

# Floratorio - Celebrating Florence Nightingale's Life

**Florence Nightingale had many connections to Derbyshire as 180 children from Derby, Lea and Crich and 120 children from Buxton and High Peak are currently finding out...**

Following the smash success that was 2008's *More Glass Than Wall* project on Bess of Hardwick, this year sees sinfonia VIVA mounting a major project on the life of another of Derbyshire's most influential women, writes **Education Manager Marianne Barraclough**.

We first learned that 2010 marked the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's death when our Chairman John Rivers (who lives in a house once occupied by Florence's aunt) told us that he was involved in a group the Florence Nightingale Derbyshire Association - a committee formed to ensure that Florence's life was celebrated during her centenary year. From this point discussions began and ideas started forming for a music project all about Florence.

Coalitions seem very newsworthy at the moment and little did we know, but a happy artistic 'coalition' of our own was about to be born. Another organisation, Living Derby, in partnership with Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was also thinking about developing a programme of work aiming to celebrate the famous nurse's life. From this common purpose was born *Illuminate 2010* - a festival programme including a variety of events and activities all about Florence in which ViVA became a partner.

ViVA's project *Floratorio* is a newly written oratorio for children's choir, orchestra and two soloists. It premieres at the Assembly Rooms, Derby on 22 June and will also feature in the Buxton Festival on 20 July with a fresh group of participants getting their chance to take the stage. *Floratorio* was co-written by librettist Peter Roberts, who also penned the script for the Derby LIVE Youth Theatre play *A Lady with a Lamp*, which debuted in April as the launch event for *Illuminate 2010*, and composer James Redwood who has written several works for ViVA over the last 3 years. The piece explores key moments in Florence's life, with a sharp focus on the relationships she established with several important men in her life.

On June 22 at the Assembly Rooms, all 180 participants will come together to form a massed choir and will give two performances with the Orchestra and two soloists - the first an afternoon schools' performance seeing schools from across Derby and Derbyshire singing with the Orchestra, the second an evening performance for friends, family and the general public. Some of the participants will then return to the Derby Hospitals - both the Royal Derby Hospital and London Road Community Hospital - later in the week to give some smaller scale performances of the piece *in situ* - which will provide a fitting and atmospheric conclusion to the project.



**On Song:**  
sinfonia VIVA's Choral Advisor David Lawrence leads a Florence workshop with a group of students and staff at Bishop Lonsdale Primary School in Derby



**Power of Corridors:**

Acclaimed composer James Redwood (left) on site with VIVA musician Jack Ross exploring the creative inspiration potential of the hospital atmosphere

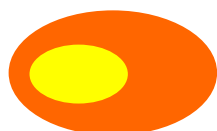
The 120 young people involved in the Buxton Festival arm of the project will give two performances with ViVA and the soloists at St John's Church, Buxton on Tuesday 20 July.

Come along and learn something new about this amazing lady:

**Tickets for the 7.00pm performance on Tuesday 22 June in Derby are available from the Assembly Rooms Box Office on 01332 255800.**

**Tickets for the 5.00pm performance on Tuesday 20 July are available from the Buxton Festival on 0845 1272 190.**

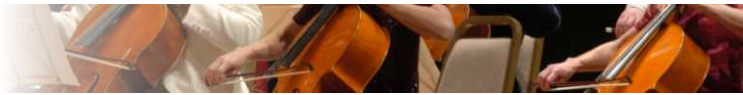
The projects have been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, Orchestras Live, Derbyshire Community Foundation, Tom Carey Fund, Buxton Festival, Buxton Natural Mineral Water and Arts Council England.



INSIDE ~ ~ ~ Media wizard **Phil Higgins** on capturing sinfonia VIVA on video... **Mike Wheeler** reviews VIVA's latest concert in Derby... **Peter Helps** reflects as the new government's cuts loom... PLUS details of concerts for June, July and August ~ ~ ~



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



Sunday 13th June

Main Ballroom, Pontins, Pakefield Nr. Lowestoft  
Ticket details from the Pontins booking line on 0870 604 5602

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-06-13-pakefield.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-06-13-pakefield.shtml)

## ▶▶ Last Night of the Pakefield Proms

Glinka: Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture  
Dvorak: Slavonic Dance No.2  
Mozart: Deh Vieni (Marriage of Figaro)  
Offenbach: Barcarolle  
Tchaikovsky: Waltz of the Flowers  
Puccini: Quando m'en vo (La Boheme)  
Smetana: Dance of the Comedians  
Anderson: Buglers' Holiday  
Lai: (Where Do I Begin?) Love Story  
Gilbert & Sullivan: HMS Pinafore Overture  
Gilbert & Sullivan: Poor Wandering One  
arr. Hall: I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside  
PLUS traditional 'Last Night of the Proms' items!



sinfonia VIVA returns to Pontins at Pakefield, Nr Lowestoft for the fifth triumphant year! Conductor **Anthony Kraus** brings an effervescent Last Night programme of favourite classics with the Orchestra joined by accomplished Soprano **Jeni Bern** - and if previous concerts are anything to go by, one that as the evening unfolds will have the audience out of its seats and calling for more!

The hugely popular Pakefield Proms weekend culminates in this marvellously traditional concert - an exciting occasion in which energy, fun and finesse intermingle in what is sure to be an enjoyable atmosphere.

If you enjoy popular classics and the idea of a bit of flag-waving, foot-tapping audience participation is something you'd look forward to, then sinfonia VIVA's concert at Pakefield this year needs to be on your calendar!

Supported by Arts Council England

Tuesday 22nd Jun

Assembly Rooms, Derby. Schools' Performance at 1.00pm. Public Concert at 7.00pm.  
Tickets for the 1.00pm Schools' Performance - £1.50 per child (accompanying adults free of charge) from sinfonia VIVA on 01332 207602  
Tickets for the 7.00pm Public Concert - £3.00 from the Box Office: Assembly Rooms 01332 255800  
[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-06-22-derby.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-06-22-derby.shtml)

## ▶▶ Floratorio



**Floratorio** celebrates the life of Florence Nightingale in the 100th anniversary year of her death.

Nationally acclaimed composer **James Redwood** leads a team of sinfonia VIVA musicians in four local schools to create a series of new songs inspired by the life of the famous 'Lady with the Lamp'. 180 young people will perform this major new oratorio incorporating their own compositions.

**Peter Roberts** and **James Redwood** have been commissioned to write **Floratorio** following great success with **More Glass Than Wall**. The work will be premiered by the massed choir, vocal soloists and sinfonia VIVA in the culmination performance.

**Floratorio** has been generously supported Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, Heritage Lottery Fund, Orchestras Live, Derbyshire Community Foundation, Tom Carey Fund, sinfonia VIVA and Arts Council England. **Floratorio** is in association with the Florence Nightingale Derbyshire Association and is part of the Illuminate Festival.



Photo right: credit Robert Day

Tuesday 20th July

St John's Church, Buxton 5.00pm  
 Tickets: £10 (children £5) from the Buxton Festival Box Office: 0845 1272 190

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-20-buxton.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-20-buxton.shtml)

## Floratorio at Buxton Festival

sinfonia ViVA  
 Conductor: David Lawrence

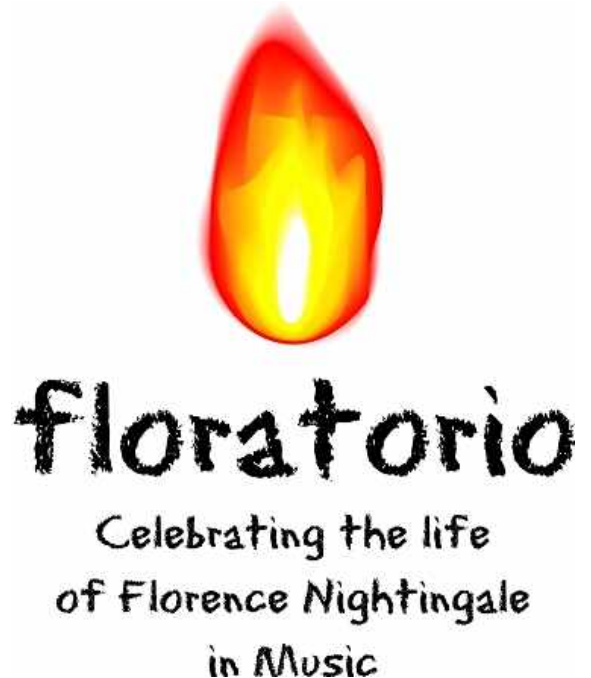


*Floratorio* celebrates the life of Florence Nightingale in the 100th anniversary year of her death. Nationally acclaimed composer **James Redwood** leads a team of sinfonia ViVA musicians in four local schools to create a series of new songs inspired by the life of the famous 'Lady with the Lamp'. 120 young people will perform this major new oratorio incorporating their own compositions.

**Peter Roberts** and **James Redwood** have been commissioned to write *Floratorio* following great success with *More Glass Than Wall*. Their work will be performed here for the first time by the massed choir, vocal soloists and sinfonia ViVA in the culmination performance.

Visit the Buxton Festival website <http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk/> for more details of the Festival.

*Floratorio* has been generously supported by Buxton Festival, sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England



Weds 21st July

St John's Church, Buxton 3.00pm  
 Tickets: £18 (children £9) from the Buxton Festival Box Office: 0845 1272 190

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-21-buxton.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-21-buxton.shtml)

## sinfonia ViVA ensemble at Buxton Festival

**Mozart:** Divertimento K136  
**R. Strauss:** Metamorphosen  
**R. Strauss:** String Sextet from Capriccio, Op 85  
**Verdi:** String Quartet (version for String Orchestra) arr. Yuli Torovsky

A terrific ViVA ensemble conducted by **Nicholas Kok** entertains this afternoon as part of the Buxton Festival.

Mozart's Divertimento K136 is one of a collection of three divertimenti he wrote in Spring 1772. Its warmly resonant themes have a youthful nature, and the piece displays a lively energy.

Metamorphosen was composed at the conclusion of WW2 and epitomises the despair Strauss felt both at the physical destruction of Germany – embodied particularly in the ruined architecture of many famous music venues beloved to him – and also the shattering of the German artistic and cultural society. Whatever Strauss's personal feelings towards the regime that had led Germany to this point, the music is a powerful lament which grows in intensity and tells its own story.

The Strauss opera Capriccio was begun in 1940 and completed the following year. It was to be his final operatic composition, and one that he professed he could never better. The opera opened with a prelude in the form of a string sextet, heard offstage, the musicians rehearsing a piece. Today we get to hear that String Sextet music played centre stage!

Verdi wrote his one and only chamber work in spring 1873 during an enforced break in the production of a revival of Aida in Naples when a soprano fell ill. Its low-key April premiere to friends in the hotel where he was staying was reinforced by Verdi's own comments at the time, suggesting he attributed little importance to it beyond being an academic study. However, over time, the significance to history of both it and the chamber orchestra version has grown.

Visit the Buxton Festival website <http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk/> for more details of the Festival.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Saturday 14th Aug

Meridian Park, Cleethorpes at 5.30pm  
 Tickets: £12 Box Office: 0844 847 2426

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-08-14-cleethorpes.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-08-14-cleethorpes.shtml)

## sinfonia ViVA: Meridian Classics in Cleethorpes

The programme (subject to change) includes -

Tchaikovsky:	Polonaise (Eugene Onegin)
Bizet:	Toreador Song (Carmen)
Mozart:	La ci darem (Don Giovanni)
Saint-Saëns:	Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voir (Samson et Dalila)
Delibes:	Flower Duet (Lakmé)
Smetana:	Dance of the Comedians
Camilla Kerslake Set - - -	She Moved Through The Fair - How Can I Keep From Singing? I Can't Help Falling In Love - Rule The World (Il Mondo e Nostro)
Suppé:	Light Cavalry Overture
Bizet:	Habanera (Carmen)
Massenet:	Vision Fugitive (Herodiade)
Sondheim:	Tonight (West Side Story)
Lloyd Webber:	All I Ask of You (Phantom of the Opera)
Offenbach:	Barcarolle (Tales of Hoffman)



The Meridian Classical concert returns to Cleethorpes' Meridian Park on Saturday 14th August promising an exceptional evening of classical music starring the vocal excellence of **Camilla Kerslake** along with **Tim Hamilton** and **Kate Warshaw**, plus sinfonia ViVA with engaging conductor **James Holmes**.

The popularity of Meridian Classical continues to grow year-on-year and is fast becoming Cleethorpes' very own proms. This open-air evening of wonderful music and entertainment for the whole family ends the night with a spectacular firework display.

Terrific music, and a real outdoor spectacular - come and be part of the great atmosphere!

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England

## sinfonia : 1000 Club

An invitation from  
 sinfonia ViVA's  
 Head of Development  
 Jon Ashford-Smith



### ViVA is **your** East Midlands orchestra and needs **your** support

Last year **30,820 people** were able to appreciate the talents and music of ViVA

Over **4,560 young people** participated in ViVA-led creative and education programmes

By becoming a **ViVA 1000 Club member** you can be part of the region's only professional orchestra, attracting world-class artists and performers and supporting the musical needs of the region

Just **£83.33 per month** will help to provide the East Midlands with world class music - and will bring you **a range of benefits** in return -

- Tickets x 12 to any concert of your choice over a 12 month period (excludes New Year's Eve)
- Tickets x 12 to any education culmination project of your choice over a 12 month period
- Priority booking for events through the Head of Development
- Access to 1 rehearsal over a 12 month period
- The opportunity to meet André de Ridder and our musicians during post-concert drinks
- Credit in the programme of a **ViVA 1000 Club** sponsored concert
- Credit on the **ViVA 1000 Club** Supporters page on our website

Please note that for Gift Aid purposes the commercial value of the Member's benefits is up to £380 (plus £66.50 VAT). The balance of £553.50 will be treated as a voluntary donation and is eligible for Gift Aid.

To find out more call **Jon Ashford-Smith** on **01332 207566** or email [jon@vivaorch.co.uk](mailto:jon@vivaorch.co.uk)



# the backstage pages

**Phil Higgins of Katapult** is more than just a master of the video processing suite. When he's not busy capturing ViVA performances and turning them into a lasting record for all to enjoy, he's an official creative genius in the media world...



## **Hello Phil! You're something of a home-grown success story here in Derby. Tell us how you got into the creative media business and also about your company Katapult.**

I've always been a creative, from the early days of play dough sculptures to music writing through to working at Katapult here in Derby. Music and video have always been a passion for me; studying music and media at Franklin College Grimsby which brought me to Derby to study Film and Television studies then Digital Media in Nottingham.

In my third year in Derby, four friends and myself got together and started working on projects together. We called our collaboration Katapult and decided to organise and promote our own club nights and events showcasing our music, graphics, VJ and all round creative skills. I actually wrote an audio composition which was accompanied live by Deirdre Bencsik (sinfonia ViVA's Principal Cello) which was played at the launch of CIN (the Creative Industries Network [www.creative-cin.co.uk](http://www.creative-cin.co.uk) which we were involved in setting up.) University life was coming to an end and inevitable decision was upon us; do we all go our separate ways and get jobs or do we set up Katapult as a commercial venture?

We set up Katapult as a limited company and in our first year we picked up Shell Livewire Young Entrepreneur of the Year award and the rest, dare I say, is history.

Katapult is now a brand communications agency based in a beautiful grade II listed Georgian House on Ashbourne Road, Derby. We use Method & Magic to build our clients' brands and deliver integrated marketing campaigns that get results. Our services include Branding, Marketing, Design, Digital, Motion Graphics & Video. We employ a team which comprises account handlers, brand strategists, creative's, designers, digital media specialists and producers. We're about to go into our tenth year and the business has grown from strength to strength. I head the sub-division of Katapult, called K-Motion ([www.k-motion.tv](http://www.k-motion.tv)) which specialises in video and motion graphics.

Over the years I have worked with a vast variety of clients on an

exciting range of projects from directing national TV adverts, title sequences for BBC One and BBC Four and produced idents for ESPN Sports. I've also had the pleasure of filming on safari in South Africa and meeting Richard Branson when he opened University of Derby's new ADT campus. Recently we won a DADI award for Best Digital Media Strategy and were finalists in industry awards such as RAR & the Roses.

## **Moving on to your work with ViVA - what kind of services have you provided for the Orchestra so far?**

We started working with sinfonia ViVA about 9 years ago. We filmed educational performances at Derby's Assembly Rooms mixing and projecting a live feed to the audience. This has continued and developed over the last 5 years resulting more recently with a few larger documentary based projects. 'More Glass Than Wall' a 2008 project, gave us the opportunity to film the entire project from initial workshop sessions in schools/colleges right through documenting the whole process through to the final performance. Creatively this is my ideal method of working with ViVA. It's great to get absorbed into the project. I love working with James



**A Lesson in Observation:**  
Phil captures the action at an Audio Lens workshop led by David Lawrence

Redwood (a true inspirational genius!), Jack Ross (guitar extraordinaire), Marianne (chaos controller and peace keeper) and the whole sinfonia ViVA team. It's nice to get out of the studio and have the opportunity to watch the young people learning about local history.

## **A recent project with ViVA has been the appropriately-titled Audio Lens here in Derby. What was your involvement in this and how did it unfold?**

Audio Lens was the most recent larger project we have worked on. Similar to 'More Glass than Wall' we filmed the whole project from the initial creative sessions at Derby's QUAD through to music workshop sessions in local schools and colleges and on to the final performance at the Derby's Assembly Rooms. The final performance integrated the Orchestra, the young people singing, playing instruments and live VJ's (using footage shot from workshop sessions.)



# the backstage pages

**Phil Higgins** continues his explanation of the role Katapult plays in documenting sinfonia ViVA's projects, and takes a look into his and Katapult's future through a long-distance lens...



## How is your team divided up for the recording of a concert like Audio Lens? How do you plan what you will film?

I sometimes get assistance filming the final performances but I generally take on the role of director, producer and cameraman when working with ViVA - not only to keep costs down but it's nice to work closely with the ViVA team to get a personal insight into the projects. My passion for music allows me to be involved and have a personal insight into the journey that every young person takes through the project.



## And finally, looking to the future - what's in the pipeline for Katapult, and where do you see the company in 10 years time?

My role within the business is to drive K-motion forward, and I have some clear ambitions over the next 12 months - as for the next 10 years? We review and set our plans every 12 months to ensure we remain responsive to change. We have built a great business, working with some fantastic projects and clients within Arts & Culture, Education, Public Sector, Tourism and B2B with Katapult establishing itself as a leading agency in the Midlands so we are looking to continue to build on this.

## You've also produced a video to help promote ViVA's involvement in the Association of British Orchestra's (ABO's) national conference in 2011 which will be hosted here in Derby. How did you approach this and what did you want the video to convey?

Peter Helps contacted me about creating a quick turn around video to promote sinfonia ViVA. Quick turn around being the key element here we had to pull together interviews from James Redwood, Anna Meredith and André de Ridder. Adding a little motion graphics with a few Derby facts fused with footage of sinfonia ViVA, we managed to pull together a snappy little promo which had a high impact and a great response.



**Cows Week:**  
Phil's project for Derby QUAD found him sharing the set with a milk herd

I really enjoy the work we produce for ViVA, which continues to develop in interesting directions and foresee many opportunities going forward. I'm currently working on Floratorio, the next ViVA instalment which is looks very exciting already. I've been filming young people from 6 schools learning about Florence Nightingale at Derby's old disused community hospital; a little creepy but a great backdrop for the documentary. This will continue over the next couple of months so watch this space for updates.

## What shape does the post-concert processing of the video take?

There are a few key factors to bear in mind in producing the final edit. Setting out the running time of the documentary from the outset creates a blueprint to work to. Getting a balance of the young people and their represented schools is incredibly important; I know how much the young people, their teachers and parents look forward to seeing themselves on TV so it's only fair to give everyone their special moment.

We are currently working on a wide range of projects; to give you a feel they range from branding and marketing with Derby Festé, digital work with Format Festival (the international photography festival), marketing campaign for Tour Of Britain South West Stages; marketing, design and digital

projects with Cycle Derby, a social media and digital campaign with Peak District National Park, brand development with EMVAN to a video production for Acecad.

**Phil's video promoting sinfonia ViVA's involvement with the 2011 ABO Conference in Derby can be seen on our website - follow the link on our homepage at [www.vivaorch.co.uk](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk)**

# In Review

**sinfonia ViVA with Thomas Gould**  
**Assembly Rooms, Derby, 21 April 2010**  
reviewed by **Mike Wheeler**



## Spirited Vigour to Gracious Poise and back

With sinfonia ViVA's Principal Conductor André de Ridder stranded in Germany, his predecessor, now the orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor, Nicholas Kok stepped in at a few days' notice for a feast of mainly baroque goodies.

After a crisp account of the Sinfonia to Vivaldi's opera *L'Olimpiade* came the first of two short pieces by Emily Hall, the latest contributor to ViVA's Orchestra Shorts series. Like its partner, *Concerning Franklin* is based on the traditional tune 'Lord Franklin'. A gentle, hypnotic piece, it included parts for two recorders, more of whom later. *Chords from various* offered a somewhat darker, more intense kind of tranquillity.



Photo: Simon Weir



In between, JS Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.3 got a light, airy performance, qualities that also characterised a reading of the G minor Violin Concerto reconstructed from Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056, with soloist Thomas Gould. The central Largo was played with breathtaking poise.

After the interval Thomas Gould returned to direct a performance of Piazzolla's *Four Seasons in Buenos Aires*, with a fine grasp of the music's soulful moodiness and incisive rhythms.

Finally Nicholas Kok returned to conduct Telemann's Suite in C, variously known as his *Water Overture* and *Hamburg Ebb and Flow*. In the ten short movements, the playing moved effortlessly from spirited vigour to gracious poise and back, with the recorders making their own delightful contributions to the orchestral sound.

**Mike Wheeler**

## The Chief Points from Peter Helps



So - we have a very new government and everyone is holding their breath to see what happens next. I was in Canada when it all unfolded over that long weekend in mid-May (of which, more in a forthcoming newsletter) and like most of you, watched the events on tv with a mixture of intrigue and some trepidation.

I've talked before in my newsletters about the effects of the recession on Arts organisations such as ViVA. We know now that on the heels of the recession's effects, cuts are coming in public funding. Just how severely this next set of financial stringencies will affect ViVA or the rest of the Arts community is open to speculation at this time, but it is no exaggeration to say that the tough spending choices being talked about may inevitably

see some Arts organisations experience grave difficulties.

I am not a politician; I make a point of being strictly non-politically aligned in my advocacy of the Arts when writing here. But I am a realist. Regardless of what anyone may have wanted to come out of the election, the consequence of the new political arrangement is that much now depends on the precise funding and taxation decisions which the government makes, and how these impinge upon our sources of income - not just from the public purse via bodies such as the Arts Council, but from industry, individuals, trusts and foundations.

To thrive, society needs to support a rich and diverse cultural basis - and music is right at the core of many people's lives. sinfonia ViVA's contribution to the genre - from concert stages to parks, workplaces, schools and hospitals - is widely recognised by external bodies. Their - and your - voice is going to be essential in helping us fight our corner and thrive in what may well be the most austere years of recent times ahead.

**Peter Helps**

## ViVA receives funding from Derby City Council and Arts Council England

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