



SEPTEMBER '24 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Come Singing friends

Dear All,

If you're disappointed that summer is over, read on !
September might be a chance for the final appearance of summer before the autumn. So all is not lost! September is often called "summer's swansong".

More commonly, a person's swansong is their last piece of work, achievement or performance. The singer **Dame Nellie Melba**'s swansong consisted of an **eight** year long series of "final concerts" between 1920 and 1928. This resulted in the Australian saying "more farewells than Nellie Melba".

Home sweet home by Nellie Melba <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oLvupk-GNE>



A very old legend says that swans are normally mute but burst into beautiful song just before they die. In fact swans don't sing at all - they whistle or trumpet. Mute swans only hiss.

Shakespeare is sometimes referred to as "the Swan of Avon" and his swansong was the play *The Tempest*.

We have three types of swan in UK - the Mute, the Bewick and the Whooper. Mute swans stay with us all the year but Bewicks and Whoopers arrive in winter from their breeding grounds in the Arctic to the relative warmth of our country.



Wild unmarked Mute swans belong to the Crown and each year in summer the ancient ceremony of **Swan Upping** is held on the river Thames. Although this dates from the 12th century when these swans were regarded as a luxury food, today it is more like a swan census. The Swan Marker in ceremonial dress is rowed on the river to check the health of Mute swans and their cygnets.

Did you know the King is called "the Seigneur of the Swans"?

Some swan music.

The ugly duckling by Danny Kaye <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwqmlrVGa54>

And the next link is from *Swan Lake* by Tchaikovsky:

Dance of the little swans <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd2nTXsivHs>

The Swan of Tuonela by Sibelius <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjyLWoJvtME>

Watching swans and seeing them fed is guaranteed at WWT Welney Wetland Centre in Cambridgeshire.

Finally, here's a tongue-twister:

*Swan swam over the sea,
Swim, swan, swim!
Swan swam back again,
Well swum, swan!*



Nat King Cole

You will probably recognise the name Nat King Cole. He was born Nathaniel Adams Coles in Alabama in 1919, and was taught to play the organ by his mother. He soon developed a taste for performing the jazz music of the age. At the start of his career he formed the King Cole Trio, playing the piano and singing.

Straighten up and fly right (1944) was one of his first successes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xljtP538EU0>



His career as a vocalist soon took off in the 1930s. He recorded over 100 songs during his lifetime and his voice is particularly remembered for its warm and relaxed tones.

Nat King Cole stood up against the racial prejudice of the era and went on to perform in films and television. He became well known as a recording artist performing with famous musicians such as the Nelson Riddle Orchestra. Part of his success was his ability to adapt from jazz to the popular music of the time. This helped to maintain his career until, sadly, his early death in 1965 at the age of 45.

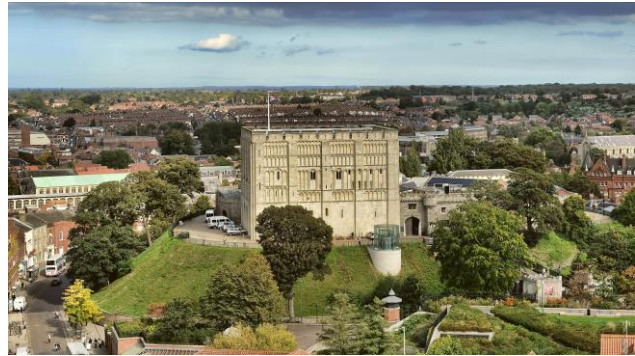
His daughter Natalie Cole was a singer in her own right whose greatest success in 1991 was *Unforgettable* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwLUkcNnU6A> an electronically created duet with her father.

How many of these Nat King Cole hits can you identify?

1. This hit of 1950 has the same name as a famous painting of a lady by Leonardo da Vinci.
2. In this particular season he misses her "most of all when"?
3. Another romantic song in which he looks forward to falling in love, but "it will be forever".
4. This song contains the famous line about "angels dining at the Ritz".
5. This popular song of the 1950s begins "Gee it's great after being out late"
6. Another of his well known songs contains the words "You'll find that life is worthwhile if you just"
7. This romantic one contains the lyrics "it is nature's way of giving a reason to be living....."
8. He is always thinking of her in this song "I see your face in every flower, your eyes in stars above".
9. Let there be all sorts of things, but most importantly "Let there be"
10. He sings "What a day this has been, what a rare mood I'm in why it's almost"

Norwich Castle

Norwich Castle is such a familiar landmark in our city but did you know that improvements inside are nearly completed?



Major work to transform the keep of our 900 year old Norman castle began in 2020 and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The multi-million pound project, named “Royal Palace reborn”, is part funded by the National Lottery

Heritage Fund. It will restore the mediaeval floors and rooms of the keep originally built by William the Conqueror. There will be five floors ranging from the basement to the rooftop battlements, and rooms to include a great hall, kitchen, chapel and King’s chamber.

Many new facilities have also been added including a new entrance, restaurant, shop and lift. In cooperation with the British Museum a new Gallery of Mediaeval Life is planned in which over a thousand mediaeval treasures will be displayed.

Norwich castle is already a major centre for learning, both on site and online, and hosts exhibitions and special events as well as housing a museum collection of over 3 million objects.

In Norwich we have history on our doorstep!! However If you have difficulty, like me, in even remembering the Kings and Queens of England, don’t despair, help is at hand……. Here is a rhyme which can be sung – very approximately! - to the tune of *Good King Wenceslas* which may remind you of the Kings and Queens of England and Great Britain from William the Conqueror to the present.

*Willy, Willy, Harry, Steve,
Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three,
One, two, three Neds, Richard Two,
Henries Four, Five, Six – then who?
Edwards Four, Five, Dick the bad,
Harrys twain and Ned the lad,
Mary, Bessie, James the Vain,
Charlie, Charlie, James again,
Will and Mary, good queen Anne,
Four Georges, William and Victoria,*

*Edward the Seventh next and then
George the Fifth in nineteen ten.
Edward the Eighth soon abdicated,
And so a George was reinstated;
After which Elizabeth
Held the throne until her death.
Seventy years the longest reign,
Never to be seen again.
Now her son, King Charles the Third
Ascends the throne, as you have heard.*

Even more help is available from the following songs!

The Vicar of Bray <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lxlj-gdwjY>

Henry the Eighth by Harry Champion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkbE4URVcKY>

Greensleeves trad. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAViJoQCdR0>

More tongue in cheek:

As time goes by by Andy Williams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrflWU233mE>)

Fings ain’t what they used to be <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biUvH1XcVmg>

But how about a guessing game? How many of the kings and queens of the past can you name from their portraits?



ANSWERS to the Nat King Cole quiz:

1. Mona Lisa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdBsu7jiYTU>
2. The autumn leaves <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS8x-4sE6dE>
3. When I fall in love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfAb0gNPY6s>
4. A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpjFUaHdUWQ>
5. Walking my baby back home https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib6ak2Dmq_4
6. Smile <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyHoohNyYkw>
7. Love is a many splendored thing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnPbneUdjcs>
8. The very thought of you <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaYLWSo4fYM>
9. Let there be love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwgE9ZwxZc>
10. It's almost like being in love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpNTiiDtrak>

Your contributions to future newsletters, in any form, will be very welcome. Please send them to:
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