

The Self-Isolation Choir ('SIC')

Since the first 'lock-down' in March 2020 I have been singing with the SIC and the conductor Ben England. I sing on my own at home whilst following Ben live on YouTube broadcasts as he conducts, note-bashes and energises the music from a wide range of genres. These include classical, requiems, folk, fun, and even kids' songs. He is a brilliant musician and inspiration, and I have found it both a positive and challenging experience.

I paid for the courses on 'big works' by Brahms, Mozart, Fauré, and Handel, and a 'summer school' with a mix of songs by composers including John Rutter and Vivaldi. This led to my producing tracks at home by following a conductor, listening on earphones, and recording on my mobile phone. Once the results had been uploaded and mixed, I had helped produce my first CD!

With other conductors as well as Ben, and the organiser Mark Strachan, they run daily free choir sessions on YouTube and a 'Sacred Sunday' sing as well as the main works, at the moment Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. A professional choir and instrumentalists have recorded in isolation to give 'guide parts' and 'louder tracks' to follow. I am currently recording all the soprano choir parts for *Elijah*, so wish me luck!

Gloria Whittaker

This link will give you a flavour of what is happening:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkeSRMVDGEw&feature=youtu.be>