



FYC

40 Years of Historic Achievement

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) was formed in 1984 by David (OBE) and Gillian Victor-Smith. FYC is composed of 3 choirs: Training, Junior and Senior Choirs. Children's ages range from 6 to 18 with each choir's repertoire designed to give each singer a musical education that supports and extends their individual musicianship. At any one time each choir has in memory over a dozen songs covering many different styles and in the case of the Junior and Senior Choirs spanning several centuries of choral music. FYC regularly commissions new compositions and arrangements as well as recording CDs of their repertoire and performing live on TV. FYC performs in local venues and the Senior Choir also performs in national and international venues and competes on the world stage. The Senior Choir have won several 1st Prizes and Gold Medals over their years of performance which is captured in the achievements listing below. Currently the FYC Senior Choir is conducted by Patrick Barrett, the Junior Choir is conducted by Margaret O'Shea and the Training Choir is conducted by Claire Robins.

Success and Recognition

- 2023 International Choir Competition, Provence, France: Children's Choir, Ranked 1st
- 2023 Performed in the World Premiere of, 'Jonah' by Ian Fletcher at Cadogan Hall with the London Symphony Chorus and the National Symphony Orchestra (Junior & Senior Choirs)
- 2023 Hull International Choir Competition: Youth Choirs of Equal Voices: Category and Gold Medal Winner
- 2023 Hull International Choir Competition: Sacred Choral Music a capella: Silver Medal Winner
- 2022 Recording: 'The History Express' - by Russell Hepplewhite and lyricist Helen Eastman. Senior, Junior and Training Choir providing the backing track for this song book for primary school children.
- 2022 Recording: 'Herstory' - commission by composer in residence, Russell Hepplewhite and lyricist, Helen Eastman. Three songs were written for the three FYC choirs, celebrating eminent women in history.
- 2020 Barnardo's National Choral Competition: Junior Choir competed in the finals at Royal Festival Hall
- 2019 Invitational, two performances in the Sion Festival, Switzerland
- 2019 Competed in the 4th European Choir Games, Gothenburg (Sweden): Grand Prix of Nations, 2 x Gold Medal Winners (Youth Choir category and Music Sacra with accompaniment)
- 2018 Performed in ITV's "The X Factor" – Live Final – Wembley Arena
- 2017 Performance in Notre-Dame de Paris, France
- 2016 Competed in finals of the Barnardos National Choir Competition at Royal Festival Hall (Girls' Choir)



- 2015 2nd European Choir Games, Magdeburg (Germany): Grand Prix of Nations, Gold Medal Winners
- 2015 2nd European Choir Games, Magdeburg (Germany): First place, Gold Medal Winners (Children's Choir Champions of Europe)
- 2013 Eagle Radio's Local Heroes Music Award
- 2013 Montreux Choral Festival (Switzerland): Grand Prix and Prix de Public winner
- 2012 7th World Choir Games, Cincinnati (USA): 1 gold (Equal Voices) and 1 silver (Musica Sacra) medal
- 2010 Youth Choir of the Year: Finalist
- 2010 XXI Concorso Internazionale di Canto Corale, Verona (Italy): Ottimo Oro (overall winner) and Premio Speciale (best conductor and best choice of programme)
- 2009 Montreux Choral Festival (Switzerland): Runner-up (Excellent with distinction)
- 2008 National Festival of Music for Youth, Birmingham: Highly commended
- 2007 BBC Radio 4: *Water of Tyne* is JP Donleavy's first choice on Desert Island Discs
- 2006 4th World Choir Games, Xiamen (China): 2 silver medals and 2 gold diplomas
- 2005 Montreux Choral Festival (Switzerland): 1st prize (Audience)
- 2005 BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year: Finalist
- 2004 52nd European Youth Choral Festival, Neerpelt (Belgium): 1st prize cum laude
- 2002 Sainsbury's Youth Choir of the Year: Finalist
- 1999 Jersey International Festival: 1st prize (Youth Choirs Section) and Overall Winner
- 1998 BBC/Sainsbury's Youth Choir of the Year: 1st prize
- 1998 International Choir Competition, Riva del Garda (Italy): Gold award and 1st prize (Children's Section)
- 1997 MBE awarded to David Victor-Smith for services to Farnham Youth Choir
- 1997 National Festival, Royal Festival Hall, London: Outstanding performance award
- 1994 Smetana International Festival, Litomyšl (Czech Republic): Gold award and 1st prize (Children's Section) and Folk Song award
- 1993 Tolosa International Choral Festival (Spain)
- 1992 BBC/Sainsbury's Youth Choir of the Year: 1st prize
- 1992 National Festival, Royal Festival Hall, London: Outstanding performance award
- 1991 National Festival, Royal Festival Hall, London: Outstanding performance award
- 1989 National Festival, Royal Festival Hall, London: Outstanding performance award
- 1987 National Festival, Royal Festival Hall, London: Highly commended award



FYC on Tour

- 2023 France (Provence)
- 2023 UK (Hull)
- 2022 UK (Cornwall)
- 2019 Switzerland (Sion)
- 2019 Sweden (Gothenburg)
- 2017 France (Paris)
- 2016 Italy (Rome)
- 2015 Germany (Magdeburg, Gelsenkirchen, Kevelaer)
- 2014 Ireland (Dublin and Cork)
- 2013 Switzerland (Montreux)
- 2012 USA (Cincinnati, Bloomfield, New York)
- 2011 Scotland (Buxton, Dunkeld, Perth, Edinburgh, Arnside)
- 2010 Italy (Verona)
- 2009 Switzerland (Montreux)
- 2008 Belgium (Ghent, Antwerp) and Germany (Andernach, Mayen)
- 2006 China (Xiamen and Beijing)
- 2005 Switzerland (Montreux)
- 2004 Belgium (Neerpelt)
- 2003 Australia (Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Yea) and Singapore
- 2002 Germany (Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden)
- 2000 Germany (Arolsen)
- 1999 Jersey
- 1998 France (Strasbourg) and Italy (Riva del Garda)
- 1997 Belgium (Namur)
- 1997 UK (Llangollen and Chester)
- 1996 Germany (Andernach and Arolsen)
- 1995 UK (Derby and Nottingham)
- 1994 Czech Republic (Prague and Litomyšl)
- 1993 Spain (Tolosa)
- 1993 UK (Harrogate, Perth and Newcastle)
- 1992 Germany (Arolsen)
- 1989 France (Paris)



1988 Germany (Arolsen)

In Major Concerts

- 2019 Two performances in the Sion Festival, Switzerland
- 2017 Performance in Notre-Dame de Paris, France
- 2016 Major celebration concert at the Anvil, Basingstoke
- 2015 Waltham Abbey Church, Essex
- 2015 The Church in the Orchard Concert Series, Grange Park
- 2014 Guildford Cathedral: *A Candlelit Christmas Concert* with Russell Watson on UK Tour
- 2013 Fairfield Halls, Croydon: John Rutter's Christmas Celebration with John Rutter and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- 2013 Guildford Cathedral: part of the Cathedral Tour with Aled Jones
- 2013 Guildford Cathedral: John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* with Vivace Choir
- 2010 The Anvil, Basingstoke: Anniversary Concert with The King's Singers
- 2009 Cadogan Hall, London: John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* with the Choir and Orchestra of London
- 2007 Royal Albert Hall, London: John Rutter's Christmas concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Choir of London
- 2007 Imperial War Museum, London: Premiere of *Stolen Voices* by Tarik O'Regan, a special commission for World Peace Day
- 2007 Royal Festival Hall, London: Reopening ceremony
- 2006 St. Paul's Cathedral, London: John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- 2006 Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing (China): Gala concert
- 2005 Royal Albert Hall, London: John Rutter's Christmas concert and the Royal Philharmonic
- 2003 Guildford Cathedral, UK premiere of John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*
- 2003 Royal Festival Hall, London: John Rutter's Christmas concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Choral Society
- 2001 Royal Festival Hall, London: John Rutter's Christmas concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Choral Society
- 1998 Royal Albert Hall, London: Festival of Remembrance
- 1998 Mansion House, City of London

- 1984- Present Other UK performances have taken place at Symphony Hall, Birmingham; Buxton Opera House; St. John's Smith Square, London; King's College, Cambridge; St. George's Chapel, Windsor; St. James's Palace, London; Eton College Chapel; and Winchester Cathedral.



On Television

- 2020 BBC *King Gary* broadcast on Christmas Day 2020.
- 2018 ITV's *The X-Factor* – Live Final – Wembley Arena, London
- 2015 BBC: *Songs of Praise, singing Ave Maria*, recorded at the Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot
- 2014 BBC's live broadcast of *Songs of Praise* singing "In Flanders Fields" on Remembrance Sunday marking 100 years since the start of the World War I at the Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot
- 2012 BBC: *BBC South Today*
- 2010 ITV: *Carols at Christmas* from Christopher's, The Chase Children's Hospice, Guildford
- 1999 BBC: *Songs of Praise* from The Bishop's Palace, Wells Cathedral
- 1998 BBC: *The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance* from the Royal Albert Hall, in the presence of the Queen
- 1998 BBC: *Blue Peter*
- 1992 BBC: *Blue Peter*
- 1984 – Present FYC has also been featured on the BBC during Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competitions in 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2004.

Recordings

- 2021 ***Hope is the Thing with Feathers and Sweet and Low*** post-pandemic professional recordings and music video, available on YouTube
- 2013 ***All Things Pass*** is a collection of songs from FYC's repertoire between 2011 to 2013 in the genres of folksong and sacred song.
- 2011 ***Hosanna*** is a collection of songs appropriate to the Christian festivals of Advent and Christmas, with a diverse mix of styles and moods, recorded over a period of several years – available now
- 2009 ***25th Birthday Concert***, the choir's anniversary event at The Anvil, Basingstoke, live on CD and highlights on DVD – available now
- 2009 ***Celebration!***, a double album of selected songs recorded over 25 years, with a Live Bonus CD of major commissions in world premieres – available now
- 2008 John Rutter's ***Christmas Festival***, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Cambridge Singers – available now
- 2008 ***Yo Le Canto*** covers the previous three years of FYC repertoire, with a wide variety of sacred and secular items – available now
- 2005 John Rutter's ***Mass of the Children***, with the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge



- 2005 **Laudate** covers the previous two years' repertoire, with a wide variety of sacred and secular items
- 2001 **A Dream of Snow**, includes this song cycle by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and items from the choir's repertoire at that time
- 1999 **Carnival!**, premiered by FYC, takes its name from a modern adaptation of Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* by Gwyn Arch and Jeremy Browne; it also includes the winning songs from Sainsbury's Choir of the Year 1998 and items performed at that year's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall
- 1997 **Sing You Now** includes *Four Elizabethan Lyrics*, commissioned from Ronald Corp, plus items from the choir's repertoire at that time.
- 1996 **Hodie** is a collection of Christmas items ranging from carols by Britten and Rutter to traditional and much-loved favourites
- 1993 **Water of Tyne**, the choir's first CD, recorded in 1993 and including most of the songs performed at the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition in 1992

Commissions and Premier Performances

- 2023 **Herstory** by Russell Hepplewhite and Helen Eastman. Commissioned and recorded three songs – [Sea Shores, Comet Crazy and In the Numbers](#). Premiered in March.
- 2012 [New-made for a King](#) by James MacMillan – commissioned and premiered, and recorded on **All Things Pass**
- 2012 Ken Johnston arrangement of the Scottish folk song *Ca' the yowes* – commissioned and premiered, and recorded on **All Things Pass**
- 2011 Philip Lawson arrangement of the English folk song *The Oak and the Ash* – commissioned and premiered, and recorded on **All Things Pass**
- 2011 [Festival Alleluia](#) by James Whitbourn – commissioned by the Farnham Festival and premiered by FYC, and recorded on **All Things Pass**
- 2009 Gwyn Arch arrangements of *Over the Rainbow* by Harold Arlen and *Where or when* by Richard Rodgers – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on **25th Birthday Concert** CD
- 2009 [Gray's Pier](#) by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Master of the Queen's Music – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on **Celebration!**
- 2009 *Silver* by Graham Ross – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on **Celebration!**
- 2007 [It sounded as if the Streets were running](#) by Jonathan Dove – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on **Yo Le Canto**
- 2007 [Stolen Voices](#) by Tarik O'Regan – premiered at the Imperial War Museum (not available on CD)
- 2003 [Four Bashō Settings](#) by Augusta Read Thomas – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on **Celebration!**
- 2003 Gwyn Arch arrangements of the standard classics *Sweet Georgia Brown, Anything Goes and Blue Moon* – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on **Laudate**



- 2001 *A Dream of Snow* by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on ***A Dream of Snow***
- 2000 Douglas Coombes arrangements of two English folk songs, *O Rare Turpin Hero* and *Sweet Polly Oliver* – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on ***A Dream of Snow***
- 1999 Peter Gritton arrangement of the standard classic *Fever* – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on ***A Dream of Snow***
- 1999 Gwyn Arch arrangement of the English folk song *Beautiful Nancy* – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on ***A Dream of Snow***
- 1999 Gwyn Arch arrangement of Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals* – premiered and recorded on ***Carnival!***
- 1993 *Four Elizabethan Lyrics* by Ronald Corp – commissioned, premiered, and recorded on ***Sing You Now***
- 1991 *Epigraminals* by Grayston Ives – commissioned by the Farnham Festival and premiered by FYC (not available on CD)



FYC Training – Junior – Senior Chorus Performed at The Menuhin Hall (30 June 2019)