

Cathedral Choir News

Summer 2010



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PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

Summer Newsletter

Welcome to Cathedral Choir Newsletter no 48

Summer Term 2010

The Cathedral Choir's summer term has been full and busy. We completed our Christmas disc recording that we began last year with two recording sessions and we look forward to the fruits of those labours in the late summer. We sang at **St George's Waterlooville**; played a full part in this year's Portsmouth Festivities and an appearance at the **Beaminster Festival** in Dorset. As well as the excellent and enjoyable tour to Belgium and Holland at May half term – one of the highlights of that trip was undoubtedly singing the Vierge Mess Solennelle with Antwerp Cathedral Choir —more details below.....

Harvey Brough's 'Valet in Pace' for DDay 60 was released in March and we were delighted to see good reviews in The Independent and The Guardian – and soon it will be featured on **Radio Three's CD Review**. This year's Portsmouth Festivities featured a performance of the Requiem in Blue (also on the same disc) and the cathedral choir enjoyed performing this work along side Harvey and his group as well as children from our SingUp project.

Portsmouth Cathedral Choir tour to Antwerp

Year 6 Chorister Jack O'Leary writes....'During half term, Portsmouth Cathedral Choir went on tour to Antwerp in Belgium. After a delicious cooked breakfast, we set off on the long journey by ferry and coach. We sang our first concert in Breda, Holland before travelling on to our accommodation at a Theological College in Antwerp.



On Sunday morning, we set off for Antwerp Cathedral where we sang Mass. The Cathedral was very impressive. It was huge compared to Portsmouth Cathedral! There were paintings by the famous artist, Rubens, hanging on the walls. Later, we sang in an afternoon concert at another church in Antwerp.

Summer Newsletter



Monday was our day off!! We travelled back into Holland and visited the Efteling Theme Park. My favourite ride was an amazing roller-coaster called “the Python”. We queued for nearly an hour to go on this ride but it was definitely worth the wait!

On Tuesday, we went shopping; there were so many shops selling delicious Belgium chocolate. I bought a bag full of chocolate and managed to save some to take home to

share with my family! Later that day, we sang Evensong in Antwerp Cathedral. In the evening, we played in the garden at the Theological College and had a mid-night feast in our rooms.

We arrived back in Portsmouth on Wednesday evening. The choristers had a wonderful time and would like to thank Dr. Price and Mr. Speller for organising the tour....?

Congratulations to chorister **Robert Weekes** who starred in the Grammar School's production of **Bugsy Malone**. Rob showed great stage presence and was a good shot with the splurge guns! Here he is recovering on tour—which left the morning after the last night on stage.....



Next year's gaps

We have completed all of our auditions for **next year's choral scholars**. We shall be welcoming **Kate Macpherson** (from Exeter University) as Organ Scholar, **James Hall** (Warwick University) and **Ed Woodhouse** (Portsmouth University) as tenors; **Jonathan Stewart** (King's School Canterbury) and **Alexander Trend** (Tonbridge School) as basses. We are lucky that Alasdair, Oliver, Adrian, Harry and James continue be part of the choir alongside Dr Pepin, Mr Mitchell, Mr Barrett, Mr Cawte, Mr Owen, Dr Hughes and Mr Dodd.

Leavers 2010

We were very sad to say farewell to **Charlie Cresswell-Hogg** at the end of the summer term. Charlie completed his sixth year as a cathedral chorister – he

Summer Newsletter

had outlasted his year group by a full year. He had given us some truly exceptional solos in his time.

This year's scholars have been exceptional and eccentric on so many different levels – what we occasionally refer to as a **vintage year**....Not only has their contribution to our music making been very fine indeed. We wish **Jonny, Isaac, Humfrey and Will** all the best and hope they return to visit....but please not on April Fools' Day 2011.....

Amidst the farewells we thank the **choristers** and our serving **lay-clerks**. It has been a delight to work with the choir this year for it really has been a vintage choir year. Aside from our Head Choristers Charlie and Hugh, the rest of the senior boys are only aged 11 and some have only just turned 12. And so we have asked a good deal from these boys much earlier than might usually



be the case – thank you to them for their hard work – and to the rest of the team. On a Friday towards the end of term the Organist of **Westminster Cathedral** came to evensong and was mightily impressed with what he described as a 'wonderful evensong'.

News of two former scholars....

We were delighted to note that **Jamie Hawkey** (Tenor choral scholar 1997/98) has been appointed as a Minor Canon of Westminster Abbey. Jamie starts his new post in September. In addition **Edmund Saddington** (Choral Scholar 2006/07) will be singing as a Lay Clerk in Winchester Cathedral Choir and **Edward Kay** with Durham Cathedral Choir from next term.

Coming next term.....

We look forward to welcoming our new Bishop, our new scholars and a number of new boys to the ranks of the choir. In addition to the normal round of **Michaelmas Term** events like Royal Marines Band Service Remembrance, All Souls' Day and 'Messiah' we shall also be broadcasting on **BBC Radio 3** on Wednesday 10th November at 4pm.

The Music Office
music@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk
portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

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48