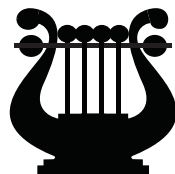


**Welcome  
to  
Phil Kids  
&  
Phil Youth Choir**



LOTTERY FUNDED

Dear Parent

Welcome to the first handbook for the Phil Youth Choir/Phil Kids. It has been produced in this size in the hope that you will find it easy to keep as a reference guide. As the choir has grown over the past 4 years we now find it necessary to try and improve communication with you as parents. We hope this will provide you with all the information you require for the year. There will be times when we need to get in touch with you about other things but we hope to keep those to a minimum.

Please remember that if you have given us an email address we will use this to send information, including letters.

The aims of the choir are to encourage singing to the best of the singer's ability; to learn to read music, and to develop and train the voice. The emphasis is ultimately on singing for fun, and on the establishment of good pitching and a good ear using the Kodály Method (a plan for young singers developed in Hungary by the composer and teacher Zoltán Kodály). Musicianship sessions take the form of small groups working on pitching and rhythm games and are followed by a full singing session. Principles of sol-fa and reading of notation are introduced. This is a progressive programme with musicianship skill and singing developing weekly.

The Phil Youth Choir is run entirely by volunteers and if you are interested in helping please contact Iestyn Rees (contact details inside). This might be on a Wednesday evening or at a presentation evening or concert.

Please let us know if you feel that there should be other things included in the future. It will also be put on our website – [www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](http://www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk)

I hope you and your child/children will enjoy the 2010-2011 season.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ethel', written in a cursive style.

Chairman

# Phil Kids 2010 –2011

## Phil Youth Choir 2010 - 2011



Welcome to the 2010- 2011 season. Congratulations to the 90 children who have been auditioned and selected as the new intake of 1<sup>st</sup> years to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Phil Kids which, together with the Phil Youth Choir (years 4 & 5), now numbers around 250. We are all looking forward to another exciting year that promises to be as action-packed as previous years with concerts in the Ulster Hall and St Anne’s Cathedral already in preparation.

At Phil Kids/Phil Youth Choir, the children sing for 30 minutes and receive musicianship training for 30 minutes. The musicianship training is based on the Kodaly –based method whereby the children learn through games and rhymes which are subsequently reinforced with practical workbook exercises. The tutors use a programme of study developed by the National Youth Choir of Scotland – Going for Bronze, Going for Silver and Going for Gold. At the end of each stage, the children will be assessed before being awarded the appropriate level and progressing to the next stage.



# Christopher Bell

## Director



Belfast born Christopher Bell was recently appointed Chorus Master of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus. He is also Chorus Master of the Belfast Philharmonic Choir, Chorus Director of the Grant Park Chorus, Chicago USA, Artistic Director of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, and Chorus Master of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Junior Chorus. He was largely responsible for the formation of the National Youth Choir of Scotland in 1996 and has been its artistic director since then. He was also former artistic director of the Ulster Youth Choir.

For his work with singers, and particularly his encouragement of young singers in Scotland, Christopher Bell was awarded a Scotsman of the Year 2001 award for Creative Talent. In 2003, he was awarded the Charles Groves Prize for his contribution to cultural life in Scotland and the rest of the UK. In June 2006 Christopher Bell and his Chicago based Grant Park Chorus, were awarded the 2006 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. This award is given to the chorus which demonstrates choral excellence. In 2009 he was awarded the honorary degree of Master of the University from the Open University for services to choral music and the arts. In September 2009 he was appointed as Associate Conductor with the Ulster Orchestra.

# Stephen Doughty

## Accompanist



Stephen Doughty read Music at the University of Edinburgh before graduating with a Master's Degree from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow in 1997.

He spends much of his time at the keyboard. He is Accompanist to Belfast Philharmonic Choir and the Belfast Philharmonic Youth Choir and Phil Kids, the National Youth Choir of Scotland National Girls Choir, and is a freelance accompanist of students and professional musicians. In addition he is Organist and Director of Music of St. John's, Princes Street in Edinburgh. As a player of harpsichord/organ continuo and orchestral piano he has played with all the Scottish Orchestras as well as the Ulster Orchestra.

As a Conductor, Stephen directs the Choir of St. John's, singing the full ranges of choral services, and for some 14 years has been Musical Director of the East Lothian-based Garleton Singers, with a repertoire ranging from folk song to large-scale works including Elijah, Carmina Burana and Verdi's Requiem, directing them in performances in Scotland and two foreign tours to the Rhine Valley and Florence. Stephen has studied both choral and orchestral conducting at Dartington and Canford International Summer Schools and was the joint holder of the first Alexander Gibson Memorial Scholarship in Choral Conducting with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus. In addition he is an Examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

# TUTORS

## **Majella Hollywood**

Majella Hollywood is from Newry and graduated from the University of Ulster with a BMus Hons degree in 1998. Majella then undertook postgraduate study for a yet-to-be finished MPhil on left-hand piano music. Majella has been both Administrator and subsequently Manager of Ulster Youth Choir since its inception in 1998 which has seen the choir perform throughout Northern Ireland and further afield, with the Ulster Orchestra, on BBC Radio Ulster, on two occasions in Proms in the Park on BBC television and most recently on BBC Radio 3 and in the Belfast Festival at Queen's. In addition, Majella has taught junior music in Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry for two years combining this with a private piano teaching practice. Majella has sung with the Belfast Philharmonic Choir since 2005 and joined the music staff of the Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choir in 2006.

## **Paula McHugh MA BMus (Hons) PGCE LTCL**

Paula McHugh is an experienced arts manager with wide and varied experience of the creation, delivery and management of music education programmes for children and young people. In addition to her involvement in Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choir, Paula currently works on a freelance basis as an arts manager with organisations such as Moving on Music, and as a violin tutor for City of Belfast School of Music. Paula has previously worked with Enfield Arts Support Service London, Ulster Orchestra, Ulster Youth Orchestra and Belfast Festival at Queen's.

## **Keri Cassidy Taylor**

Keri began her musical education at the age of three when she began Suzuki violin lessons. This early introduction to music has given Keri a lifetime love of music. At the age of nine, Keri joined the SEELB and was able to attend an orchestra.

Keri thoroughly enjoys making music with other people, and she continues to do so today in the Studio Symphony Orchestra, the Belfast Philharmonic Choir, and her local Church. Keri graduated from the University of Ulster where she enjoyed being an integral part of the music department; leading the orchestra, and singing in the choir and chamber choir. Keri has her own Suzuki Violin practice and is also a peripatetic violin tutor for the SEELB.

## **Wendy Poxon**

Wendy Poxon graduated in 1977 with a Certificate in Education from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. During her many years of teaching she has taught in a number of schools, mainly Primary, and also in an International school in Peru S. America where she was Head of Grade 1.

On her return to Northern Ireland she was appointed to Killyleagh Primary School where she is currently Head of Music. She teaches choral and instrumental music both in the school and privately using extensively the Kodaly method. She usually has at least one musical production in the school each year. Wendy has attended various courses in music including the Kodaly Society of Northern Ireland (KSONI) summer school and the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS) course.

## Phil Kids Team

Belfast Philharmonic Youth Choir and the Phil Kids are managed and organised entirely by volunteers from Belfast Philharmonic Choir and willing parents who kindly give their time and talents to make the young people's experience successful and enjoyable.

### Administrator

Clare Kelly      Ph: 07857 830 980      [philyouth@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:philyouth@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk)

Clare manages and maintains all the membership and attendance records. She is responsible for the flow of information between professional musicians, parents and children. Please contact Clare if your child is unable to attend, has been delayed or is unwell. If you require any information about rehearsals or concerts Clare will be willing to help you.

### Volunteer Co-ordinator

Iestyn Rees      Ph: 07514 806 977      [i.rees@googlemail.com](mailto:i.rees@googlemail.com)

Iestyn organises and co-ordinates all the volunteers who are required on a weekly basis to chaperone and register the young people. The Phil Kids and Youth Choir could not run as successfully as it does without them. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Iestyn. All volunteers must undergo a criminal record check and forms will be provided by the Child Protection Officers.

### Child Protection Officer

Ethel Ruddock      Ph: 07711 987052      [chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk)

### Deputy Child Protection Officers

Olive Elliott      Ph: 07792 448 92      [Elliott.olive1@gmail.com](mailto:Elliott.olive1@gmail.com)

Liz Jones      Ph: 07989 360648      [ejones111@hotmail.com](mailto:ejones111@hotmail.com)

If you have any concerns about your child please feel able to contact Ethel, Olive or Liz.

**First Aid Officers**      Iestyn Rees, Majella Hollywood

### Chairman of Belfast Philharmonic Society

Ethel Ruddock      Ph: 07711 987052      [chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk)

## **Wednesday Evenings**

With over 250 children attending St Bride's every Wednesday evening, maintaining order and discipline is obviously a major challenge for the Phil Kids team of volunteers. You, the parents, can contribute hugely to the smooth running of the choir and hence to the singing and musicianship of the children by strict observance of the following procedures.

### **Rehearsal Attendance/Punctuality**

Regular attendance is vitally important. If for any reason your child cannot attend please phone Clare Kelly on 07857 830 980 or email [philyouth@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:philyouth@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk). A good attendance is regarded as a prerequisite for your child to be allowed to take part in concerts. If your child has missed some rehearsals, their participation in the concerts is at the discretion of the Director.

Please ensure your child arrives prior to the rehearsal start time to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals as late arrivals cause disturbance to the classes/rehearsals which have already begun. We understand that you have different commitments. However, if your child is 5 minutes late they miss 20% of the rehearsal.

### **Collecting your child from rehearsal**

In order to make the picking up procedure easier we are instructing the children to remain in their practice room until collected. No child will be allowed to leave the building unless in the company of his/her parent or other appropriate adult. We understand that the older young people are becoming more independent but in the interests of their health and safety we would prefer if they could be collected from inside the building.

### **Mobile Phones**

If your child carries a mobile phone with them, please ensure it is switched off before rehearsal and not used at all during rehearsals.

## Concerts

Attendance at all the Phil Kids/Phil Youth Choir concerts is compulsory (but dependant on your child's attendance at rehearsals). All the dates for Phil Kids/Phil Youth Choir Concerts are on page 12 so please ensure that your child is available for all of them. If you foresee any problem with any of these dates, please let Clare Kelly know as soon as possible.

## Concert Uniform

### Phil Kids

Phil Kids polo shirt  
Black trousers  
Black shoes and socks

### Phil Youth Choir Boys

**Youth Choir** polo shirts  
Black trousers  
Black shoes and socks

### Phil Youth Choir Girls

**Youth Choir** long-sleeved t-shirts  
Black trousers  
Black shoes and socks

*No glittery hair ornaments or jewellery please which would sparkle in stage lighting.*

Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choir polo shirts and t-shirts will be available to order prior to the first concert.

## Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted on stage, please ensure that they are left at home. Belfast Philharmonic Society will not be responsible for any valuables left in changing rooms.

## Medical Conditions/Allergies

You will already have completed a form to inform us of any conditions your child may have. If this changes in any way during the course of the year, please let us know as soon as possible. **As there are several children in both choirs who suffer from severe nut allergies, please ensure your child does not bring any nuts or related products to Phil Kids/Phil Youth Choir.**

## Child Protection

Phil Kids/Phil Youth Choir has adopted a Child Protection Policy in accordance with the Northern Ireland Children's Order. A copy of the policy is available on request from Ethel Ruddock 07711 987 052 or [chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk). Any issues concerning Child Protection should be addressed with the Child Protection Officer, Ethel Ruddock – details above.

Under the child protection policy, all participants of Phil Kids/Phil Youth Choir are expected to follow a code of behaviour as follows:

### CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR PHIL KIDS AND BELFAST PHILHARMONIC YOUTH CHOIR

#### Do

- Wear appropriate clothing.
- Include and encourage the participation of other group members.
- Listen to others.
- Ask questions if you are unsure about something.
- Respect other children and adults at all times.
- Use allocated toilet and changing facilities.
- Tell an adult straight away if you (or another child) feel uncomfortable or frightened by the actions or words of another adult or child.
- Follow safety guidelines and instructions.

#### Do not

- Shout.
- Swear or use inappropriate language.
- Make fun of others.
- Exclude or make assumptions about others.
- Fight/push/pull/hit/nip/bite – even in fun.
- Tell jokes or stories that are rude or may offend or hurt others.
- Run in corridor areas/backstage.
- Keep bullying or behaviour you are not comfortable with a secret.
- Promise to keep secrets.
- Use mobile telephones during activities (including breaks).

## Rehearsal Schedule Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choir 2010-2011

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Phil Youth Choir
	<b>September</b>	<b>5.00-6.00</b>	<b>5.00-6.00</b>	<b>6.00-7.00</b>	<b>6.00-7.00</b>
Wednesday	08/09/2010	Rehearsal	No rehearsal	No rehearsal	No rehearsal
Wednesday	15/09/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	22/09/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Sunday	26/09/2010				Workshop Day
Wednesday	29/09/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
	<b>October</b>				
Wednesday	06/10/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	13/10/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	20/10/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	27/10/2010	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
	<b>November</b>				
Wednesday	03/11/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	10/11/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Friday	12/11/2010				Faure Requiem
Wednesday	17/11/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	24/11/2010	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Thursday	25/11/2010	Presentation Evening	Presentation Evening	Presentation Evening	
Saturday	27/11/2010				Phil Youth Choir Concert
<b>HOLIDAYS</b>					
	<b>January</b>				
Wednesday	12/01/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	19/01/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	26/01/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
	<b>February</b>				
Wednesday	02/02/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	09/02/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	16/02/2011	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Wednesday	23/02/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
	<b>March</b>				
Wednesday	02/03/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	09/03/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	16/03/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	23/03/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	30/03/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
	<b>April</b>				
Wednesday	06/04/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	13/04/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	20/04/2011	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Wednesday	27/04/2011	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
	<b>May</b>				
Wednesday	04/05/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	11/05/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Wednesday	18/05/2011	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal
Sunday	22/05/2011	Concert	Concert	Concert	Concert