

What Swarland Voices are singing this evening:

In the first half...

- **Salsa Salsa**; Words: Sarah Gray/Cheryl Camm, Music: Cheryl. One day in July 2010, Sarah wrote “Salsa salsa” on a Facebook post (she’d been dancing!) Cheryl replied, “Guacamole guacamole”. Things escalated: actually it was tango tangooooooooo today; appletiser aaaaappletiser tomorrow?; Cheryl, I think we are writing a song.....;with a snack and a jiggle and a derry down down....; and a bucket of cider and a hey nonny no..... And Sarah was right: they were writing a song. It’s a dancey, snacky round in fact.
- **Rosebud In June**, Trad. England. The first song we ever sang in public. It’s a cheery folksong about the fun you can have in the countryside in June. Wheeeh!
- **The Wellerman**, Trad. New Zealand. It’s a jaunty sea shanty about whaling.
- **Unsquare Dance**, Dave Brubeck. This is a track on Brubeck’s 1961 album, Time Further Out and is characterised by having seven beats in each bar, a driving bassline and hand claps. It’s tricky, but that won’t stop us!
- **Lovely Day**, Bill Withers, Skip Scarborough. This was a top 10 hit for Bill Withers in 1977, and has been released twice more since then. It features some exceedingly long notes in the chorus. Our soloist in this song is Richard Styring.
- **Keep You In Peace**, Sarah Morgan. It’s an end of things song – rather beautiful in melody, harmony and sentiment. Tonight it’s not the end of anything, as we’ll be back in the 2nd half, and you have fiddles and pipes to come!

In the second half...

- **If Ye Love Me**, Thomas Tallis. This is the third piece by Thomas Tallis we’ve had a go at. We rather love them and him. He was around in the second half of the 16th century when all the catholic/protestant stuff was going on. He managed to remain in favour with all the different monarchs, by adapting his style while continuing to be brilliant throughout.

- **Did You Not Hear My Lady?** Georg Friedrich Handel. He was German, but lived in London for much of his working life. He wrote loads of very successful and popular music, such as The Messiah and music for King George III (for example, Music for The Royal Fireworks) and also operas. This song is from his 1791 opera Tolomeo. It was also in the 1996 film of Jane Austen’s Emma, where it was sung by Ewan McGregor and Gwyneth Paltrow.
- **Minoi Minoi**, Trad. Samoa, arr, Chris Marshall. We’re not a choir to shy away from foreign languages. Oh no! This is a first for almost all of us...singing in Samoan. The lyrics of this love song mean: Move, move like an ant when you dance, Swaying from side to side, Dipping into rich coconut cream, As sweet as baked fruit. Ah, my pigeon, Crying out to me, I wish you could keep dancing like that, So move, move, move my darling. Chris Marshall is a New Zealand composer who has written lots of very lovely choir music. This is his most popular and is performed all around the world...a lot!
- **Tourdion**, Anon. France. Yes. It’s in French! It’s a 16th century drinking song. The lyrics mean: When I drink light red wine, friend, Everything goes round and round, So from now on I’ll drink Anjou or Arbois. Let’s sing and drink and wage war on this bottle! Let’s sing and drink, my friends, let’s drink! Good wine renders us merry, let’s sing, Forget our sorrows, let’s sing! While eating of a fat ham, On this bottle let us wage war! Let us drink well, drink my friends, clink glasses, Drink, merrily sing! While eating of a fat ham, On this bottle let us wage war!
- **Hoolets In The Woods**, Cheryl Camm. On many early mornings when Cheryl heads off walking up round the Swarland loop from West Thirston to see the sun rise out of the sea, she hears the tawny owls in the woods. They inspired this song. This is its world premiere performance! Wheeeeh...again!
- **Crossing The Bar**, Rani Arbo. This is such a beautiful setting of Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s lyrics. They’re sort of sad, and sort of defiant
- **The Miner’s Dream Of Home**, Kate Rusby. The lyrics are by Will Goodwyn and Leo Dryden and tell of a son who’s travelled overseas to work and is thinking fondly of his parents’ place back home at New Year.
- **Goodnight Sweetheart**, Carter and Hudson. It’s a song from 1953, and it basically bids us farewell...even though it’s sad to leave, we must bear it until next time!

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