

# Magical Music Moments

Alchemy Chorus COVID Newsletter #11

18 June 2020



## From the Committee

Welcome to our eleventh edition of Magical Musical Moments – our ‘virtual’ weekly get together. This week we’re travelling far and wide. Let’s kick off with **(click link)**

[80-odd years of happy](#)

(thanks to *Lola*)



## Follow up with a Magical Music Moment *from Jill*

Not quite up to the standard of Barrie’s MMM. But I can give him a bit of a run for his money!

At a very young age, I was taken to the Manchester Free Trade Hall, a building that was born, then died and got to be reborn.

This is the story of the Free Trade Hall in a nutshell. It is safe to say that this building has definitely seen dark days. However, it somehow managed to survive and still be here, standing proudly, not just as a historical monument, but also as one of the most important pieces of English architecture. Built in 1853, to serve as a public hall for political campaigns, it was bombed and destroyed in the Manchester Blitz, then rebuilt as a concert venue, closed, abandoned and today is a hotel owned by the Radisson Company.



When my parents took me along to the Hall, Sir John Barbirolli was conducting the famous Halle Orchestra. The Orchestra was founded in 1858. (No, I didn’t go that time, I am not that old!) I was mesmerised, didn’t take my eyes off the conductor and orchestra the whole time, wanting it to go on and on. I was about 6 years old. I remember, asking my father if we could go again. I did go again but under very different circumstances (explain later).

The list of entertainers is quite extensive. This also includes other “famous people” that had attended the hall over the years. However, unlike Barrie’s list of being with celebs, I was **not there** when all these notorieties were!

- Charles Dickens (February 1867)
- Benjamin Disraeli (1872) His “One Nation Speech”
- Winston Churchill (1904-defending Britain’s policy of Free Trade)
- HRH Queen Elizabeth (1951)
- Duke Ellington
- **Miles Davis\***
- Kathleen Farrier sang Elgar’s “Land of Hope and Glory” at the re-opening of the Hall in 1951
- Moody Blues
- Acker Bilk
- Bob Dylan
- Rolling Stones
- Debra Harry
- David Bowie
- Kiss
- Pink Floyd
- Led Zeppelin
- Queen
- Sex Pistols
- AC/DC
- Frank Zappa

And last but not least (Drum Roll please,) Jill Sheppard (Jill Wood in those days aged 12), singing with the “Yew Tree Comprehensive High School Choir!”

Some other MMM’s for me are, singing at: Anzac Day Dawn Services at War Memorials (Canberra, Norfolk Island and Port Macquarie) and walking around the wards with the Hospital Choir (Chrissie Shaw Conductor) at Christmas and singing to the patients (Magical). However, by far the best MMM was having the joy of singing with my Mum in

the last few years of her life, thanks to *Alchemy Chorus*.

**P.S** Found in a Google search, a former student at Yew Tree refers to 9 am assemblies at which this was sung:

"There is a *Green Hill Far Away*".  
[https://youtu.be/kHnHxjIVa\\_M](https://youtu.be/kHnHxjIVa_M)

Definitely not **Miles Davis\*** at the Free Trade Hall but an easy singalong at this link: [Bye Bye Blackbird](#)

### Members in the Spotlight

Remember Christmas party 2019? How about the chorus giving another rousing number a go at our first return concert? (click on the hyperlink) [My Generation](#) Maybe we could start practising; lyrics look pretty easy.



### Where is it? Travels with Tom

Answer to (MMM issue#10)



**Hell's Gates** is at the entrance to Macquarie Harbour on the west coast of

Tasmania. It is a notoriously shallow and dangerous channel entrance to the harbour. The actual channel is between Macquarie Heads on the west and Entrance Island on the east (the main length of the harbour runs southeast of Hells Gates). This is the Harbour into which the Gordon River runs into and is now home to a number of salmon farms. A Penal Settlement was established on Sarah Island in the Harbour in 1822.

### **This week: Where is it?**

(Answer in MMM next issue)



### **Kerrie's Kwiz**

#### **This week it's WELL KNOWN FIRST LINES**

Name the novel/poem that started with these words:

1. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.
2. He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish. For a fun sea Shanty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49FWp7WLYKw>
3. The love of field and coppice, of green and shaded lanes
4. I am Daniel, I am Sam, Sam I am
5. I had written him a letter which I had, for want of better knowledge, sent to where I met him, down the Lachlan, years ago.

6. All children, except one, grow up
7. Call me Ishmael
8. The year 1866 was signalized by a remarkable and inexplicable phenomenon, which doubtless no one has yet forgotten.
9. It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.
10. Half a league, half a league, half a league onward. Hear the poem with musical backing – but not being sung <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKuFVSh7qH8>

#### **ANSWERS**

1. Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)
2. The Old Man and the Sea (Ernest Hemingway)
3. I love a sunburnt country (Dorothea Mackellar)
4. Green Eggs and Ham (Dr. Seuss)
5. Clancy of the Overflow (Banjo Patterson)
6. Peter Pan (J M Barrie)
7. Moby Dick (Herman Melville)
8. Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea (Jules Verne)
9. Nineteen eighty -four (Ray Bradbury)
10. The Charge of the Light Brigade (Alfred Lord Tennyson)

**And to finish**, Daphne has sent this link to some clever technical coordination of 300 church communities across Ireland singing an old, old blessing (**click on link**)

[Irish blessing](#)

**Don't forget your contributions**  
**Send (almost) anything to Trish at this address:**

[alchemychorus@gmail.com](mailto:alchemychorus@gmail.com)