

Ethel Ruddock
Chairman
PO Box 907
Hollywood
BT18 8AD

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correct postage



CONDUCTOR

From September 2011 **Val Whitlock** will succeed Christopher Bell as Chorus Director of Phil Kids and the Phil Youth Choir. Val is nationally known for her infectious enthusiasm, energy and ability to develop singing with young people. She pursues a busy career as workshop leader, choral director, voice consultant, author and singer. Val is in demand to direct large-scale performances and choral events often involving hundreds of young people. She is a highly sought-after vocal trainer to national music organisations, music services and universities and frequently acts as consultant to various

national vocal initiatives. She is co-author of the internationally best-selling *Singing Sherlock* books, which have become standard materials for singing leaders

MUSIC STAFF

Belfast Philharmonic Music Staff are trained in Kodály musicianship. Belfast Philharmonic Music Staff are trained in Kodály musicianship.

AWARD SCHEME

Phil Kids use an unique award scheme developed by the National Youth Choir of Scotland to chart the progress of the members of the choir and give them goals to work towards. The award scheme is divided into Bronze, Silver and Gold. Members will be tested informally on things like pitching, sound production, solo singing and simple theory. Rehearsal and concert attendance and behaviour etc will also be taken into account. Award badges will be presented on completion of each relevant stage.

If your child enjoys singing and would like to be considered for membership then please complete and return the attached form and return by.....

For further information please contact:

Ethel Ruddock, Chairman

PO Box 907, Hollywood, BT18 8AD

Tel: 07792 448929

Email: recruitment@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk

More information about the Phil can be found on our website:

www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk



Phil Youth Choir

Phil Kids

Val Whitlock, the new Chorus Director of the Belfast Philharmonic Youth Choir & Phil Kids would like to invite your child to come to an informal workshop to be considered for membership of the Phil Kids.



In September 2006, the **Belfast Philharmonic Society** received support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to start a Children's Choir. 75 singers from Primary 4 were recruited from workshops held in a number of schools in the Belfast area. Since then the choir has grown and membership currently stands at 275.

The **Phil Kids** has a unique structure, with singing, performance and musicianship taught in a lively and fun way. In September 2011 there will be three choirs:

Training Choir
Children's Choir
Youth Choir

The structure of the choir is such that we only recruit from Primary 4; this year is your child's only opportunity.

If your child enjoys singing and would like to be considered for membership then please complete and return the attached form.

HOW CAN MY CHILD BENEFIT FROM BEING A MEMBER OF THE PHIL KIDS?

The Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choir provide a first rate choral and musicianship training together with exciting performance opportunities. Concert presentations have been given and three concerts with the Ulster Orchestra including a sold out Carmina Burana in March 2008. The choir has featured twice on BBC Newsline.



WHERE AND HOW OFTEN DO THE PHIL KIDS REHEARSE?

The Training Choir meets for one hour per week, on **Tuesday evenings from 5 – 6 pm** during term time, in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue, Malone Road, Belfast. Parking is available.

HOW CAN MY CHILD JOIN THE PHIL KIDS?

Phil Kids recruits annually each year in May and June from Primary 4 only. Workshops are held in about 12 Primary Schools in the locality. In addition, an open invitation is extended to all P4 pupils in schools across greater Belfast. Approximately 90 children will be offered a place in the choir from the total number applying.

RECRUITMENT WORKSHOP: Saturday morning 14th May or Saturday afternoon 21st May 2011

The workshop is designed to be fun and is very informal. The children are put in groups of approximately 15 children (wherever possible with other children from their school) and take part in some singing games which will enable the staff to identify those who can concentrate, pay attention and have an ability to sing clearly and in tune. The workshop will last for approximately 30 minutes.

HOW OFTEN DO THE CHILDREN PERFORM?

Every winter and summer we hold a presentation or concert for parents, relatives and friends. There may also be concerts with Belfast Philharmonic Choir and the Ulster Orchestra in venues such as the Ulster Hall and St Anne's Cathedral.

As the choir continues to develop, it is envisaged that further performances will take place including choral competitions and festivals.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

There is an annual membership subscription for all members of the choir. For 20011/12 season this will be £80 for new members. [Please note that the subscription may be paid in instalments] Belfast Philharmonic also receives funding from other sources.

PARENTAL HELP

On a rehearsal night, the Phil Kids relies on voluntary help given by parents. All parents are requested to assist (on a rota basis) at choir rehearsal nights under the direction of the choir administrator. No musical knowledge is required for this; the parents on duty will help sign the children in and be in attendance during rehearsal. The voluntary help given by parents is essential and is very much appreciated by Belfast Philharmonic Society.

THE BELFAST PHILHARMONIC

Belfast Philharmonic Society is one of the oldest musical organisations in Northern Ireland, founded in 1874 by the amalgamation of two existing societies – The Classical Harmonists and the Belfast Musical Society. The first concert was Mendelssohn's Elijah. When the Ulster Orchestra was formed, strong links were forged to provide choral music to the audiences of Belfast and beyond. The Phil has given performances of Messiah each December since 1886!



WORKSHOP APPLICATION FORM

Workshop dates:
Saturday 14th and Saturday 21st May 2011

Please print all details in **BLOCK CAPITALS** or email details to recruitment @belfastphilharmonic.org.uk

Child's Name:

School:

Sex: Male / Female

Date of Birth:

Home Address

.....

.....

Post Code

Email:

Home Telephone:

Mobile:

Parent's Name:

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Please indicate your preference for the workshop on

Saturday morning 14 May 2011 or Saturday afternoon 21 May
(delete as appropriate)

Ethel Ruddock, Chairman
PO Box 907, Holywood, BT18 8AD 02
Email: recruitment@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk

Closing date Monday 9 May 2011