

## Cantilena Singers

I was 51 & a bit when I spotted a ladies' choir in the evening classes at Selsdon High School. I'd not sung in a choir since my schooldays except for in church where I sang quietly in case anyone heard me.

I went to the registration evening & signed up for the next term. I hoped it wouldn't be a Barber Shop choir but if it were, I'd leave at the end of term.

It was Summer Term & they held a concert at the beginning of July so the regular members had been learning the concert songs since January & already knew most of them.

Five of us had joined the choir that term & four are still there with me. The first night we guessed what our voice range was & were sat next to an experienced member. My coach was Beryl & I still sit near her 20 years later. I opted for soprano but my top notes had vanished through lack of use! That first night was marvellous & the music varied & enjoyable. I felt like I'd come home.

I was so nervous at the concert in the back row! I felt faint after each song until we got to the fourth one & began to feel more confident & was no longer trembling. Although still a work in progress & still learning breathing techniques, I sing from the heart & am so happy to belong to this choir & St Edward's Choir.

During lockdown I have missed the regular singing & being with all my choir friends. Definitely due for more socialising when we are back together!