

CAPRIOL HISTORY

Date	Details	Source
1971	<p>The Capriol Singers, formerly the St Michael's Youth Choir, Blundellsands, was formed in 1960 by the Conductor Gerald E Brown. Originally the choir consisted of eleven singers between the ages of fifteen and eighteen, and its first success was gained that year at the Lancashire County Choral Festival. It has, since that date enjoyed a consistent record of success which includes the winning of the Youth choirs, Mixed Voice Choirs, Church and Chapel Choirs Classes of the Lancashire festival, together with fifteen first prizes, five second prizes, three third prizes, and seven cups and trophies, gained at the Crosby, Southport, Wigan, Leyland and Blackpool Music Festivals.</p> <p>Each year the Singers have a demanding series of engagements, giving recitals and concerts for music clubs and at many and varied functions. Whilst the choir shows a bias towards the work of the twentieth century British composers, it exercises a versatility in its choice of music. Its object is to entertain over the widest possible sphere from the music of Bach and Brahms to that of Gershwin and Britten.</p> <p>In 1965 the choir recorded for the BBC and in September of the same year gave its first joint choral and orchestral concert. Since that date, works with orchestral accompaniment by Britten, Pitfield, Coleridge-Taylor, Elgar and Vaughan Williams have been performed in the North and Midlands.</p>	Publicity Leaflet
1971	<p>Maximum age limit of 30! Rehearsals held at North Yard Rooms in Crosby Service & Social Club (old Civil Defence HQ), College Road, Crosby.</p> <p><i>'Since its formation in 1960, the choir has sung a wide and varied repertoire embracing all sections of choral music. Madrigals, part songs, spirituals, anthems and arrangements of modern popular songs are included in concerts and recitals.'</i></p>	Info & Choir Policy
14 Jan 1972	<p>Patron Scheme launched: 150 letters sent out. 60 signed up. (List of Patrons published on reverse of programme for Feb 1972) Patrons receive a quarterly bulletin outlining concert dates & general news.</p>	AGM 1971/2
December 1973	<p>Good write-up of Carol Concert at Queens Hall Widnes organised by Widnes Arts Council on 18 December 1973. <i>"...one of the most pleasant and polished performances ever to grace Queens Hall."</i></p>	News Report 18/12/73
Sept 1975	<p>Moved to new rehearsal venue: Darlow Room, Blundellsands URC</p>	
April 1976	<p>Won Crosby Festival, 2nd place at Blackpool Festival and won 1st Prize in mixed voice section at Wigan Music Festival and overall choir award - presented with rose bowl & £50 prize money.</p>	Crosby Herald 30/04/76

Sept 1976	Bert Hanson appointed as Accompanist	AGM 1975/76
19 Sept 1978	John Emery appointed MD	EGM 12/09/78
18 Nov 1981	Gerald Brown died. Funeral held at Liverpool Cathedral on 24 Nov 1981.	Order of Service
12 May 1984	Competed in the Morecambe Festival. Won Challenge Shield in mixed voice class, 2nd & 3rd places in 2 other classes.	Programme & News cutting
19 May 1984	Competed in the Chester Music Festival Society. Took 2nd place in Madrigal class.	Programme & News cutting
26 June 1982	<p>Concert at the Bluecoat Concert Hall to celebrate the choir's 21st season since its formation as the St Michael's Youth Choir in 1960, the Capriol Singers have commissioned three new works to be performed for the first time at this concert. The first piece was composed by the choir's founder and former President, the late Gerald E Brown, and is called 'A Spring Sequence', a cantata for baritone solo and choir.</p> <p>The second was composed by the choir's present conductor, John Emery, and is entitled 'Creatures', a setting of passages from the bible and poets such as Philip Larkin and E E Cummings on the creation theme.</p> <p>The third has been commissioned from Wilfrid Mellers, formerly Professor of Music at York University.</p> <p>The programme also includes music for piano duet, to be played by Ronald Settle and Joan Ovens, and the choir will sing a series of songs by Maurice Ravel.</p>	Notice in March 1981 Programme
3 May 1986	To mark the Silver Jubilee, performance of Bach's Mass in B minor at St Faith's Church, Crosby with Merseyside Youth Orchestra	See Programme
June 1985	BBC Radio Merseyside recording of Summer Serenade Concert	
December 1988	Recording of double-sided album of hymns & carols in aid of Jospice accompanied by the Camerata Orchestra. Commissioned by Fr O'Leary with 4 weeks' notice.	AGM Minutes 26.09.89 & News cutting
10 June 1989	Concert Performance of new composition by John Emery 'In Memoriam' prompted by the Hillsborough disaster.	Crosby Herald 25/05/1989
1989/90	Committee decision to change the name of the Patrons to 'Friends of the Capriol Society'. Friends' subscription raised from £3 to £5. Secretary Beatrice McIntosh reported that there were 42 friends who generated an income of £208.	AGM Minutes Year Ending 1990.
26 November 1991	At a special meeting the society voted to change the name to Crosby Capriol Singers. This was to acknowledge the financial support over the years from Sefton, in particular a recent grant of £2000 from Sefton Cultural Fund towards the Mozart	AGM Minutes Year Ending 1991

	Bicentenary Concert on 16 November 1991. The manager of Crosby Civic Hall, Albert Howell was invited to be guest of honour to mark his retirement from Sefton MBC and also as a gesture of thanks for his support in using his influence on the Grants Committee over the years.	
15 Sept 1992	Clarification of name change: The choir is now officially the "Capriol Society, incorporating the Crosby Capriol Singers".	AGM Minutes Year Ending 1992
30 Sept 1997	Pointed out that in the rules of the choir it states that members will be responsible for selling 2 tickets per concert. It was suggested that members should buy 2 tickets themselves then sell them. No objections were raised.	AGM Minutes Year Ending 1997
18 April 1998	Rosa Mannion returned to sing in Capriol's performance of Rossini's 'Petite Messe Solennelle' on 18 April 1998 at Bootle Town Hall.	Crosby Herald 12 March 1998
24 June 2000	Celebrated 40th Anniversary with a 'Choral Reunion' in Christ Church. Rehearsal of songs not sung for 40 years followed by 'scratch concert' and dinner. Attended by founder members Ian Banks, Angela Hannah & Doug Howarth. Pieces included 'May the Grace of Christ our Saviour' by founder Gerald Brown. To mark the occasion the group compiled a list of 270 former & current members of the Capriols.	Crosby Herald 29 June 2000
31 July - 4 August 2000	Choir Tour to Belgium (Ghent & Bruges) with 60 min performances in St Niklaaskerk, Ghent and Church of Our Lady, Bruges - items selected from summer concert programme.	
August 2000	Jane Roberts appointed Associate Conductor	Chairman's Letter to members
22 June 2003	On the day after the Summer Concert the Choir attended a dinner at Formby Golf Club mark the retirement of John Emery and to celebrate his 25 years' service as Capriol's Director of Music. Presentations, speeches and a special version of 'When Britain really Ruled the Waves: 'When John Really ruled the Caps'.	
September 2003	Appointment of Jim Cooke as new MD.	Chair's Letter to members August 2003
October 2003	Jane Roberts left as Asst. Conductor and made Honorary Patron. Cliff Cotsworth, Pauline Riley & Gwylim Roberts offered Life Membership, John Emery made Vice-President.	34th AGM Minutes
27-31 July 2005	Rhineland Tour (Bad Ems, Bad Salzig, Koblenz). 3 concerts given.	
23 & 24 May 2008	Visit by Vokalensemble Mittelrhein for 2 concerts, one in St Helen's Church Sefton (23rd May) and a joint concert with Capriols and Orphic Singers (24th May) in Liverpool Parish Church.	

20 June 2009	Last concert conducted by Jim Cooke. Jim announced he was leaving to take up a new appointment as Musical Director of the Stockport-based Manchester Bach Choir. Has been with the Capriols for 6 years. His replacement, James Gallagher was appointed in September.	News clip Crosby Herald 4/6/09
3rd July 2010	Capriols celebrated their 50th birthday with a party at Blundellsands URC Church Hall. The concert was dedicated in fond memory of long-term choir member, Barbara Prince and included some of her favourite music as well as music written by and associated with all of our musical directors over the last fifty years.	Spring Concert Programme 2010
October 2009	John Emery died. Memorial at All Saints Church, Pembroke Road Bristol, Sat 14 November. Current and past Capriol members invited to sing.	Crosby Herald, 22/10/09
July 2014	James Gallagher left after 5 years as MD.	
September 2014	Richard Pomfret appointed MD	
July 2019	Richard Pomfret left.	
September 2019	Katherine Stonham appointed MD	
March 2020	Due to Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions imposed by UK government, rehearsals ceased and both Spring and Summer concerts cancelled. Virtual rehearsals were held via Zoom throughout the remainder of the season. A couple of outdoor rehearsals were held in September but then continued via Zoom until restrictions were lifted and in-person rehearsals permitted in September 2021.	