



Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

The 70th Anniversary Concert

ASHINGTON and DISTRICT
MALE VOICE CHOIR
1916 – 1986



70th ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL CELEBRITY CONCERT

Guest Artists:
Maryetta Midgley – Soprano
Vernon Midgley – Tenor
Accompanist . . . Gladys Midgley

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1986
Ashington Technical College

Price 10p

Northumberland Technical College

The Choir was founded originally in October 1916 by Mr. W. H. Batey as Ashington Male Voice Choir.

He laid the foundations of successful choral singing of a high standard winning many contests and earning a fine reputation for the Choir.

After surviving the 1926 General Strike and the Second World War, the Choir amalgamated in 1956 with the depleted Morpeth and Newbiggin Male Voice Choirs to form Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.

The Choir has entertained audiences across the region and overseas and performs a varied selection of songs. It is appropriate that several numbers are about coal mining as Ashington was once famous as 'the largest coal mining village in the world'.

Surviving the Covid pandemic, which impacted on many community choirs, this traditional male voice choir from Ashington continues to flourish and attract new members.

This information sheet reviews 'The 70th Anniversary Concert', which was held on the 25th October 1986.

A Concert fitting for A Centenary Anniversary

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was proud to perform their '70th Anniversary Annual Celebrity Concert' at Ashington Technical College on Saturday, 25th October 1986.

Their guest artists for the evening were the Midgley Family.

A rich and varied programme of music was performed to celebrate the 70th Anniversary.

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

During 1986, the Choir had 39 members – 13 baritones, 14 basses, 6 first tenors and 6 second tenors.

Ella Hughes was the musical director and conductor, and Judith Blackburn was the accompanist. Ben Poll was deputy conductor.

Guest Artists kept the Concert in the Family!

Vernon Midgley, tenor, was the son of the famous tenor, Walter Midgley. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music and spent two seasons with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

He was one of England's most popular radio and television singing stars.

He had performed in America, Canada, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iran and Israel.

Maryetta Midgley was the daughter of the famous tenor and was a soprano. After leaving Trinity College in London, she joined the cast of 'Camelot' at Drury Lane.

She was also popular in radio and television productions.

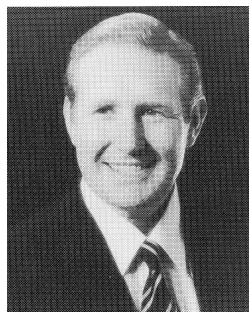
Maryetta performed in America, Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan and New Zealand.

Gladys Midgley – When she met and then married Walter Midgley, she became his official accompanist.

She had also accompanied many famous artists, including Webster Booth, Ann Ziegler, Joan Hammond and Kathleen Ferrier.

ADMVC 14

04.08.2024



Maryetta and Vernon Midgley

Rich and Varied Programme for 70 Years

ADMVC

Llanfair, Two Roses, En Route,
It's a Grand Night for Singing

Vernon Midgley

Una furtiva lagrima, Is Life a boon?
Love could I only tell thee

ADMVC

Border Ballad, Calm is the Sea,
The Fisherman's Hymn

Maryetta Midgley

Polonaise, I love thee, Lo! Hear the gentle lark

ADMVC

Some Enchanted Evening, Arise O Sun

Maryetta and Vernon Midgley

Parigi O Cara,
Selection from 'The Gypsy Princess

ADMVC

Non Nobis Domine, The Old Woman,
Morte Criste

Vernon Midgley

I'll Sing thee songs of Araby, Thora,
Garden of Happiness

ADMVC

There is Nothin' like a Dame, O Sole Mio,
Stout Hearted Men

Maryetta Midgley

Green Hills of Somerset, Waltz of my Heart,
Memory

Maryetta and Vernon Midgley

Sunrise, Sunset,
Selection from 'The White Horse Inn'

ADMVC

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

Web: <https://www.ashingtonmalevoicechoir.org.uk>

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

Reflecting on 70 Years of Success for the Choir

Message from President of ADMVC

John McHardy, president of Ashington & District Male Voice Choir, gave the following message in the concert programme:

'It is a great honour for me, an incomer to Northumberland, to be able to welcome you to this special 70th Anniversary Concert, and in doing so to pay tribute to the Choir and to you, their faithful following of supporters.

In my relatively short association with Ashington, I have come to realise how much a part of the life and tradition of the district they have become, and to look forward eagerly to every concert. However, it is only when I am reminded by such an occasion as this, that the Choir have been busy making music since the middle of the First World War, long before I was born, that I begin to appreciate what they must mean to generations of local men and women.

I should like therefore on your behalf to say thank you to the Choir for the pleasure they have given us and to their conductor, Ella Hughes, for the part she has played in their success; and wish them well - along the road to their Centenary. On behalf of the Choir, can I also thank you, their audience: may your enjoyment and your numbers ever increase!'



Ashington & District Male Voice Choir in 1985

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir Information Sheets

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir is producing a range of information sheets on various topics, including on the heritage of the Choir. They will be published within the Choir website.