

CONCERTINA WORLD



Magazine of the International Concertina Association since 1952

CW 489 March 2022

World Concertina Day Special Supplement





Forestinas



Chiltinas



Crewkerne



Yorkshire CC

World Concertina Day Review and Thanks

We enjoyed it, and we hope you did also.

Time for a rest now – until next time!

The first-ever World Concertina Day, organized by the ICA, was Sunday February 6th, 2022. It was a great success, with participation from at least 13 countries! Much of what was created for the day is **still available** for you to watch, listen or read.

There were a number of in-person events that day and afterwards, initiated and created by players around the world. You can find out more about what happened at **World Concertina Day Events**.

ICA's featured event for the day was an **all-star international video concert** that is still available for viewing, including new performances from John Kirkpatrick, Rob Harbron, Jody Kruskal, Alistair Anderson, Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Paul McCann and many others.

World Concertina Day merchandise is still available for purchase from online shops in the **UK/EU** and the **USA and Canada**.

ICA sends a big thank you to all who participated in the day:

- participants in **in-person events**
- the many players around the world who created and posted videos on YouTube and on Facebook

- everyone who celebrated the day in any way, including posting WCD-related messages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- the performers in our **international video concert**
- the performers in the **Eastern North America Online Concertina Concert**
- **Randy Stein** and **Janet Dows**, who both did online solo concerts
- Robert Minting and interviewer Jeremy Hague for a fascinating video **interview** about Robert's father, Harry Minting of the Wheatstone concertina firm
- Göran Rahm, who created a multimedia article for the ICA website about the former **Swedish Concertina Society** (Svenska Concertina-sällskapet)
- Martin Henshaw, who created a multimedia article for the ICA website about the history of the **Chiltinas** concertina group
- Michael Hebbert, who wrote an **article about Charles Wheatstone and concertina history** that was published on the website of King's College London
- Otto Smith, who put together two **radio events** in the US that day
- the North Eastern Concertina Players, who made a new **audio recording** for the day

- the concertina players in Germany who created the World Concertina Day video challenge
- Alan Day, who got people playing his **March of the Concertinas**
- the Crewkerne Museum and the West Country Concertina Players, who held a concertina “drop-in day” at the museum
- Stephen Rowley of the Anglo Concertina Facebook group, who organized and hosted a players’ gathering on Zoom
- ICA’s own WCD team: Jeremy Hague (chair), Daniel Hersh, Colin Whyles, Paul McCann and Tracy Tye.



World Concertina Day in Ringwood

Robert MacDonald

Forestinas, the concertina group based in the Bournemouth and New Forest area, held a very successful event on World Concertina Day.

About 23 people attended from all over the south of England, we even had a visitor from Milton Keynes (who admittedly was visiting family locally).

The programme started in the morning with an open rehearsal, where visitors could find out what we play and join in with us.



We played a number of folk, jazz and early music pieces in two, three or four parts.

Later in the morning and in the early afternoon we had a number of individual turns, including solos, duets and trios. We covered everything from Playford dance tunes to Scottish slow airs.

At the end of the day we had an organised session, where the music to be played was pre-planned and available for those who don't play by ear. We rattled through a large number of the usual English, Scottish and Irish session tunes.

The major question at the end of the day was whether we should hold a meeting to celebrate Charles Wheatstone's birthday every year!



World Concertina Day 6th February 2022 - The International Concertina Association's 70th Anniversary and The Chiltinas' 25th Anniversary

Martin Henshaw

The 6th February was a day of anniversaries including Charles Wheatstone's 220th anniversary of his birth, the Queen's accession to the throne 70 years ago, the ICA's 70th and the Chiltinas' 25th.

The excitement had been building up during the planning and preparation work for the major events. On the day some of the Chiltina members arrived early at Maulden to enjoy a celebratory meal at The George pub just a few minutes' walk from the Church Hall.

The Hall was available from 12 o'clock and Martin Henshaw, the only founder member still actively involved with the group, put the heating on and set up the "History Display" of photos and a copy of the inauguration letter originally sent out by Geoff Thorp the founder of the group.



Shortly after, the other event organisers arrived to set up the computers and video system for the zooming of the event. Zoom enabled members from other parts of the world to join us.

The programme started with Martin Henshaw describing how the Chiltern Concertina Group came into existence on Sunday 23rd February 1997 at Geoff Thorp's house and how it progressed over the years.

This was followed by Paul McCann giving a short talk on Charles Wheatstone and the founding of the International Concertina Association, and how it grew from 100 members, mostly London based, into a truly international organisation with nearly 500



Once the preliminaries were over the music started up. At this point John Warren took his Anglo group downstairs for their own session whilst the other members remained upstairs.

The music started with some of the tunes that were played in the early days and progressed through the repertoire: First practice set – Jimmy Allen, Rakes of Mallow and Brighton Camp; All in a Garden Green – George Tremain’s Quickstep – Oyster Girl – Tallis Cannon were played in parts.

Half way through the celebrations there was a champagne break to toast The Queen, the ICA and the Chiltinas followed by the cutting of the concertina-shaped anniversary cake.



It was now that John Warren discovered some of his Anglo players had been upstairs when they should have been downstairs and had missed some of his session.

After the break we went into "Pub Session" mode and played Dorset 4-Hand Reel, Galopede, Man in the Moon, Shepherd’s Hey, Varsoviennne, Planxty Irwin, Soldier’s Joy, Michael Turner’s

Waltz, Nellie the Elephant and Last of the Summer Wine in quick succession.

The final item was a workshop given by John Warren on "Playing for the Morris" where he demonstrated how tunes should be played pizzicato fashion and should lift the dancers and tell them when the verse and chorus change. We played two tunes together Shepherds Hey and Balance the Straw. To finish the event Happy Birthday was played twice, once for the ICA and once for the Chiltinas.

Many thanks go to John McKenzie and Philip Waterfield who did most of the organising and to Philip's son Ed for running the Zoom session and taking photographs of the event. And, finally, to the ICA for organising the first World Concertina Day which was successful beyond belief.



Those present at the hall were: Philip Waterfield – Ed Waterfield – John McKenzie – John Warren – Paul McCann – Kate Shaw – Tim Walton – Juls Thomas – Rory Morrissey – Ross Spall – Steve McMeekin – Martin Henshaw.



On Zoom: Elena Frecot – Alex Kreit – Rudiger Asche – Liz Sugden – Howard Thorp – Sarah James – Trish Nicklen – Paul Hardy – Wendy Barkess – Lynette Milward – Vivien Spevoc – Ann Bains – Rosemary Prior.



Concertina Day at Crewkerne

Jackie Setter

Crewkerne Museum and Heritage Centre hosted a Concertina Open Day on February 6th, the 220th anniversary of Charles Wheatstone's birth.



The Museum's two windows were concertina-related for the week before the event. One window held pictures and information about West Country Concertina Players. The other window showed some covers of music written for the concertina in the time when it was a fashionable drawing room instrument. There were also some details of the inner working of the instrument, including a reed pan and reed, kindly provided by Marcus Music.



On the day itself, near the entrance was a display of concertina books and literature to look at. In an adjoining room, visitors were invited to try playing the instrument, with two helpers, who were kept busy for most of the day. Upstairs another, slightly larger room was set out for more oral playing to a small audience. This worked very well, with several examples of Concertinas playing with other instruments....ukeleles, violin, whistle, clarinet, recorder, banjo and singer. And formality was

forgotten when a session took off with three brilliant local players, and the audience joining in and singing with them.

It was altogether a very enjoyable day.



Yorkshire Concertina Club

The Yorkshire Concertina Club joined thousands of concertina players all over the world to celebrate the first World Concertina Day on Sunday 6th February. The event, organised by the International Concertina Association to celebrate the 220th birthday of Sir Charles Wheatstone, the inventor of the English Concertina, and the 70th anniversary of the ICA, included

concerts by performers in the United States, Canada, Japan, South Africa and Sweden, and of course all over the UK, including Leeds where the YCC is based.



Our contribution to the celebration was a concert at the Corner House Club, where we played some of our favourite band pieces, and also featured songs performed by Russ Etherington who accompanied himself on a treble concertina.

Graham Heffernan (YCC chair) said that while the YCC met each month in an upstairs room of the Corner House, this was the first time it had performed there for regulars in the public bar.

“Corner House Club members put up with the odd noises from our rehearsal room every month, and to say thanks for their



hospitality over the years, we thought it would be great to share our music with them as part of World Concertina Day,” he said.

“We had some lovely comments afterwards, and hope that playing for the Corner House Club might become a regular part of the YCC year.”

YCC members who took part in the inaugural World Concertina Day event were:

Russ Etherington – treble and baritone English concertina

Ruth Flint – treble English concertina

Helen Graham – treble and baritone English concertinas

Phil Graham – Anglo concertina

Steve Griffiths (deputy band leader) – duet concertina

Graham Heffernan (YCC Chair) – treble concertina

Adrian Jackson – treble and baritone concertina

Rhona Stevens – treble concertina

Carolyn Wade (band leader) – treble and bass concertina



The playlist included:

American Patrol trad US

Shannon Waters by John Willis

Hymne a l' Amour by Marguerite Monnot

Moonlight Serenade by Glen Miller

Bernie the Ragtime Ferret by John Willis

Harry Bloodgood trad

Only You by Buck Ram and Ande Rand

A Policeman's Lot by Arthur Sullivan

The Little Mouse by John Willis

The Plane Tree trad

Yorkshire Concertina Club Rag by John Willis

Nellie the Elephant by Ralph Butler and Peter Hart

The Great Escape by Elmar Bernstein

Yesterday by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

As part of our rehearsal time, we also played a brand new composition by Alan Day, the World Concertina Day March, written especially for the event. We look forward to recording and submitting our version of this piece to the ICA over the coming months, joining other concertina clubs' submissions as Alan has suggested,

For more information on World Concertina Day and to see what players around the world have been doing to celebrate go to [**https://concertina.org/world-concertina-day/**](https://concertina.org/world-concertina-day/)



A NEW CONCERTINIST IN TOWN

Mike Stevens

Before the recent Covid 19 pandemic lockdown, I was just another retired pensioner pondering what interests to pursue during my retirement. My mind kept wandering back to the treasured memories of my youth, when serving in the Royal Air Force. In those days I enjoyed a sing-along in the evenings with my service pals. This was during the 1970s folk revival, when most jamming sessions were usually celebrated with my crazy, airforce, guitar playing mates. Although I knew nothing about music, I have always fancied playing a concertina.

After leaving the Royal Air Force, where I obtained my State Registration in Nursing, I worked for the NHS as a Charge Nurse in a large London teaching hospital and gained a Masters Degree in Health Care Sciences. I should have retired at the age of 65. However, as the NHS were short of nurses I continued to work as a Clinical Nurse Specialist for a further ten years.

I was convinced that retirement would probably be the last chance I ever had of learning how to play a musical instrument. Then, after thinking of how I could put my music therapy into practice, I went up to my attic to retrieve an old English concertina I had bought ten years earlier (about the time I should have officially retired). Since then I've come along in leaps and bounds with my playing technique and even enjoy practicing on this lovely instrument. However, learning how to play a concertina at the age of 76 is perhaps unusual, but

certainly not impossible. Truth is, no matter how old you are, it's never too late to learn how to play a musical instrument and learn new skills!

So, I'm delighted to announce that on International Concertina Day 2022, I made my first 'debut' playing my Æola English Treble Concertina. This was performed



at my local folk club in Chester, and I now plan on playing at various live music pubs and other venues. Other positive aspects of learning to play the concertina are: I have gained many new friends since starting this hobby.

I hope this article will inspire other older people to take up the challenge of learning to play a musical instrument. With a little effort and some practice, they could be rewarded with the many pleasurable and beneficial results music can offer.



The First-Ever World Concertina Day: How We Made It Happen

Daniel Hersh

It started out in October 2020, as an idea from ICA Librarian Jeremy Hague who pointed out to the ICA committee that there are days to celebrate other instruments (accordion, flute, etc.) but none yet for the concertina. He suggested that ICA sponsor a new World Concertina Day on February 6, 2022, the 220th anniversary of the birth of Sir Charles Wheatstone. The committee agreed, and a working subcommittee was convened with Jeremy as chair. We met monthly starting in March 2021.

Our main idea was that we would set the date, create a logo, do publicity, and encourage players around the world to do their own events and activities and let us know about them. We decided to put together one ICA-sponsored activity: a video concert of brief performances by leading players from around the world.

It all required a bit of a leap of faith, since we had no idea how many people would want to put on their own events, and we didn't know if the players we invited to contribute to our video concert would be willing to produce and submit videos to us without compensation. Our hope was that World Concertina Day would take on a life of its own and people wouldn't want to miss out on the chance to participate.

It all worked out even better than we had hoped. We reached out to a couple of dozen leading players for our video concert and were delighted that most of them were happy to send us videos, most of which were newly recorded for World Concertina Day. And we put out a call for events and activities via ICA's own channels (Concertina World, emails to members, our two Facebook entities) and through outside channels like the concertina.net online forum and the Concertinas are Cool! Facebook group.

The response to our call for events and activities was impressive. We were contacted early on by Randy Stein, representing a group of players in the Eastern US who wound up putting on a World Concertina Day video [concert](#) of their own with over 20 performers. Other video and audio recordings came in from the UK, the US, Japan, Australia and Ireland. In-person gatherings were held around the UK and in the US despite the lingering covid-19 pandemic. Michael Hebbert wrote an [article](#) that was published by King's College London. Alan Day re-recorded his [March of the Concertinas](#) and encouraged other to learn and record it, and a number of players did so. Stephen Rowley organized an Anglo concertina session on Zoom which drew players from around the world. Göran Rahm wrote a new multimedia article about the former [Swedish Concertina Society](#), including recordings and photos, that was published on the ICA website. [Robert Minting](#) (son of Harry Minting of Wheatstone Concertinas) approached us, Jeremy Hague interviewed him, and ICA webmaster Colin Whyles turned the interview into a video for ICA. Two players in Germany put together the "World

Concertina Day video challenge.” A full list of what was done for the day (including links to the videos and audio recordings, which are all still online and available) is [here](#). Players from at least 13 countries participated in the day in one way or another.

ICA’s all-star video [concert](#) was very successful, with over 20 performers including John Kirkpatrick, Rob Harbron, Caitlín nic Gabhann, Alistair Anderson, Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne and many others. It has been viewed over 1600 times on YouTube.

And we also sold T-shirts and other merchandise with the World Concertina Day logo, still available for purchase in online shops is the [UK/EU](#) and in the [USA and Canada](#).





