

September 2020

Issue 66



*Helping people to live happier, healthier lives
through musical participation.*

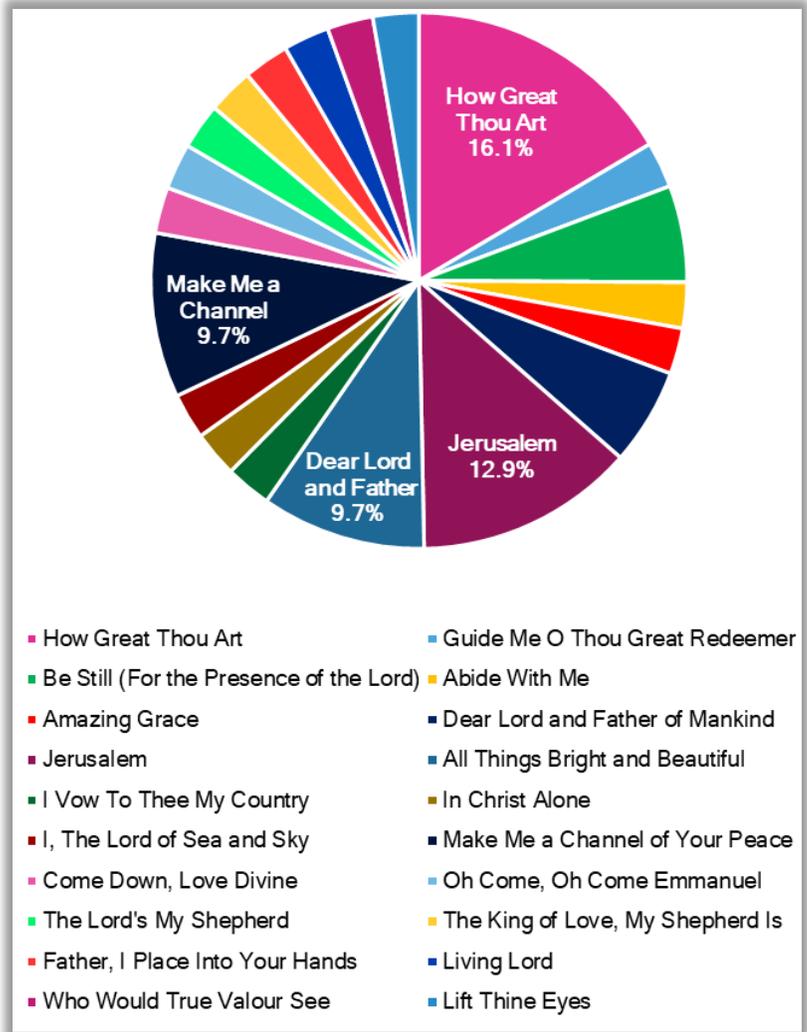
‘Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference.’ Kathy Calvin



...and what a **BIG** difference all of your recent generosity has made! Whether it be donations in lieu of sessions, surprise cheques in the post or online contributions, we are so grateful to everyone who has helped to ensure that our Musical Connections family has remained connected. Your ongoing support has made such a difference, especially whilst we have been losing income from some of our usual sources. We were also delighted to receive a grant from the government’s Coronavirus Community Support Fund, administered by the National Lottery Community Fund, which has enabled us to continue delivering our current range of activities over the summer, a time when we would normally be having a break in sessions; the circumstances might have changed dramatically, but with this money, we have done our best to continue to provide support, entertainment and contact in as many different ways as possible.

Which Classic Takes the Win for Musical Connections' Favourite Hymn?!

During the lockdown, singing at home has been a great comfort to many of our members; in online Zoom sessions, during Facebook Lives, to the radio, or in Dorothy's case, to the dulcet tones of Aled Jones introducing the 'UK's Ten Favourite Hymns'! Inspired by the programme's theme, Fiona dug out her old Orders of Service, the musicians added some of their favourites to the list, and our groups' hymn-lovers contributed many of theirs too, as we began to ponder what the Musical Connections' Number 1 hymn might be?! There were a number of potential contenders, but after much hymn hysteria, lots of very close-knit competition and some **SERIOUS** scientific data collection courtesy of Abby, we are thrilled to announce that How Great Thou Art just clinched the winning spot!



“Keep busy at something. A busy person never has time to be unhappy.” Robert Louis Stephenson



Our members have certainly been following this fantastic advice recently! Rediscovering old pastimes, researching family ancestry, pondering intricate jigsaw puzzles, never mind all of the wonderful online singing sessions too. Acomb Singers' member, Chris, has knitted this gorgeous blanket for an animal rescue home, whilst David, a Barstow regular, is spending his days dreaming of travelling across the world... aren't we all?!

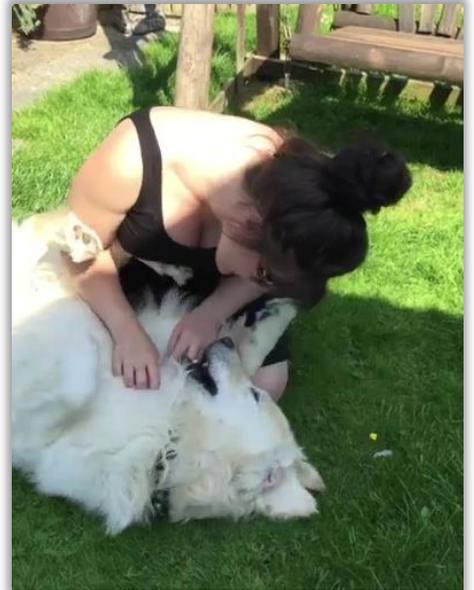
Donate a Pound to See Your Song Crowned!



At the beginning of July, we launched an online monthly song raffle. We devised a list of 100 of our groups' favourite songs, then asked members to choose one (or more) from the selection, donate via our fundraising page, and sit back and relax until the big reveal on the last day of the month.

Everyone got thoroughly involved with the fun, spurred on by the promise of having their song

featured online, and we raised an **INCREDIBLE** £233 overall! Emma picked 'How Much is That Doggie in the Window?' out of the bucket, and all manner of doggie mania ensued... German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Jack Russell, who knew we had so many canine counterparts?! Not surprisingly, after the excitement of our hymn poll, August's raffle was hymn themed. Honeysuckle member, Edna, was the lucky winner with her choice, 'Father, I Place Into Your Hands', so look out for the musicians' version, which will be released very soon!



Best Seats in the House and a Glass of Bubbly?!



...just some of the indisputable advantages of a Musical Connections concert enjoyed from the comfort of your living room! Sadly, our summer concert plans were affected by the current restrictions, but after some brainstorming from the musicians, a quick crash course in online streaming services and a little bit of video editing, we managed to host our very first virtual fundraising concert. It was a fantastic opportunity to dig out some old recordings, and relive some of

our groups' treasured moments from across the years - a timely reminder that while we may not be able to meet in person, our little family will always be firmly united in song!

Thank you for reading – keep singing and keep smiling!