trained young woman."

Thus began a friendship that lasted for the rest of their lives.

That story was given in an interview of Nelly Kirby, who lived in Warton when the Lytham St Annes Choral Society reached its Centenary. And if you haven't already guessed, she was talking about Kathleen Ferrier, who cycled from Warton to Lytham St Annes in the early 1940s. The conductor, called Broughton, recognised what a marvellous and unique singing talent she possessed, and she went on to sing solo for the choir in several concerts as she progressed to become a national and indeed international star.

The Lytham St Annes Choral Society was founded in 1909 and has performed many pieces in the choral repertoire and with many other famous soloists including Isobel Bailey, Janet Baker and Owen Brannigan. In 2023 we performed Ethel Smyth's Mass at Kirkham Grammar School with The School Choir and Preston Cecilian Choral Society. Our spring 2024 concert will consist of Schubert's Mass in A flat and John Rutter's 'The Gift of Life', under our new Musical Director, Adam Robinson.



The Music & Drama Service is now well-established and continues to evolve along-side the performing community, offering classical and contemporary material, which enables a cost-effective way for performers to access music and play scripts.

The performing arts are an integral part of our society, and we look forward to supporting and working with our performance groups well into the future, as they enrich the lives of our community.

If you would like more information about the Music & Drama Service, you can contact us at:

musicdrama@lancashire.gov.uk or **01772 534030**.

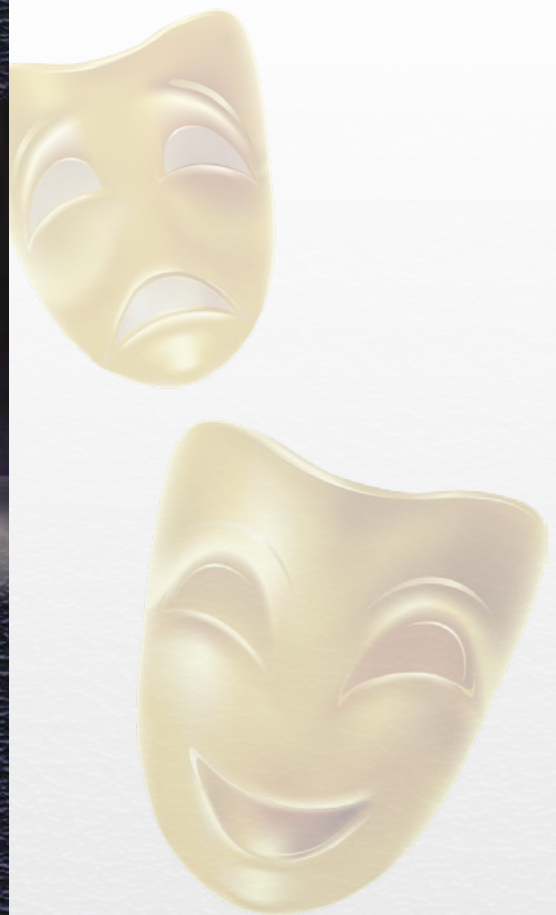
You can also visit our **webpage Music and drama collections - Lancashire County Council**

Our opening hours

Monday	9 am – 4.30 pm
Tuesday	9 am – 12.30 pm
Wednesday	9 am – 6.30 pm
Thursday	9 am – 4.30 pm
Friday	9 am – 4.30 pm
Saturday	9 am – 12.30 pm

Where to find us

Lostock Hall Library
Watkin Lane
Lostock Hall
PR5 5TU



The Collections

All the E's – In stock and available to hire now.
Please contact us for more details.
E: Musicdrama@lancashire.gov.uk
T: 01772 534030

Vocal scores

Elgar, E.

The apostles. SATB

The banner of St. George. SATB

From the Bavarian Highlands. SATB

The dream of Gerontius. SATB

Give unto the Lord. SATB

The Kingdom. SATB

The light of life: a short oratorio for soli, chorus and orchestra. SATB

The music makers. SATB

Te Deum and Benedictus. SATB

Ellis, V.

Bless the bride: a musical show.

Various

Encores for Choirs 1. SATB

Encores for Choirs 2. SAT

English anthems 1. SATB

The English glee, edited by P.M. Young SATB

English pastoral partsongs, selected by Paul Spicer. SATB

English romantic partsongs, edited by Paul Hillier. SATB

Play sets

Elton, B.

Popcorn

Silly cow

Various

Euripides

Three plays: Hippolytus; Iphigenia in Tauris; Alcestis



Orchestral Sets

Elgar, E.

The banner of St. George. Op. 33.
Chanson de Matin. Op. 15. No. 2.
Cockaigne overture. (In London Town.) Op. 40.
Concerto for violin and orchestra. Op. 61.
Concert-overture for orchestra. Op. 50
The crown of India: march.
Dream children. (Enfants d'un reve.) Op. 43.
The dream of Gerontius. Op. 38.
Elegy for strings. Op. 58.
Empire march.
Enigma variations. Op. 36
Gavotte.
Imperial march. Op. 32.

In the South: Alassio.
Minuet. Op. 21
Mazurka. Op. 10. No. 1.
Nursery suite
Pomp and circumstance No. 1, 2, 3 & 4.
Salut d'amour (Liebesgruss).
Serenade for strings. Op. 20.
Serenade Lyrique: melody for small orchestra.
Sea pictures. Op. 37.
Symphony no. 1. Op. 55.
Symphony no. 2. Op. 63.
Wand of youth. Suite 1. Op. 1a.
Wand of youth. Suite 2. Op. 1b.

Ellis, V.

And so to bed: selection.
Bless the bride: selection.

The fleet's lit up: selection.
Under your hat: selection.

What's on in Lancashire! April



LANCASTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

**6th April 2024
7:30pm**

**The Great Hall, Lancaster
University, LA1 4YW**

Lancaster & District Choral Society will be performing John Rutter's Requiem and Karl Jenkins' Gloria with orchestra and professional soloists.

Please visit our website for updates and ticket prices
www.lcds-choral.org.uk

Burnley Garrick Theatre Group presents

London Suite
by Neil Simon
Directed by Marilyn Crowther

**10-13 April 2024
7:30pm**

**Burnley Youth Theatre,
Burnley BB10 3LB**

Box Office **0333 666 3366**
Book Online thegarrick.org

Tickets: Adults £12
Students £9
Over 65s £11



Preston Orpheus Choir

December was a busy month for Preston Orpheus Choir, with a wonderful Christmas concert with Freckleton Brass Band at St Michael and All Angels church in Ashton on Ribble, as well as carol singing at Rufford Old Hall.

We are looking forward to our next concert under the baton of Dan Adams, entitled "Gloria".

This will take place on
Saturday 13th April at 7pm

at one of our favourite venues,
**St Michael and All Angels Church,
2 Egerton Road, Ashton on Ribble.**

The programme includes Poulenc's emotional and exuberant "Gloria" and Dvorak's electrifying "Te Deum". The concert features talented soloists Aimée Maria Harris (soprano) and Connor Cobb (bass) alongside our brilliant accompanist Paul Greenhalgh.

Our summer concert, a programme of light music, will take place on **Saturday 1st June**, venue to be confirmed.

Tickets for both concerts are £13 for adults and £5 for under-18s. They will be on sale from our website www.prestonorpheuschoir.org, where you can also find information on joining Preston Orpheus Choir.

We are a friendly group of singers of all ages, and we always welcome new members. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at St Pius X Catholic Preparatory School, 200 Garstang Road, Fulwood. Come along to three rehearsals free of charge before you make up your mind. We'll make sure you're looked after by someone who sings the same voice part as you and if you're not sure what that voice part is, don't worry, we'll sort that out for you!

Contact us via our website www.prestonorpheuschoir.org to ask any questions or let us know you'll be coming. We look forward to welcoming you.



Todmorden Choral Society

Spring Concert with Todmorden Orchestra
Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Dettingen Te Deum.

Saturday 27th April, 7.30pm

**Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street,
Todmorden OL14 5AQ**

Tickets: £14 (£12 concessions);
FREE for young people (under 18/in full time education).

Available via Todmorden Information Centre
tel. **01706 818181**, info@visittodmorden.co.uk
or via our website <https://todmordenchoral.org/>

What's on in Lancashire!

May



Fleetwood & District Choral Society

Presents

A Concert of Haydn and Mozart

Haydn - St Nicholas Mass and Te Deum
Mozart - Solemn Vespers and Ave Verum

Saturday 4th May 2024

7:30pm

**St Mary's RC Church,
Fleetwood, FY7 6JX**

Tickets £12

www.fleetwoodchoral.org.uk



LADOS presents

An amateur production presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

ANYTHING GOES

Music and Lyrics by
COLE PORTER

Original Book by
P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton
and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse

New Book by
Timothy Crouse & John Weidman



Box Office
Tel: 01524 64695
www.lancastergrand.co.uk

TUESDAY 7th - SATURDAY 11th MAY 2024

Evenings 7.30pm plus Saturday 2.00pm Matinee

www.lados.online Lados1891 LancasterADOS

LADOS - Registered Charity No. 515089

LADOS are performing well know songs - **Blow Gabriel Blow, You're the Top, I Get a Kick Out of You** and many more including the title song **Anything Goes**.

Come along and join us on the **SS American** - you won't regret it.
Ticket prices £12 Tuesday and Matinee, £16 for the remaining shows.



A New Day

Saturday 11th May 2024
7.30pm - Victoria Hall Bolton
BSO with BCMCS Choral and
The BMS Singers

Vaughan Williams: Toward the Unknown Region
Smyth: Interlude - The First Glimmer of Dawn
Boulangier: D'un Matin de Printemps
Beethoven: Symphony No. 9
Conductor: Ben Crick
Leader: Anita Naughton



Tickets: £13 (no concessions), Under 19s free
Tickets available via telephone: 01204 522569
Tickets available online:
www.boltonsymphony.org.uk

Charity No. 1077033



Bury Choral Society

Concert on the theme of The Sea
Saturday 18th May 2024,
7:30 pm

Join us for a maritime adventure in verse.
Venue to be confirmed.

Tickets and more information at
<http://www.burychoral.org>

PROMENADE CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Howard Rogerson

THE PLATFORM, MORECAMBE

Ernest Tomlinson
Centenary Celebration

Sunday May 19th 2024
3pm



To celebrate the centenary of the birth of one of UK's well-known light music composer, Lancashire-born, Ernest Tomlinson, the PCO will be presenting a wide and varied programme of his music styles and melodies. The concert will include his rarely heard Concerto for Five, which he composed for five saxophones and fuses jazz, blues and light music styles into this exciting and unusual composition. There will be other light music compositions to celebrate other composers' centenaries too.

Tickets at £16 (Accompanied child FREE)
Platform Box Office. **01524 582803**

Email:
platformboxoffice@lancaster.gov.uk

Website:
www.lancaster.gov.uk/platform

**St. Leonard's
Gilbert and Sullivan
Group
presents
"The Sorcerer"**

A comedy musical operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan. Aline and Alexis are madly in love and are having a tea party to celebrate their betrothal. Alexis wants the whole village to be as happy as he, so he employs a local Sorcerer to secretly dispense a love potion into the teapot. All who drink it fall in love with the first person they see, regardless of social status. The results are a hilarious comical disaster!

'The Sorcerer' performances: Thursday-Saturday 23rd,24th,25th May 2024 :



For tickets contact Mr John Stopford: 01772 612030

St. Leonards G&S Group email: stleonardsgsg@gmail.com

Ticket price:

Standard price £10 (no concessions)

Children U12- free; when accompanying an adult



**Burnley Garrick
Theatre Group**

presents

**A Midsummer Night's
Dream**

by William Shakespeare
Directed by Helen Christie

**29 May - 1 June 2024
7:30pm**

**Burnley Youth Theatre,
Burnley BB10 3LB**

Box Office **0333 666 3366**
Book Online **thegarrick.org**

Tickets: Adults £12

Students £9

Over 65s £11



What's on in Lancashire! JUNE



Burnley Orchestra

Conductor Nathan Smith

15th June

7.30pm

**Burnley Youth Theatre,
Queen Park Road,
Burnley, BB10 3LB.**

Music from Stage and Screen

Tickets available online at:

www.burnleyorchestra.org.uk

Adults £12

Concessions (over-65) £10

Students £5

Under-11 free

LANCASTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

22nd June 2024

7.30pm

**Community Centre,
Bolton-le-Sands**

Summer Concert - programme to be confirmed.

For more information visit our website:

Lancaster and District Choral Society



BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Outsiders

Saturday 29th June 2024
7.30pm - Victoria Hall Bolton

Coleridge Taylor: Othello Suite
Strauss: Horn Concerto No. 2
Dvorak: Symphony No. 7

Conductor: Ben Crick
Leader: Anita Naughton
French Horn: Joel Ashford

Tickets: £13 (no concessions), Under 19s free
Tickets available via telephone: 01204 522569
Tickets available online:
www.boltonsymphony.org.uk

Charity No. 1077033



What's on in Lancashire! July



Todmorden Choral Society

Spring Concert with Todmorden Orchestra
Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Dettingen Te Deum.

Saturday 27th April, 7.30pm

**Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street,
Todmorden OL14 5AQ**

Tickets: £14 (£12 concessions);
FREE for young people (under 18/in full time education).

Available via Todmorden Information Centre
tel. **01706 818181**, info@visittodmorden.co.uk
or via our website <https://todmordenchoral.org/>

Blackburn Symphony Orchestra



**Saturday 6th July 2024
7.30pm**

Westholme School, Meins Rd, Blackburn BB2 6QU

Berlioz: Overture Benvenuto Cellini
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No1 in Bb Op23 – **Soloist:** Slava Sidorenko
Rachmaninov: Symphonic Dances

£13 (u18's free) from www.blackburnsymphony.org.uk, On the Door

What's on in Lancashire! AUGUST



Burnley Garrick Theatre Group

presents

A Bunch of Amateurs

by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop
Directed by John Cummings

28-31 August 2024

7:30pm

**Burnley Youth Theatre,
Burnley BB10 3LB**

Box Office **0333 666 3366**

Book Online **thegarrick.org**

Tickets: Adults £12

Students £9

Over 65s £11



What's on in Lancashire! September



BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sponsored by
FRIENDS OF
BOLTON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Mahler 5

**Saturday 28th September 2024
7.30pm - Victoria Hall Bolton**

**Debussy: Nocturnes
Mahler: Symphony No. 5**

**Conductor: Ben Crick
Leader: Anita Naughton**

Tickets: £13 (no concessions), Under 19s free
Tickets available via telephone: 01204 522569
Tickets available online:
www.boltonsymphony.org.uk

Charity No. 1077033

making
music

bats

Bolton Amateur Theatrical Societies



Sir Edward Bairstow

Uncovered works by an English composer

Two years of unstinting work cataloguing the documents of a blind organist, has uncovered treasures by British composer Sir Edward Bairstow in Blackburn Library, where volunteer archivist Pete Asher had been asked to catalogue the William Wolstenholme Collection.

And those works were heard for the first time in living memory at Blackburn Cathedral on Wednesday 27 March, performed by Blackburn Music Society and Blackburn Chamber Choir.

The concert, 'Uncovered Treasures – Bairstow in Blackburn', showcased some of Bairstow's most famous and most loved sacred works, led by the musical director of both choirs and of Blackburn Cathedral, John Robinson, with organist John Hosking. The programme included Bairstow's arrangement of two popular hymns, never heard in living memory.

The manuscripts were discovered while Pete Asher, a member of the Music Society, was working on a project to catalogue the William Wolstenholme Collection.

William was born in Blackburn in 1865 and went on to become a celebrated organist and composer despite being born blind. His musical talents were recognised very early and he was sent to a school for the blind in Worcester. His violin teacher at the school was a youthful Edward Elgar, who later became William's amanuensis when he took his BMus at Oxford and they remained good friends until William's death in 1931.

At that time, William was living in London with his sister Maude and her family. She had effectively become his secretary/business manager and managed her brother's affairs after his death, with a collection of documents being donated to Blackburn Library. The contents were never fully indexed although the extensive musical scores in Braille were indexed by Douglas Carrington in 2002. In addition to the Braille scores, the Wolstenholme collection contained some 130 works in manuscript form, of which the majority were by William himself. However, a few were by other composers, including Edward Bairstow.



Pete L and John with the manuscript in Blackburn Cathedral

William maintained contact with many organists and composers of the day including Bairstow. Correspondence between the two men spans a period of almost 30 years culminating in Bairstow writing to William's sister Maude of his sadness on hearing of William's death.

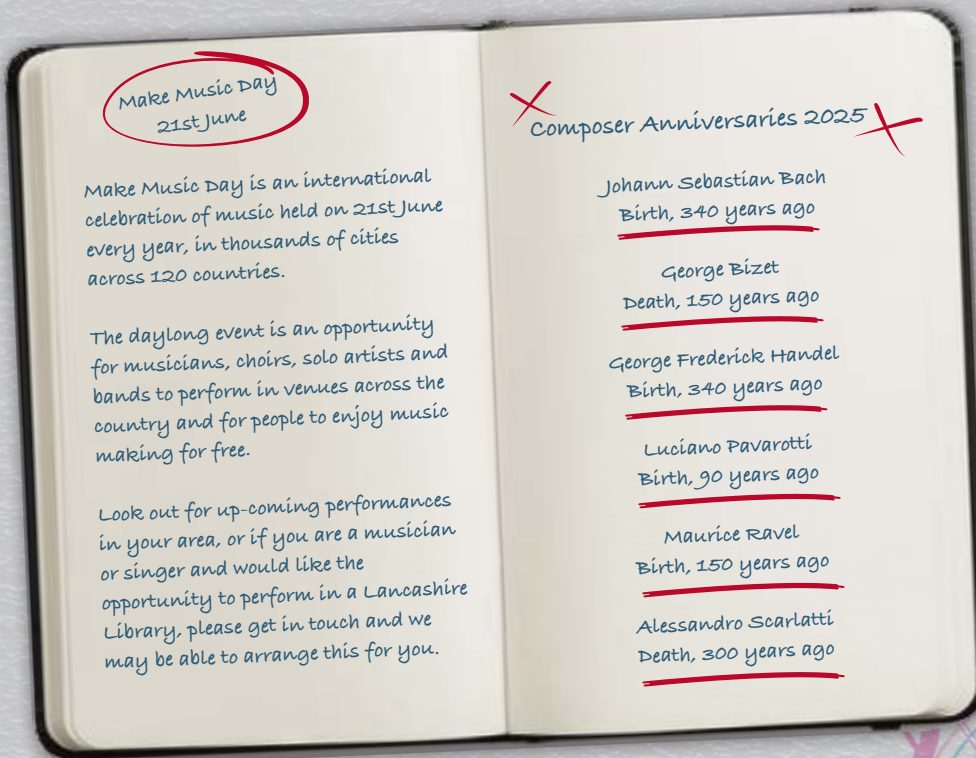
During his tenure at Leeds Parish Church, Bairstow had commuted to Blackburn and Preston on his days off to be the MD of the respective St. Cecelia's choirs. William's frequent visits back to his hometown ensured the continuing friendship between both men.

"The music of Sir Edward Bairstow has long been a jewel in the crown of English Choral Music. His grumpy rejection of the top job at Westminster Abbey in favour of remaining in his native Yorkshire was typical of the man," said John Robinson, Director of Blackburn Music Society, of which Pete Asher is a member.

"What's less well known, is that from 1907 to 1913 he spent his Tuesday nights in Blackburn, conducting the Blackburn St Cecilia and Vocal Union, and became friends with legendary blind organist William Wolstenholme."

Bairstow's arrangements of the hymns 'Forty Days and Forty Nights,' and his 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' with spectacular organ harmonies are available from Pete at: peteasher1@btinternet.com

Dates for your Diary



Word search - Classic Pop & Rock Artists

P	V	O	D	C	R	W	H	A	S	A	D	E
R	A	K	A	T	E	B	U	S	H	W	Q	J
I	N	Z	V	Y	M	A	X	L	D	E	W	U
N	H	E	I	R	T	E	V	A	R	P	H	M
C	A	M	D	U	R	A	N	D	U	R	A	N
G	L	I	B	T	K	E	H	E	A	R	M	P
U	E	S	O	A	U	N	I	C	O	R	N	F
N	N	A	W	Q	B	C	H	I	C	A	G	O
S	X	O	I	Z	U	M	F	A	U	T	A	X
N	Y	A	E	K	I	S	S	B	V	N	O	C
R	W	S	A	X	D	K	R	B	N	P	O	H
O	H	I	R	I	F	F	E	O	E	R	W	E
S	A	S	T	Y	X	Z	D	N	D	I	N	R
E	T	J	R	V	L	A	I	J	R	N	E	L
S	G	C	A	F	M	C	H	O	U	C	E	Z
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D	B	O	H	U	A	C	Z	I	X	T	Q	Y
A	G	A	F	F	I	N	I	T	Y	K	S	P

ABBA
CHER
GUNS N ROSES
KISS
QUEEN
STYX

ACDC
CHICAGO
HEART
MADONNA
REM
T REX

AFFINITY
DAVID BOWIE
JAPAN
OASIS
SADE
VAN HALEN

BON JOVI
DURAN DURAN
KATE BUSH
PRINCE
SLADE
WHAM



Lancashire Libraries Music & Drama Service

