

'Come Sing!' York Minster, 28th October 2006

This spectacular event, organised by Helen Bye in order to raise funds and awareness for the YUMI project, took place in York Minster on the evening of 28th October 2006. A fantastic total of £1119.61p was raised through donations!

What an extraordinary occasion it turned out to be: Minster staff gave YUMI the full nave to hold the event, which made the whole experience for both singers and listeners even more special.

Hundreds turned up for the event: four local choirs - Soon Amore, Medieval Maids and Mummers, Chechelele and Soundsphere - performed songs from very different musical traditions, both traditional and very modern, from around the world. It was One World Week, and so what better way to unite but through song? We heard medieval French songs, South African songs of liberation, Korean peace songs, a song sung in Hebrew, Arabic and English.....

The star performers of the evening, however, have to be what have now become known as the 'YUMI Warblers': a newly-formed and rapidly expanding group made up of people who, in the previous two months attended workshops to learn songs from around the world, led by Angela Michel. This evening was not only the first time they had performed together - to hear them in the stunning space of York Minster was truly moving. Some of these singers, who ranged in age from eighteen to over eighty, had never performed before and had never thought of themselves as singers! Angela really is able to inspire and encourage through her vast range, knowledge and skill, and the pure enjoyment on the faces of the performers was a pleasure to witness.

The whole event from its concept to its fulfillment went to the heart of what the YUMI project stands for: people sharing their skills and enabling each other to have the courage to do what they never thought they could – together. A truly moving, intercultural experience.

Helen and Angela were so encouraged by the event that they are planning to do another one next year: Helen is negotiating with the Minster staff to find a suitable date. Sign up to receive the YUMI newsletter to find out when this next event will be.