



## **Festive Merriment in Manchester 2026**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 6th December 2026– 3 Nights, 4 days**

Another tour which has been on the table for a long time!

Colette has been steering us towards Manchester for some time, and finally we are going, so thank you Colette and Chris who sent a list quite a while ago!

We've been south in the spring and summer and now it's North for the winter. (not sure I got that quite right from a weather point of view!)

It's strange creating a tour to see things which many of you are familiar with as you live close by. However, given that I spend a good deal of time showing people around my own 'patch' in Yorkshire, I know I never tire of it, and I'm sure the same logic applies to Manchester. So often we only explore our own surroundings when we have guests to stay! This time we are the guests!!

We have a wonderful itinerary planned. The new format of more workshops has slightly gone out of the window on this one as there is so much to do and see! However, we do start our tour with a workshop at Hallé at St Michael's! During the weekend we are singing in Manchester Cathedral and Chester Cathedral, in Chetham's Library and Elizabeth Gaskell's House, in St John's Church in Chester, (which was the original Cathedral in Chester), in Ordsall Hall and Salford Lads Club! Quite a mixture! Plus, guided tours and guess what? A pantomime!

### **Festive Tour Information**

#### **Accommodation and Food**

We are staying at the Crowne Plaza Manchester City Centre, 70 Shudehill, Manchester, M4 4AF. Our accommodation is on a half board basis with bed, breakfast and evening meal included

#### **Travel**

You will make your way to and from Manchester

A coach will be included for our visit to Chester on Saturday.

While we are in Manchester, we will use public transport as necessary which will be at your own expense

#### **Music**

Joe Diggle is to be our musical director for the tour. We will sing from books on the tour, but Joe is keen to have some of the music sung without books!

Our programme will be a festive one drawn from our existing library together with some new songs.

The rehearsals will take place on the following days from 12.30 to 4 pm:-

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, Ramilies Ave, Cheadle, SK8 7AL

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Garden Studio, Midlands Art Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

You will receive your music and CD electronically.

Our rehearsals will be recorded and if there is a suitable signal at the venue they will be live streamed and if not they will be recorded and put up online afterwards.

Please make sure you attend both rehearsals if possible either in person or on zoom or using the link afterwards.

### **The Festive Tour Itinerary**

#### **Day 1 – Thursday 3rd December 2026**

**Today we start with a singing workshop with Joe at Hallé at St Michael's and then head to Chetham's Library for a tour and singing**

You will make your own way to Manchester and to the hotel. You may wish to arrive early to enjoy the Christmas markets, they operate across ten city centre sites!

12.00 - 2.30 pm Singing Workshop with Joe at Hallé at St Michael's, 36-38 George Leigh St, Ancoats, Manchester M4 5DG. During our time there we have the opportunity to go around the corner to Hallé St Peter's, and visit the home of the Hallé orchestra's rehearsals and recordings, Manchester's orchestra since 1858, founded by Sir Charles Hallé

2.30 pm Depart Hallé St Michael's and walk to Chetham's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester M3 1SB.

3 pm Visit and sing at Chetham's Library. It is the oldest free public reference library in the English-speaking world. It has been in continuous use as a public library for over 350 years and it's collection has been designated as one of national and international importance. Here we have a private tour and at the end have the opportunity to sing.

4.30 pm At the end of our library visit we make our way back to the hotel on foot.

7.30 pm Dinner at the hotel

#### **Day 2 - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today we have a walking tour of Manchester, a lunchtime recital in Manchester Cathedral and finish the day with a private tour and singing at Elizabeth Gaskell's House**

Breakfast at the Hotel

09.00 am Depart the hotel on foot for our walking tour of Manchester with our blue badge tour guide Jonathan Schofield with a coffee stop at some point during the morning

11.30 We finish our walking tour at Manchester Cathedral to prepare for our recital

12 noon Lunchtime recital in Manchester Cathedral, Victoria St, Manchester M3 1SX

1 to 2 pm Free time for lunch and make our way via public transport to Elizabeth Gaskell's House.

2.30 pm A private tour, singing and tea and cake at Elizabeth Gaskell's house, 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester M13 9LW. It is an historic house and museum that celebrates the life and literature of Elizabeth Gaskell, one of the UK's most important Victorian writers

4.30/4.45 pm Depart Elizabeth Gaskell's house and return to the hotel by public transport

7.30 pm Dinner at the hotel

### **Day 3 – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today we head to Chester, to enjoy its Roman history, and medieval and Tudor architecture. We visit and sing in Chester Cathedral and St John the Baptist Church. We have an early afternoon guided tour of the city and head back for an early dinner and an evening at the Opera House to enjoy the Dick Whittington Pantomime! – oh yes we will!!**

Breakfast at the Hotel

8.45 am Depart the hotel by coach and travel to Chester

10.00 am We visit Chester Cathedral, St Werburgh St, Chester CH1 2DY for a guided tour and recital. It is an ancient abbey, and described as an archaeological treasure

11.45 am We make our way to St John's Church, Vicar's Ln, Chester CH1 1QX, where we have the opportunity to sing. It is the oldest church and original Cathedral of Chester.

12.30 – 1.30 pm Free time for lunch and to visit the Christmas Markets

1.30 to 3.00 pm Guided Walking tour of Chester

3.15 pm depart Chester

4.30 pm Arrive Back at the Hotel

5.00 pm early dinner

6.10 pm Depart to walk to the Opera House, 3 Quay St, Manchester M3 3HP

7 pm Dick Whittington Pantomime at the Opera House. We are told "Manchester's pantomime will be paved with gold as comedy sensation Jason Manford and panto favourite Ben Nickless return to the Opera House to star in Dick Whittington"!

### **Day 4 – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today we are joined by our tour guide Jonathan again who will take us out and about to explore again! We will visit and sing in Ordsall Hall and visit and sing in the iconic Salford Lads Club!**

Breakfast at the Hotel

9.00 Depart the hotel with Jonathan and take public transport to Salford

During our time with Jonathan we will visit and sing in the historic Ordsall Hall, classed as Salford's 'hidden gem'! We will also visit and sing at Salford Lads Club which is one of the top three most-visited rock and roll music-related historical sites in the UK! We will have free time for coffee stops and lunch and expect to finish our day around 3 pm and back to the hotel for around 4 pm. These timings may change.

### Prices and Booking

The singing fee is £75 payable with your application

For the package prices please see the booking form below.

**Please complete the booking form below and return it to us by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026, when we must make our first hotel bookings. We will then keep it open as long as we can subject to availability, but cannot guarantee prices.**

Please refer to our terms and conditions on our website or request a copy directly from us.

Please ensure you supply us with an up-to-date e-mail address for yourself so that we can correspond with you through email.

**Please tick this box to give your consent to us using your data to keep you informed of news, events, rehearsal details and schedules for UVT. Please see privacy statement on our website.**

Please note once we have sufficient numbers, we will confirm your application to you.

**Please make sure we have confirmed your place before you book your transport.**

Please return your application forms as soon as possible to:- Festive Tour 2026, Unlimited Voices Travel, 92 Thirsk Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1PL.

### Festive Tour 2026 – Booking Form – 3 to 6 December 2026

Lead Name

Address

Post Code

Home Phone No.

Mobile No

Email address

**Please note that all correspondence relating to the payment for this trip will be forwarded to the lead name only as our system does not enable us to duplicate it. PLEASE THEREFORE MAKE SURE YOU PASS IT ON TO EVERYONE ON YOUR FORM. With regard to other information relating to the trip if you wish us to send it to everyone on your form please include their email address below.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FILL IN YOUR VOICE TYPE STATING 1 OR 2 AS NECESSARY, AGE, NATIONAL TRUST YES/NO AND ENGLISH HERITAGE YES/NO**

Individual names of all participants including lead name	If singing please indicate voice type including 1 or 2 for alto and soprano	Age/DOB	National Trust Member Yes/No	English Heritage Member Yes/No	**E-mail address

**Room Requirements -** Please circle - **Single      Double      Twin**

The Full Package – 3 Nights/4 days – as per the above itinerary	Price Per Person
Single – Price per person	£970
Double/Twin – Price per person	£790

Special Requirements (i.e. Mobility) and dietary requirements

Please note an administration fee of **£50** will be applied to all changes after the initial booking and to any late payments or late applications.

**Payment**

**Following our discussions in 2025 full payment and singing fee is now payable on application**

Please pay by bacs (details below). We can no longer accept payment by cheque. **Please note that all monies are strictly non-refundable once the trip has been confirmed.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU FILL IN AN APPLICATION FORM AS WELL AS MAKING YOUR PAYMENT**

**By applying and paying for the tour and your singing fee you agree to our terms and conditions which are available on our website. If you are unable to obtain access to these please request a copy directly from us.**

Please make sure you have valid and adequate travel insurance to cover this trip. Once the trip is confirmed all monies are strictly non-refundable and the full balance is due whether you or your party travels or not. Unlimited Voices Travel can take no responsibility for changes in the economic climate that might affect the services of the suppliers.

Please return as soon as possible to Festive 2026, Unlimited Voices Travel, 92 Thirsk Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1PL.

Please note that our system only allows us to generate receipts to the lead person. Please therefore help us by paying in just one payment, eg if you are sharing a twin room please just send in one payment to cover both people including the singing fees.

**Please note once we have sufficient numbers we will confirm your application to you by email.**

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**Festive Tour 2026 – Bacs Payments**

**BANK TRANSFER DETAILS** – please quote **Festive Tour 2026** and send an email to confirm transfer to [teresa@unlimitedvoices.uk](mailto:teresa@unlimitedvoices.uk) **Remember to tell us if any of your personal details have changed**

**Account Name:** Unlimited Voices Travel Ltd      **Sorting Code:** 20 61 46      **Account No:** 23999343

**REF: Festive Tour 2026**