

Relate Cambridge choir receives a standing ovation at its first performance, following well wishes from Gareth Malone



Local charity Relate Cambridge formed their choir – Relatively Composed - last May, and after only 8 rehearsals, gave their first public performance last Thursday.

Gareth said: ‘Enjoy it – it’s a great thing to do’. He went on to say ‘your audience will know they are coming to see the Relate choir – they are not coming expecting to see a world class professional choir – they know what they are there for’.

Elaine Taylor, relationship counsellor at Relate Cambridge said ‘I have been inspired to start our choir by watching the incredible transformation that Gareth Malone makes to people’s lives, taking them from the brink of despair to singing in front of huge audiences. I believe that our choir has a unique connection with Gareth, in that we have both been able to made a huge difference to people’s lives, which is something that we are both incredibly proud of’. Elaine went on to say: ‘For me, forming this choir represents a long and deep held desire not only to raise the profile of Relate Cambridge, but also to emphasize how crucial it is for all of us to build our emotional strength and resilience through singing’.

Claire Godward, Centre Director at Relate Cambridge said ‘there is simply currently not enough acknowledgment of the importance of mental health and wellbeing in relation to healthy relationships – we are hoping our choir will continue to publicise this’.

The choir has been extremely lucky to be led by Richard Bateman - their Musical Director, whose mother – co-incidentally - was also a Relate counsellor in another part of the UK. Richard chose the song for the choir's first performance, (Something Inside) So Strong' (words and music by Labi Siffre). Richard has been very much involved with Fitz Choir for some years, both singing and conducting.

Notes to editors:

- Work with us at Relate Cambridge – we currently have vacancies for Trustees and volunteer receptionists.
- Relationships are the beating heart of our lives – when they aren't healthy, we suffer. That's why Relate, the UK's leading relationship support charity, is here to help.
- Relate champions the importance of strong and healthy relationships for all as the basis of a thriving society.
- Nearly 3 million people in the UK are in distressed relationships – that's 1.4 million families at breaking point.
- Relate's work helps prevent loneliness, depression, abuse, homelessness, debt and many other life-shattering events that can happen when relationships go wrong.
- Relate's non-judgmental services helped more than 1.5 million people last year, of all backgrounds and sexual orientations.
- Relate will celebrate its 80th birthday in 2018.
- Visit relate.org.uk or call 0300 100 1234 to find out more.
- Relate is a registered charity number 207314.