



Echoes from Essex Song

CHORUS 1

- Unison* MMMM (*hum throughout*)
- Solo 1* Echoes from Essex
- Solo 2* Echoes from Essex
- Solo 3* Across the county we hear them calling
- Solo 4* From every corner of this fair land,
- Duo* The women who built this world of ours
- Trio* The women who built this world
- quartet* The women who built this world

VERSE 1 – Margaret Cavendish 1623 -1673 Natural Philosopher, Colchester

V2, Tenor, Bass 400 years (*repeat till change below*)

- V1* 400 years ago
Twas poetry which spoke, although
Her words were often ridiculed
She challenged why by men be ruled
When, as her thoughts she wove in verse
Their sciences she thought perverse
Her insights still perplex us now,
- V1* Our Duchess.....
- Bass* Our Duchess.....
- V2* Our Duchess.....
- Tenor* Our Duchess.....
- V1 & Bass* Margret Ca.....vendish
- V2* Margret Ca.....vendish
- Tenor* Margret Cavendish





ESSEX VIRTUAL CHOIR
Echoes from Essex – Minerva Scientifica Project

Echoes from Essex Song

CHORUS 2 (accompanied by a string bass)

UNISON – Echoes from Essex
Echoes from Essex
Across the county we hear them calling
From every corner of this fair land,
The women who built this world of ours
The women who built this **world (low/high note choice)**
We'll follow their echoes from Essex
We're proud of their triumphs in Essex
We'll fight like the women of Essex
To build a new dawn

VERSE 2 – **Elizabeth Tollet** 1694 -1754 Mathematical Poet, Stratford le Bow
Harpichord and string introduction

V2 Poetry again did roar
300 years ago, not more
When from her lonely tower did rage

V1 rage...
Tenor rage...
Bass rage...

V1 & 2 rage
Tenor rage...
Bass rage...

V1 & 2 rage.....
Tenor rage.... rage...
Bass rage..... rage...

V 2 Miss Tollet, That with science women must engage
V1 Miss Tol-.....let.....Miss Tol-.....let
Tenor rage.... rage... rage.... rage...
Bass rage..... rage... rage.... rage...

ALL With science women must engage
V 2 Despite that men would say them nay





Echoes from Essex Song

V1, Tenor, Bass SSSSHHHH.....

V2 And in secret must their thoughts convey

V2 Her revelations of Newtonian science

V1, T, B revelations revelations

ALL Do not gainsay her strong defiance!

CHORUS 3

V1 Echoes from Essex

V2 Echoes from Essex

ALL Across the county we hear them calling

From every corner of this fair land,

The women who built this world of ours

The women who built this world (low/high note choice)

V1 With science, technology,

V2 medicine, engineering,

ALL Maths

V1 With courage and fortitude,

V2 endurance and attitude

ALL We'll follow their echoes from Essex

We're proud of their triumphs in Essex (V2 lower notes)

We'll fight like the women of Essex ((V2 lower note)

To build a new dawn (V2 lower notes)



Echoes from Essex Song

4

VERSE 3 – [Ellen Willmott](#) - 1858 – 1936, Horticulturalist, Warley Place, Brentwood
[Gulielma Lister](#) 1860 - 1949, Mycologist, Leytonstone

Spoken (1 line per person)

1. In Essex, 200 years ago, it was permissible for Ladies to be SEEN to be doing science
2. But only if the subject were thought suitable – for example Astronomy
3. Fossil and Shell collecting
4. Assisting their scientific fathers, husbands or other male relatives
5. And they often occupied themselves with botany
6. Though not with any other area of biology
7. Oh dear me no – we wouldn't want their studies to upset the gentlemen

Men only – with piano accompaniment

So in gardens and hedgerows they rolled up their sleeves
and soon proved their worth among flowers and leaves
Ellen Willmott was famous for roses and trees

Women only – solo or in groups - SPOKEN

1. It was a world famous botanical centre in its day

Men only

And her garden at Warley Place it was the bees knees

Women only

2. And now, as a nature reserve it shelters many rare species

Men only

Gulielma was a rugglin a rugglin a rugglin
Gulielma Lister rugglin on
There were fungi and lichen to study and sketch
Her work was prodigious and so cutting edge
The Queen of slime mould forever she will be

Women only – solo or in groups - SPOKEN

3. She was an acknowledged worldwide expert mycologist
4. And is still lauded today

All

The Queen of slime mould forever she will be



Echoes from Essex Song

CHORUS 4

- V1 Echoes from Essex
- V2 Echoes from Essex
- All Across the county we hear them calling
From every corner of this fair land,
The women who built this world of ours
The women who built this world (low/high note choice)
- V1 With science, technology,
- V2 medicine, engineering,
- ALL Maths
- V1 With courage and fortitude,
- V2 endurance and attitude
- All We'll follow their echoes from Essex
We're proud of their triumphs in Essex (V2 lower notes)
We'll fight like the women of Essex ((V2 – a choice of 2 lower notes)
To build a new dawn (V1 &V2 divide into upper & lower notes)

**VERSE 4 - [Florence Attridge](#) (1901 – 1975) Radio Engineer at Marconi's Chelmsford
[Beryl Platt](#) (1923-2015) Aeronautical engineer, Leigh-on-Sea, Writtle
Windrush Nurses and Midwives**

All (rhythmic speech – with engineering sounds accompaniment)

(clap clap clap)
100 years have gone
Since World War 1
When women rose to fill the place
Of men who worked as engineers
And when for World War 2
they marched away again
The women engineers stepped up
To take their places as before
(clap clap clap.....)

Voice 1 Sung
Florence Attridge worked in secret
At Marconi's here in New Street.....





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Voice 2

Beryl Platt emerged at Hawkers
Building fleets of aircraft fighters

Voice 1 (everyone else hums in unison)

To rebuild our shattered world
the windrush nurses came
to birth and heal and bind our wounds
and join our treasured seam of pioneers

All

And now so many women stand

Voice 1 Looking forward

Men Looking forward

Voice 2 Looking forward

All

with this legacy behind

CHORUS 5

UNISON

Echoes from Essex
Echoes from Essex
Across the county we hear them calling
From every corner of this fair land,
The women who built this world of ours
The women who built this world (low/high note choice)
With science, technology, medicine, engineering, Maths
With courage and fortitude, endurance and attitude

Divide into V1, V2, Tenor and Bass

We'll follow their echoes from Essex
We're proud of their triumphs in Essex
We'll fight like the women of Essex.....
T&B We'll fight like the women of Essex.....

V1 & 2 We'll fight like the women of Essex

All

Essex

To build a new dawn – (All voices divide into higher and lower notes)

