



SOL PROJECT: HEBDEN BRIDGE WORKSHOP 4th – 6th April 2014

**WELCOME
TO HEBDEN BRIDGE**
Newsletter 1: December 2013

The Hepton Singers are looking forward very much to welcoming you to our beautiful town of Hebden Bridge, for what will be an enjoyable weekend of music making.

This is the first Hebden Bridge newsletter. Other information will follow shortly.

About our town

Hebden Bridge is a small town with a lot of character. We are about half way between the cities of Manchester and Leeds, in the heart of the Pennine hills which run up the spine of northern England.

We were originally an industrial town, dependent on the textile trade; our area was one of the birthplaces of the industrial revolution. Almost all our textile factories closed in the 1960s and 1970s and after that the town went through a period of transformation. Because of our



beautiful location and also because of the large number of small independent shops, Hebden Bridge is now a popular tourist destination. We are particularly well known for our strong artistic and cultural life; many visual artists and workers in the creative industries now live here. You might sense, perhaps, a certain radicalism in the atmosphere as you walk around our town centre, some might say that it's a reincarnation of the early radicalism of the textile workers a

century and a half ago, as they struggled for democracy. Hebden Bridge today is a place where many different kinds of people feel they belong.

You can find out a lot about the town on our community-run website at www.hebdenbridge.co.uk

About our choir: The Hepton Singers

We are a choir of about forty local people, who meet to rehearse once a week. Our repertoire ranges from early music to contemporary choral works; one recent programme consisted entirely of works by women composers and we have in recent years performed music written specially for us. We will be teaching you one piece composed by our own musical director Alison West and she will conduct this piece. All other pieces will be conducted by David Bartlett, one of our assistant conductors.



You will find our choir website at www.heptonsingers.co.uk .

Your travel plans

We strongly advise you to fly into Manchester airport. We will be starting rehearsals at 17:00 on Friday 4th April and to allow you to travel to Hebden Bridge for this time you should aim to arrive in Manchester by 13:00 on Friday. Depending on the number of visitors arriving at this time, we will try to meet flights between 11:30 and 13:00 and help you to arrange travel to Hebden Bridge. We will also help to arrange transport back to Manchester on Monday morning.

If you arrive at Manchester airport earlier or later, we can help you to book a local minibus taxi to pick you up and bring you to Hebden Bridge (cost about €60 each way).

You might want to extend your stay and visit Manchester en route; an exciting contemporary city. Transport links are good from Manchester city centre to the airport and to Hebden Bridge (cost about €20 per person). We can give you details of how to do this on request.

Two other airports, Liverpool and Leeds/Bradford are also relatively close and you could get to Hebden Bridge from these by a combination of bus and train or by taxi. You can also travel by train or coach through London and Leeds. We will give you details of how to do this on request.

In January we will send you a form to complete to tell us your travel and accommodation details. You can then request further information on the options you prefer and we can help you to make arrangements.

Accommodation

Because our town is small, there are limited options here. We recommend that you stay in Hebden Bridge itself so that everywhere is within walking distance.

We have already taken a block booking on the Hebden Bridge hostel (www.hebdenbridgehostel.co.uk). Any visitors wishing to stay at the hostel should book places through the choir contact when we send out accommodation details in January.

The weekend

We will be based in Hebden Bridge for most of the weekend. We are rehearsing at the Town Hall on Friday early evening and Saturday, and you will also have free time for lunch, shopping and sight-seeing in the town on Saturday afternoon.



You can make your own arrangements for evening meals on Friday and Saturday (there are many cafes, pubs and restaurants at a variety of prices in the town centre) and members of our choir will be making bookings at local restaurants and you are welcome to join us.

We will be performing in an old church (with good acoustics!) in Heptonstall on Sunday afternoon and so have a rehearsal in this venue on Sunday morning. Heptonstall is a small historic village close to Hebden Bridge and the parish church here is our regular concert venue, hence our name The **Hepton** Singers.

After the performance we have arranged a farewell social event on Sunday evening.

Here is a draft of timings for the weekend:

Friday 4th April (based at Hebden Bridge Town Hall)

16:00 Arrival for refreshments and informal conversations with members of our choir.
17:00 Rehearsal.
19:00 – 19:45 Welcome Reception.
Evening: We suggest that we eat together afterwards at a local restaurant. (Likely cost about €25-30 per person, including wine.)

Saturday 5th April (based at Hebden Bridge Town Hall)

09:30 Rehearsal including 15 minute break.
12:15 Free time for lunch, shopping and sightseeing in Hebden Bridge.
15:00 – 18:30 Rehearsal including 15 minute break.
Evening: You have a free choice for dinner but, again, you may wish to join us at another local restaurant. Members of our choir will come too.

Sunday 6th April (based at Heptonstall and then Hebden Bridge)

10:00 Rehearsal in our concert venue, Heptonstall Church.
12:00 Free time for lunch and sight-seeing in Heptonstall.
15:00 – 17:00 Concert in Heptonstall Church.
Evening: Farewell Social with food at The Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge. A local folk band will be playing and you will be able to learn some easy English folk dances.

What to wear

Because we are in the hills (albeit only at 100-300m) come prepared for it to be cold. Considering the time of year (April showers!) come prepared for rain, but we also enjoy sunshine too.

The dress code for the concert will be:

Men: black suit, black shirt, black shoes, plain coloured tie (optional)

Women: long black dress, skirt or trousers, black top with long sleeves, black shoes, plain coloured scarf (optional).

Please note that the church where we perform can be cold.



Special requirements

We want all our visitors to be able to participate fully in our workshop and are happy to make reasonable adaptations to enable this to happen. In January we will be requesting information on anyone in your group who has mobility difficulties, is a wheelchair user or has other disabilities or special needs. We will also be requesting detail of anyone in your group who has particular dietary requirements.

In January we will send you a form to complete to tell us your travel and accommodation details. You can then request further information on the options you prefer and we can help you to make arrangements.

If you need more information in advance of this about whether your disability or special needs can be accommodated, please get in touch with Helen.



Music

Our repertoire is as agreed and all the music is available on the SOL website.

Kolysanka

Dormi Jesu

Fiat Pax

Nuit

Na Horach

Io Pian

Rise Up, My Love

O Jesu Dolce

Such Spirals (piece composed by our Musical Director, Alison West, for performance on this workshop only)

Background information

A useful community-run website is www.hebdenbridge.co.uk

Hepton Singers website at www.heptonsingers.co.uk

Our contact

Helen Plaice, plaiceh@gmail.com