

Autumn 2013 CânSing bulletin



Welcome to the autumn edition of the CânSing bulletin – and as you will see the CânSing team has been very busy since our last edition.

We have been recording new songs and filming new, teacher-focused, tutorial videos – for more information please see the 'latest resources' section. I certainly hope you enjoy our new Christmas resources – please do share recordings of your school/choir/group performing, we would love to add these to our website.

This year, another 200 schools will participate in CânSing training – and we have delivered several training days already this term and others are planned – if you know of a school who hasn't yet engaged with CânSing – please do get in touch.

No doubt, many of you will have read the recent 'Arts in Education Review' report and the recommendations. We were pleased to see the CânSing project mentioned so positively and hope that this report will help us to demonstrate how much teachers utilise the resources and training offered via the programme.

In the meantime, as we will not issue another bulletin before Christmas, may I wish you 'Seasons Greetings' and a happy 2014!

If you wish to get in touch with me, please email suzanne.barnes@castcymru.org.uk.

*Kind regards, Suzanne,
CânSing Project Manager.*

Singing on the estate

Welsh National Opera's Wrexham Street Songs is a three-year community arts programme run by Wrexham County and CânSing vocal animator, Ruth Evans, also works for the WNO Youth and Community Department. This gave Ruth a great opportunity to use CânSing repertoire for a new WNO Family Choir.

Côr Caia Choir is a free family choir based on the Caia Park Estate in Wrexham. Bringing together children and adults for fun and friendship through singing, the choir was formed in April 2013 and conducted by Ruth. The choir gave its first public performance in St Joseph's School Wrexham on National CânSing day in June, alongside Welsh National Opera singing doctor Zoe Milton-Brown.

The choir performed three items of CânSing repertoire at the concert: 'Calypso', 'Scoo Be Doo' and 'World in Union'. That same month they also recorded a CD and two of the songs from that recording,

'Calypso' and 'Scoo Be Doo', are from the CânSing repertoire.

In September, the choir restarted for the year and want to recruit more singers! Côr Caia Choir returns led by the brilliant musical director (and CânSing animator) Jenny Pearson and accompanist Annette Bryn Parri. Rehearsals are every Tuesday of term time (3.30pm–5.00pm, with snacks) at the Kingsley Circle Community Centre, Caia Park.

If you would like any further information about the choir or want a free Côr Caia Choir CD please email WNO Youth and Community Producer ruth.evans@wno.org.uk (www.facebook.com/streetsongs)



Côr Donlau'r Dyffryn

Elin Angharad Davies

I was inspired to form a children's choir after being on a Cansing Training Day earlier this year. Being a music teacher and mother of four, I found that there was a gap in the provision in the area and a lack of opportunities for children to sing together, and to enjoy and socialise through music. Many of the primary schools in the Conwy Valley are relatively small and rural and under-resourced to form a school choir. With Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy and Ruth Owen, the accompanist's valuable support, we started rehearsal in early April this year. We had 52 enthusiastic and talented children from years 5 to 8 in the first rehearsal at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, Llanrwst, and since then the choir has gone from strength to strength.

Another objective was to support the Eisteddfodau and local festivals, and earlier this summer we competed in the National Eisteddfod at Denbigh. When looking for suitable pieces for our programme we had to look no further than the Cansing website and we selected two of



the songs: 'Song of the Elements' by Robat Arwyn and a translation of 'Sing out loud' by Einion Dafydd. Because 'Song of the Elements' was specifically about choosing instruments to add colour to the performance, this was also a great opportunity for the choir's instrumentalists to show off their skills and play the trumpet, trombone and flute as an accompaniment. 'Sing out loud' was the challenging option to complete the programme and the words of the Welsh anthem worked perfectly with the rhythm of the rap. The experience of conducting the choir on the National Eisteddfod's stage and seeing the choir members' enthusiastic response was simply breathtaking. As the judges said, 'the children's faces spoke volumes and the audience's response deafening'!

The Cansing website has been

invaluable to us as instructors and the children loved the exercises and fun songs. The fact that the individual parts can be heard in every song is very useful as some less experienced learners can listen and learn the pieces at home and parents are also able to offer support. Several parents have praised the website and commenting they have never heard their children sing so much around the house!

Thank you so much Cansing for the inspiration and for making all this possible. The lives of 52 children and their parents here in the Conwy Valley have been greatly enhanced as a result. We are hoping to compete at the North Wales Choral Festival in Llandudno in a few weeks. *Many thanks to Lluniau Llwyfan for their kind permission to use the photograph.*

Training dates

6 November

Twilight Session: WNO, Cardiff

11 November

RCT: TD2 (English medium)

13 November

Twilight Session: Ysgol Tan y Marian, Colwyn Bay

14 November

Cardiff/Vale: TD2
(English medium)

Up to date?

Are you receiving all the latest information about Cansing?

If you've changed your email address and wish to keep up to date with all the latest information about Cansing please email owaingethin@cansing.org.uk with your new address so we can update our details.

Do you still remember your username/password?

If you've forgotten your username or password for using all the Cansing resources please email owaingethin@cansing.org.uk to retrieve your details.

Latest resources

To help you and your learners to prepare for your Christmas activities in school there will be two new Christmas songs/resources on the site very soon!

They are 'Christmas Carol medley' (trad. arr. Osian Rowlands) and 'The twelve days of Christmas' (trad. arr. Owain Gethin Davies).

Earlier this month we published a flyer with information about all of our Christmas songs/resources. This is also available to download from our website.

We will also be releasing another five songs for Foundation Phase based on the following themes: School, Measuring, Colours, Planting and Senses.

Following the popularity of our video clips on the website we will be developing 10 new video clips with tutorials on how to deliver specific warm up activities. We will also be adding some new beat boxing videos featuring Ed Holden and providing extra support for the song 'Stand by me' which is already on the Cansing website. For more information about the resources please email suzanne.barnes@castcymru.org.uk.

Similar songs

We have added a new feature in our song section on the website.

When you view any song screen there will be two recommendations of other similar songs that you could learn/sing following working on your current song. View any song on www.cansing.org.uk to see this new feature.



Are you following us on Twitter?

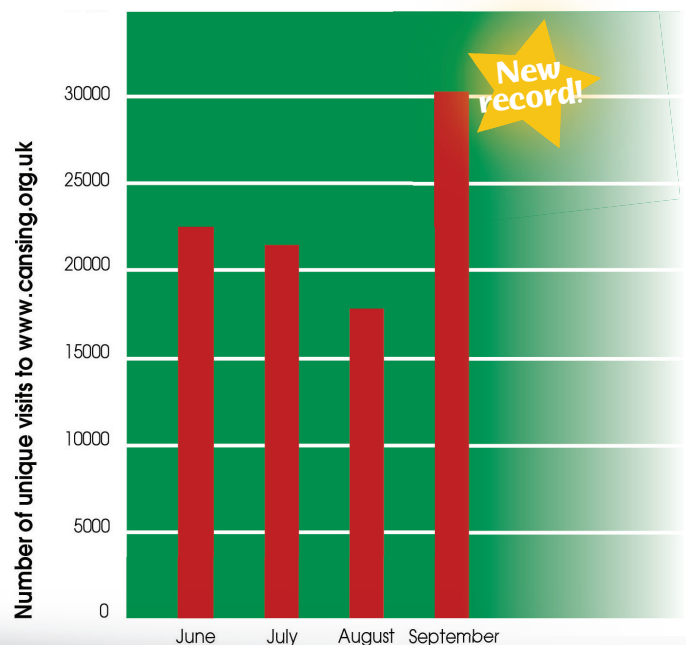
Follow us @cansingcymru for all the latest news about training events and new resources.

The latest tweets can be found on the home page of our website www.cansing.org.uk.



Dates, facts and figures:

average monthly visits to the Cansing website.



CaST Cymru
Unit 1, Forest Studios
Ceinws, Machynlleth
Powys SY20 9HA

Tel: 01654 761568
www.castcymru.org.uk
www.cansing.org.uk



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cymunedau a 'Sgolon fel Tim
CaST CYMRU
Communities and Schools Together