

We're Going on A Randy!

A musical creation about Northeast Legends



Sunderland Male Voice Choir evolved from the former Shiney Row Male Voice Choir in July 2022.

The Choir has recorded and performed an extensive range of music which has been popular with audiences across the region and the country.

Originally recorded material was re-mastered in 2022 and is available on CD. It is also being promoted, with live recordings of ongoing concerts in musical videos published on the Choir's website and social media.

The Choir has also embarked on a programme of creating new musical material. Some of this material incorporates new arrangements of traditional numbers. An exciting new initiative is the creation of brand-new songs based upon the region's rich local heritage and its people.

The Stephenson Trail Project

Introduction

Sunderland Male Voice Choir made a project submission to The Cultural Spring to deliver a musical creation initiative associated with planned celebrations for the Bicentenary of the Hetton Colliery Railway in November 2022.

Although the initial application was short-listed, it was not successful. The Cultural Spring was however impressed with the submission and presentation by the Choir, and as a result commissioned them to undertake some additional work.

The Stephenson Trail Project comprised of the creation of a new song about George Stephenson and the Hetton Colliery Railway, the promotion of the new piece of local heritage through concerts and recorded media.

We're Going on A Randy!

'We're Going on A Randy!' is the title of the new song created and performed by Sunderland Male Voice Choir.

The song has been written and produced by Sam Jordan, one of the Choir's tenors and deputy musical director.

It tells the story of local legend, George Stephenson, who was born in Wylam, Northumberland. He was initially illiterate and taught himself to read and write, becoming one of the country's most famous mining and railway engineers during the Industrial Revolution.

The song explains how he struggled to be recognised by the establishment for his inventions, such as the 'Geordie Lamp', tested at Killingworth.

Each verse introduces his role in The Hetton Colliery Railway, the high death rate in the Woodhead tunnels, his illiteracy and inventions, and the impact of their work on the landscape.

The chorus describes the difficult and dangerous roles of the workmen ('navvies') but their respect for George Stephenson.

Sunderland Male Voice Choir

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Heritage Concert at Hetton Methodist Church

A Song about local heritage and people

'We're Going on A Randy!' is a song with a local theme which tells a powerful story through its verses and a distinctive chorus.

Verse 1 introduces you to the Hetton Colliery Railway and George Stephenson's record achievement to build it by November 1822.

Verse 2 describes the replacement of 'animal power' but the need for 1000's of 'navvies' (workmen) to build it.

Verse 3 explains how more men died building the Woodhead Tunnel than at the Battle of Waterloo.

Verse 4 described how Stephenson battled illiteracy and recognition to become a famous inventor.

Verse 5 highlights Stephenson's compassion and respect for his workmen.

Verse 6 explains that the 'navvies' worked hard for Stephenson and helped him to change the landscape.

A Popular Chorus to Sing Along With!

Sunderland Male Voice Choir just love taking the part of 'navvies' (workmen) to perform this great local folk song, 'We're Going on A Randy!'

Chorus of 'We're Going on A Randy!'
We're going on a randy, we'll not be working soon.

We've sweated blood to build your rails from January to June.

In the tunnels, chances are we'll lose some of our mates.

Better work for Stephenson because he compensates.

Your Support is Appreciated!
Sunderland Male Voice Choir acknowledge the support of The Cultural Spring and Sunderland City Council for making the project possible.

Our Thanks for Your Efforts!
Sunderland Male Voice Choir wish to thank Sam Jordan, tenor and deputy musical director for his creative work and perseverance for success.

The support of Phil Dixon, musical director, and accompanists, Janette Bell and Julie Lawrence, are also acknowledged.



Concert at Trinity Methodist Church, Shiney Row

Sunderland Male Voice Choir Information Sheets

Sunderland Male Voice Choir is producing a range of information sheets on its new music creation and project work. These sheets will be published within the 'Project' page of the Choir website.