

Singers' Platform
Handbook & Entry Form

The David Clover Festival of Singing Sheffield

Closing date for entries:
26th November 2016

Prizes of £3,800



2017



www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

email: dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

The Festival is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals

“The object is not to win a prize or defeat a rival but to pace one another on the road to excellence.” *H.Walford Davies*

THE DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL OF SINGING

Sheffield

Reg. Charity No. 1043131

sponsored and administered by
The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir

THE SINGERS' PLATFORM

Friday 27 January - Sunday 29 January 2017

St Andrew's Church
31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8YL
and
Kenwood Hall
Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NQ

Adjudicators: Mark Wildman, Gaynor Keeble, Vivien Pike

Patron: Lesley Garrett CBE

President: Mark Wildman FRAM, FRSA

Vice-Presidents: Elizabeth Watts Hon. D. Mus, Richard Clover LTCL, FASC,
James Kirkwood LRAM, LTCL, ARCM, Ralph Green ARCM

HANDBOOK and ENTRY FORM

The David Clover Festival of Singing is affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech of which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron

The Festival is also a member of The Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Regional Forum of The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech



General Enquiries not covered in the handbook: DCFS, 269 Dobcroft Rd, Sheffield, S11 9LG
email: dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk | www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

SINGERS' PLATFORM - PERFORMER INFORMATION

This is a new initiative in the David Clover Festival of Singing and is intended to give the opportunity to singers already studying at Universities and Conservatoires, to postgraduates, and to those being privately tutored, to continue the development of their art with substantial prize money.

Eligibility to this section of the David Clover Festival is for singers between the ages of 19 and 28 at the 27 January 2017. Entrants in the Singers' Platform are eligible for classes in this part of the Festival only. Performers will receive specific details of the timetable, procedures, etc., after the final date of the receipt of the Entry Form. Winners of classes in 2016 are not eligible to enter the SAME class in 2017.

Preparation for the Singers' Platform

- It is requested that singers dress appropriately for the occasion
- **An official accompanist** will be available throughout the day, but performers may bring their own if they wish
- Please adhere to all the required deadlines detailed in this handbook

Contact at the time of the Singers' Platform - the Festival may be contacted on **07836 474972** or **07762 631613**.

Music for the official accompanist MUST be unfolded and legible and sent WITH THE ENTRY FORM by the closing date, Saturday 26 November 2016 in an A4 sized envelope. It will be necessary to use a large letter stamp. **1 original and 2 further copies** are required for the adjudicators on the day.

CLASSES

Class 1: RECITAL

A recital of up to 20 minutes chosen from the following:

- (A) An aria from a cantata, opera or oratorio of any period
- (B) 1 or 2 songs, excluding (A), written before the 19th century
- (C) 1 or 2 songs, excluding (A), written during the 19th century
- (D) 1 or 2 art songs, excluding (A), written during the 20th or 21st centuries
- (E) A song or aria of the performer's own choice of any period and style
- (F) An unaccompanied song or traditional unaccompanied folk song

All singers are asked to initially choose 3/4 pieces from their programme to sing to the adjudicators, with a time limit of 12 minutes. The choice **MUST** contain a song from Category F. There will be 5 initial sessions between Friday evening and Sunday afternoon, and each session winner will receive a prize of £50 and the best 5 performances from all the sessions will sing their full programme in the Sunday evening Finals for the award of the prizes. The 5 performances chosen for the Finals from the sessions will not necessarily be the session winners.

Class 2: OPERA

All singers should prepare 2 arias, at least one with recitative, in 2 different languages and by different composers with a time limit of 10 minutes. Initially, all singers will choose a recitative and aria, time limit 6 minutes, to sing to the adjudicators who will choose the best 5 performances from all the sessions to sing both their chosen arias in the Sunday Evening Finals for the award of the prizes. Each session winner will receive a prize of £50. The 5 performances chosen for the Finals will not necessarily be the session winners.

Class 3F: FRENCH SONG

One song in the original language. Time limit of 5 minutes.

Class 3G: LIEDER

One song in the original language. Time limit of 5 minutes.

Class 4 : ENGLISH WORDS AND SONG

The performer should recite the text from memory and then sing the song. The adjudicators will judge both the speaking and the singing and will be looking for clarity of communication with understanding and imagination. The words must not be a translation from another language, but the composer need not be English. There is a time limit of 6 minutes which includes the reciting of the text.

These 3 classes will be programmed for Sunday afternoon, 29 January and the winners will sing their winning song again on Sunday evening at the prize presentation. As far as it is possible, the Festival will minimise the travelling for singers from a long distance who enter several classes when organising the programme for the whole weekend. Because there are only 6 possible sessions between Friday and Sunday afternoon, the maximum number of entries in each of the Recital and Opera Classes will be 35 singers and the total number of entries in Classes 3F, 3G and 4 will be 30 singers.

Time Limits - All performances must adhere to the time limits including verbal introductions. Any re-starts which are the fault of the singer are included in the performance time limit. Any re-starts which are not the fault of the singer will not be included in the time limit. Should a performer exceed the time limit, an adjudication will be given, but the Festival reserves the right to withhold a placing.

Prize Money

Class 1: Winner £1500, Runner-up £750, 3rd prize £250

Class 2 Opera: Winner £750, Runner-up £250

Classes 3 - 4: Each Winner £100

Entry Fees

Classes 1 and 2: £30 each

Classes 3F, 3G and 4: £15 each

Entry form - all entry forms, fees and an A5 sized stamped addressed envelope MUST be received by 26 November 2016 otherwise entry may not be accepted.

Order of Classes - once the Entry Forms have been received, the order in which the classes will take place will be determined and all performers will be informed.

KEY DATES

26 November 2016

Last date for the receipt of the **Entry Form, song choices and copies of music for the official accompanists**. These should be sent to:
The Entries Secretary, DCFS, 29 Kerwin Drive, Sheffield, S17 3DG

27, 28, 29 January 2017

Singers' Platform

We look forward to meeting, welcoming and hearing all the performers and wish you a happy, enjoyable and successful time at the Festival

2018 FESTIVAL DATES

Singers' Platform: 26, 27, 28 January

Festival Weekend: 2, 3, 4 February

SINGERS' PLATFORM - GENERAL INFORMATION

Adjudicators - All adjudicators are appointed by The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir Committee. No performer, teacher or member of the audience may approach the adjudicator in each class venue unless invited to do so, nor engage the adjudicator in conversation or discussion on any matter, before or after a session, or whilst the session is in progress, otherwise disqualification may be incurred.

Audience Admission Charges - per session - payable at the door

Friday 27, Saturday 28, Sunday 29 January

	Adult	Accompanied children 12 years old and under
Per person per session	£3	£2

Sunday evening 29 January - Finals

	Adult	Accompanied children 12 years old and under
Per person	£7	£3

Audience - an audience is welcome at all Festival sessions, so please support and encourage the Festival and its performers in their endeavours and appreciate and enjoy the talents of all the participants by being in the audience.

Cancellation of a Class - in the event of a class being poorly subscribed, it may be withdrawn at the discretion of the Committee and the entry fees returned.

Car Parking - There is car parking at the church or in the surrounding streets.

Entry and Exit - No person will be allowed to enter or leave the hall during any performance or adjudication as movement tends to distract the performer, the adjudicator and the rest of the audience.

Equal Opportunities Policy - No person shall receive less favourable treatment or consideration on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, age (i.e. 9 or over), disability or marital status, or be disadvantaged by any requirement or condition that cannot be justified. The opportunity for people to compete in the Festival is provided through a variety of classes. All sessions of the Festival are open to a public audience and the Festival will only use venues that have made provision for people with physical disabilities. The Festival will keep under review its policy, procedures and practices on equal opportunities.

Festival Help - We want to see the Festival continue to provide opportunities for the encouragement and development of all its entrants, the competitive element being a means to this end. Even if you are a prospective performer or performer's supporter, you could still help to further our cause by helping in two ways - as a volunteer helper and/or providing financial support. **Volunteer helpers** are a welcome and essential part of running the Festival and there is always a need for new people to assist in various ways. There is no need to be an expert, you just need to be committed, sensible, unflappable and a member of a team, but above all, have a sense of humour! You don't have to be there all day, every day. Helpers can choose how much time they are able to give. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Joy Bowler via email: joybowler@googlemail.com for details. To continue to mount the Festival and engage specialist adjudicators, we need ongoing **financial support** and assistance from individuals and businesses who are interested in helping the amazing range of vocal talent to flourish. The cost of running the Festival increases each year, and despite the sponsorship of the City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir, we are faced with raising more financial support in the future.

Maybe you, or someone you know, can help to support the Festival in any of the following ways by:

- becoming a Friend of the David Clover Festival
- sponsoring the Festival
- advertising in future publications of this Handbook and/or the Festival programme
- making a donation
- making a bequest

If you can help in any of these areas of financial support please contact the Festival via the email address: dcfs@dauidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk. Any financial assistance offered can be increased in value if you are a tax payer and by 'gift-aiding' your contribution where appropriate.

Liability - the Festival does not hold itself responsible for any injuries sustained by any performer or member of the public whilst at Festival venues.

Lost Property - The Festival will not be responsible for property lost or damaged during the Festival.

Queries - any queries which are not covered in this Handbook may be made at: DCFS, 269 Dobcroft Rd, Sheffield, S11 9LG. email: vpvoices@btinternet.com

Refreshments - Light refreshments will be available at the church.

Safeguarding Policy - A copy of the Festivals' safeguarding policy will be on display at the Festival and is also available on the Festival website. This policy relates to children (under the age of 18) and also to members of vulnerable groups of any age who are identified to the Festival before their arrival at the Festival. Contact should be made by parents and/or teachers via letter to DCFS, 358 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield S11 9PY or via the Festival email address. The Festival will actively seek to meet the needs of children from ethnic groups and children who are disabled. Any subsequent reference to 'children' includes members of other vulnerable groups.

Safety of performers - Teachers and parents should be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers with limited physical capabilities or special needs. They should pass on any such information that might impact on the Festival's work, in writing, before the start of the Festival, to Joy Bowler, 358 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield S11 9PY

Supervision of Children - please note that all children under 16 years must be accompanied and supervised effectively. Supervision may come from a parent, an adult acting on their behalf, a teacher or a group leader. The David Clover Festival of Singing can not take responsibility for unsupervised children at the Festival venues. Any person acting in a supervisory capacity will be expected to pay the normal admission fee.

Withdrawals and Class Start Times - As it is impossible to foresee the number of last-minute withdrawals from classes due to illness or for any other reason, the Committee reserves the right to start classes early, except for the first class of a session.

Please make sure that you arrive in plenty of time.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: David Heslop, Vice-Chair: Joy Bowler,
Treasurer: Roger Atkin, Secretary: Hazel Page, Music Co-ordinator: Vivien Pike
Entries Secretary: Eric Barraclough, Administrator: vacant
Venues: Brenda Birks, Friends: Di Hallatt, Sponsorship: Elizabeth Hampshire
Publicity and Advertising: vacant

THE DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL OF SINGING

Dr. David Clover came to Sheffield in 1966 having been appointed as the city's Music Adviser to the Education Department. It was one of the earliest residential courses for music teachers and its daily choral sessions, organised by David, which brought the first members of The Sheffield Teachers' Choir (as it was then known) together at the Buxton Conference Centre in the autumn term of 1968.

Following David's untimely death in 1979, The Teachers' Choir committee at the time decided that there should be a fitting and lasting tribute and memorial to his work. The result, in 1979, was the establishment of *The David Clover Vocal Prize*, the first competition being held in 1980. *The David Clover Vocal Prize* later became *The David Clover Competition for Singers*, and in 2010 was re-named *The David Clover Festival of Singing*. The original *Vocal Prize* provided an opportunity for singers to perform songs of their own choice with a view to being helped and encouraged by experienced judges of singing, and that ethos is still as strong as it ever was.

The Vocal Prize started in a very small way with only two classes for those of secondary school age. Since its inception, it has grown into a competitive event of worth, high standing, credibility and stature in the eyes of discerning musicians not only in and around the city of Sheffield, but also nationally. It has also proved itself a worthy vehicle of encouragement and support for young singers, but the re-named Festival is now open to **all** singers from the age of nine, and its chief objective is to foster this branch of music making which was ever one of Dr. Clover's greatest loves - singing. Much of his work was devoted to fostering the use of young voices whether as soloists or choralsists and he believed that the voice deserved equal status with other musical instruments.

Over the years, internationally famed singers and teachers of singing have adjudicated at the *Festival*, including Constance Shacklock, Marjorie Thomas, Jean Allister, Rae Woodland, Nigel Perrin, Mollie Petrie (first Patron) and Mark Wildman (President). Previous winners include Elizabeth Watts (international soprano and Vice-President), Ella Taylor (BBC Radio 2 Choirlgirl of the Year, 2010) and many others (including Cari Searle, Jessica Greaves, Harriet Eyley, Anna Harvey and John Savournin) who have joined the singing professions.

Once the annual Festival has ended, *The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir* is always delighted to invite singers from the Festival to share in its concerts whenever possible.

2017 ADJUDICATORS

MARK WILDMAN

Mark received his early musical education at The King's School, Gloucester and as a chorister in Gloucester Cathedral. Later on he studied at The Royal Academy of Music where he was awarded the Westmorland Scholarship, the Recital Diploma and the Frederick Slinn Fellowship. In 1976, whilst still a student at the RAM, he won a Choral Exhibition at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where he sang for three years.

Mark has traveled throughout Europe, Scandinavia, the British Isles and the USA, where as well as works from the standard repertoire, engagements have included Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*, Elgar's *The Kingdom*, Stravinsky's *Les Noces* and *Pulcinella* and Rachmaninov's *The Bells*. In 1976 Mark sang in the first of a series of performances of the complete Church Cantatas of J.S. Bach. To date he has performed nearly 200 of these including the solo cantatas *Ich habe genug* and *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen*. He has sung with most of Britain's foremost orchestras, at the Promenade concerts and at a number of British and European Festivals. In recital, Mark has a wide repertoire ranging from the works of Purcell, Boyce and Arne to those of Roger Steptoe, Philip White, Arthur Wills and Giles Swayne, of whose works he has given first performances.

He combines a busy performing career with that of a Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music where he was appointed Head of Vocal Studies in 1991. He is a much travelled adjudicator and is an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 1994 and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1995.

GAYNOR KEEBLE

Gaynor Keeble won scholarships to the University of Warwick and the Royal Academy of Music. She was awarded a Countess of Munster Award and has been a semi-finalist in both the Kathleen Ferrier and the Belvedere International Opera Competition.

On leaving the RAM she joined the Welsh National Opera where she performed and covered many roles including Carmen, Meg Page (Falstaff), Maddalena (Rigoletto), Berta (Barber of Seville), Marcellina (Marriage of Figaro), Flora and Annina (La Traviata), Ragonde (Count Ory).

Roles with the English Touring Opera include Marcellina, Tisbe, (La Cenerentola), Marchese (Daughter of the Regiment), Baba the Turk (Rake's Progress), with other roles including Buttercup and Hebe (HMS Pinafore) at the Royal Festival Hall and Kate (Pirates of Penzance) D'Oyly Carte Opera at Queen's Theatre, West End.

Gaynor has made numerous recordings which have included the Councillor's Wife (Osud) conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras for EMI, Hebe (HMS Pinafore), Patience, Yeomen of the Guard for TER records, and has also performed for the Royal Opera House, Opera North, Mid-Wales Opera, European Chamber Opera and Opera Interludes.

Having worked with Orchestras such as the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, London Mozart Players, London Bach Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, The Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic and the Vivaldi Concertante, Gaynor's concert repertoire has included Verdi Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Elijah, Dream of Gerontius and Vivaldi Gloria.

VIVIEN PIKE

Vivien studied music at the Royal Manchester/Royal Northern College of Music after previously studying medical sciences. She graduated with teaching and performing diplomas and a silver medal.

Vivien has wide experience as a recitalist and soprano soloist with many choral societies. She has sung in choirs from the age of 7 and is a former member of the BBC Northern Singers. She is vocal coach for several choral societies.

Over the years as a peripatetic teacher of singing in Yorkshire, she has taught hundreds of young singers, one of the first being Lesley Garrett. Her choirs have won many prizes in national and international competitions and have enjoyed tours to Italy, Germany, Ireland, Australia (representing UK at the first Melbourne International Choral Festival), Canada and USA, Finland and Estonia. Her female choir celebrated 30 years of high standard singing in 2009.

Vivien is in great demand for solo singing and choral workshops and has worked with singers in Sweden, Latvia, Ireland, New Zealand and Estonia. She has lectured in Latvia and Slovenia and recently as a visiting professor at the Estonian Academy of Music. Her international jury work includes the World Choir Games in Linz and Graz, festivals in Malta, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Jersey and is currently the UK representative on the World Choir Council. She is an external examiner of singing at degree level and a former visiting lecturer/examiner in choral conducting at Huddersfield University. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Sheffield Hallam University in 2006 for her work with singers nationally and internationally and is a Churchill Fellow, researching the Cultural Influences on Voice Development in Sweden, Finland and Estonia. She has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was awarded a Fellowship of the British and International Federation of Festivals in 2013. She has been a BIFF adjudicator for more than 30 years.

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DAVID CLOVER FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Annual subscriptions to the Festival Friends are available in various categories.

Each category entitles the subscriber to:

- Free admission, and their guest(s), to all Festival sessions
- Receive a free programme at the Festival on production of the Friends membership card
- Have their name acknowledged in the Festival programme unless otherwise requested by the subscriber

The various categories are:

- Personal Membership - a minimum of £20 for the subscriber and 1 guest
- Family Membership - a minimum of £30 for the subscriber and 3 guests
- Corporate, Organisation or Group Membership - a minimum of £50 for 6 people, or a minimum of £75 for 7-10 people.

Any Personal Member, or a member of a Family or Group, who is a tax payer, can gift-aid their subscription which would allow the Festival to reclaim income tax on your donation.

Any queries about the Festival Friends scheme may be addressed to Di Hallatt (0114 249 0402) or by email (dhallatt@beachcroft.co.uk).

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO: DCFE, c/o 12 Byron Road, Sheffield S7 1RY

Name of subscriber

Name for inclusion in the Festival programme (if different from above)

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Address

..... Post Code

Tel : email:

Subscription £ (cheques payable to David Clover Festival of Singing)

Gift Aid - If you are a UK tax payer and wish to gift-aid your donation, please tick this box []

Signature Date

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