

Christmas
Edition 2021



*Helping people to live happier, healthier lives
through musical participation.*

“Singing In the Rain, Just Singing in the Rain!”

- Gene Kelly

Well, the British weather certainly did its best to deter us, but it was all worth it in the end - a wonderful morning of festivities, carolling and mince pies, and the first in-person celebration that our members have been able to attend since before the pandemic. A huge ‘thank you’ to everyone that pitched up in the pouring rain, and especially to our Rolling Tones group for still singing so cheerfully - it definitely brightened up



the Shambles for a lot of Christmas shoppers and we even had quite an audience! Not ones to miss out on a publicity opportunity, we also had a little feature on York Mix radio as Laura, radio presenter and MC ambassador, popped down to chat to some of our members. But it wasn't all about the music, we also need to give a very special mention to our stall-manners, cake bakers, jam and marmalade makers, gazebo assemblers, and everyone that kindly donated Christmas gifts - there's so much that goes into an event like this, and we couldn't have done it without you!

“We need old friends to help us grow old and new friends to help us stay young”

- Letty Cottin Pogrebin



The festive season is finally upon us and what better way to celebrate Christmas than with a reintroduction of our ‘in-person’ intergenerational events. We welcomed students from the University of York’s Music Education Group into our sessions at the end of November for some workshop-style singing, and more recently members of our Barstow House and Glen Lodge music groups thoroughly enjoyed some festive entertainment from Scarcroft and St Aelred’s schoolchildren -

carolling, sleigh bells and even a return of our famous ‘dis-dancing’ to Merry Xmas Everybody - a true Christmas treat. A very special part of the MC ethos, it’s been so wonderful to watch our members sharing laughter and making music with the younger generation again - although it’s fierce competition for who has the better dance moves!



Share a Song And Keep Christmas Spirit Strong!

We know how much singing raises the spirits of everyone who attends our York Medical Group music groups, but recently they’ve been helping to spread the cheer amongst others. Acomb Singers treated Age UK members to a Christmas concert, whilst some of our Tower Court members joined residents at Marjorie Waite Court for a morning of carol singing, and then sang with members of Honeysuckle for some festive fundraising in Waitrose. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was lovely to see members, residents, and shoppers alike delight in the joy of Christmas music! If you’d like to join in with the fun, then we’re keen to recruit members for our newest group formed in collaboration with YMG - the Monkgate Wellness Choir. Sessions are held on **Wednesdays @ 3.15-4.30 at Theatre 41 on Monkgate**, and Abby would love to see you there!



“The power of radio is not that it speaks to millions; but that it speaks intimately and privately to each one of those millions”

- Hallie Flanagan

In October, we were delighted to be able to make a guest appearance at the YO1 radio studio in celebration of #LocalRadioDay. An annual event recognising the importance of radio in strengthening communities, it felt particularly relevant this year given our reliance on York Mix and YO1 Radio throughout the lockdowns to ensure that we stayed connected with our members. Stan, Tower Court member and harmonica player extraordinaire, Danny, one of our MC volunteers, and Charlotte, all joined forces to chat to radio presenter, Clare, about keeping the music going during the pandemic and



being a part of our wonderful MC family. They also performed a very special recording of Dean Martin’s ‘Little Ole Wine Drinker Me’ - something which they’d been working on over the last 18 months. It was such an honour to be featured on the show, and we’re so grateful to YO1 Radio, York Mix, and all the other local media stations, for being so continually supportive of our work. If you’re reading this online, you can listen to the recording and interview here: <https://youtu.be/cNdrp7lewVU>

Project Funding Until 2023 – That’s ACE!

Funding is such an important factor in the longevity of MC, and so we’re overjoyed to report that we’ve recently received a significant amount of grant funding from the Arts Council England (ACE) which will help us to develop our project over the next couple of years. Stay tuned for more details in the new year, but there will be lots to look forward to - intergenerational projects, digital tablets, multimedia concerts, and the introduction of an MC members’ steering group - all very exciting! MC members, if you’re interested in being involved in the steering group and would like to have the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on all things Musical Connections, then please let one of us know - either by email or during one of your sessions - thank you!

From On Stage with Cliff, to the Gale Farm Lounge – Tony Rivers Pays Us a Visit!

We're so pleased to have welcomed some new members into the MC family over the last couple of months - it's always such a pleasure to introduce them into the groups and to find out their musical interests. For some it's the showtunes, others the pop classics, or in the case of our Gale Farm Court group members, a shared love for Cliff Richard! Short of inviting Cliff to the session, our MC volunteer, Rory, was able to organise the next best thing - a group session with Tony Rivers - backing singer on many of Cliff Richard's songs and founding member of Tony Rivers and the Castaways and Harmony Grass. Everyone had a great afternoon singing many of Cliff's 'classics' and listening to Tony regale us with stories of the pop world - a huge 'thank you' to him and his son, Anthony, for coming, and to Rory for organising - there's never a dull moment during our sessions!



And Some Festive Favourites!



Wishing you all a magical Christmas and a very Happy New Year!