

THE MAGNIFICENT AKs' cut & paste section

Blurbs for most occasions – please scroll down for quotes

● 57 Words - Programme blurb

Lowering the tone with their deep, Georgian-inspired harmonies and serious silliness, those Magnificent Men of Ashton Keynes in their multi-hatted singing machine take to the stage once more to prove they can truly live up to the claim of perhaps being the best all bloke singing troupe ever to escape from the depths of North West Wiltshire.

● 78 Words

For over a decade, the singing blokes of Ashton Keynes have been delighting audiences with their own brand of man-singing. Their cunning mix of hirsute harmonies and hilarious hats celebrates the 21st Century bloke in song, from the sanctuary of the shed to the torture of man-flu. Expect odes to the power of duct tape and shanties for the weekend sailor. Songs from their native Wiltshire and sacred and secular music from the great canon of Georgian polyphony.

● 183 Words

The Magnificent AKs are the singing blokes of Ashton Keynes, a tranquil corner of north, North Wiltshire nestled between the nascent river Thames and the Cotswold Water Park. Maybe it's the soggy conditions, or something to do with gravel, but nobody knows the exact reason why, in 2008 the men of the village started to sing. They sang about sheds. And duct tape. And beer. In fact, they sang about everything that was important to them, occasionally with a jaunty hat.

From such humble beginnings, the troupe have ascended the greasy-pole to perform in (among other places) Bristol Beacon (formerly The Colston Hall) and The Roundhouse. They've appeared live on Radio 3's 'The Choir' and sung on Windmills, White Horses and at Stonehenge, giving them the title for their first CD 'Monumental'. Two tours to Ireland later (both times picking up awards at prestigious choral festivals) a visit to the Giant's Causeway gave us the inspiration for our second recording 'Gigantic'.

The hirsute harmonists peddle their own brand of testosterone-fuelled tomfoolery and also sometimes run 'Sing Like A Bloke' workshops (open to blokes of all genders).

● Quotes

'They reinvigorate the male voice choir mode and the notion of maleness itself – quite some feat for a group of beer-bellied blokes from Wiltshire.'

Tom Spooner - Bristol 24/7

'Thanks for your amazing performance at our beer fest – the comments received have been unbelievable, it was the talk of the town!'

Wadworths Brewery Winter Beer Festival

'...both well sung and entertaining at all times – definitely worth a look.'

Jan Sparrow - Cirencester Scene

'I revelled not only in their cheeky humour but glorious a cappella harmonies.'

Rosie Upton - Chippenham Folk Festival.

'Some of the most exciting singing in the UK. These guys will make your underpants shake!'

Matthew Swann - Artistic Director Voices Now

AKs, you were truly Magnificent this evening in Tetbury and I came away, as am sure did the rest of the audience with that warm fuzzy feeling, just like you get when biting into a piece of velvety chocolate! Hope to catch you again soon.

- audience member Tetbury Goods Shed

'We loved having you here and the choir contributed in such a special way to the entire festival! your performance at the International Competition went down a storm, particularly with the adjudicators who just loved it!'

We will look forward to welcoming you back in future years and if ever we're in AK, we know who to call on for the best pint suggestions and a song!'

Fiona - Festival Manager City of Derry International Choral Festival

'Your performances went down really well. Much appreciated, especially by Dan Szor the American owner (and big music fan) of the Distillery. Hope you had a good time at The Fleece, and managed to get back home with most of the choir. (Ed. We did and we did.)'

Please thank everybody individually from me and the Distillery team.'

Tim Porter - Co-ordinator Cotswolds Distillery Festival

Not all are glowing though! This from was sent to the manager of the Blakehay Theatre in Weston Super Mare where we sang a joint gig with WSM Show Choir:

'I attended the performance last night and was surprised that the first half was a male voice choir, not advertised. Myself and my three guests were all quite shocked. They were not our 'cup of tea' at all, and we would never have booked the tickets had we known they were

performing sea shanty songs for the first half! We were expecting a night of show choir singing, as advertised! It was very disappointing and I'd like a full refund please.'

Carly Powles - misled audience member

NB: We were not responsible for the publicity!

One for the youngsters. Following a Christmas gig with the Siren Sisters in Ashton Keynes - an AK member:

"I asked my daughter for a review of last night's concert, bear in mind that she's a hot shot saxophonist who doesn't mince her words. I asked her to put it in New York Gen Z parlance. Regarding the Siren Sisters she said they were 'Slay Queens' and they 'Ate and left no crumbs'. As for the AKs she said we were 'King Shit' and Chris Samuel was totally G.O.A.T."