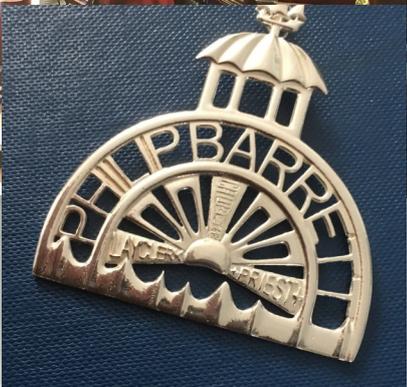


Cathedral Music News

EASTER 2018



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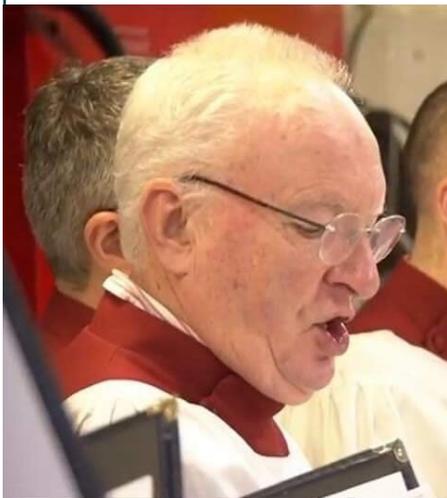
PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

Round Up

Welcome to the **Easter Music Newsletter**. Last term was a **demanding** one for all our choirs in addition to the **daily round of worship**. We led a fitting celebration of **The Epiphany**; installed our excellent new Sub Organist, Mr **Sachin Gunga**; sang at Winchester College and Westminster Abbey; **performed 'Messiah'**; recorded a Christmas CD and helped lead **Holy Week and Easter** here in Portsmouth.



Trevor Owen RIP



We were **immensely sad** to learn of the death of one of our longest serving Lay Clerks, **Trevor Owen** who passed away on 16th February after a short illness. His Memorial Service at the end of March was a **fitting tribute** to a man who had been immersed in the music of the church all his life from his time as a Chorister of Westminster Abbey when he sang at national events such as the **funeral of Ralph Vaughan Williams** and Princess Margaret's Wedding, as a Choral Scholar in **King's College Choir, Cambridge** and as a Lay Clerk at Worcester Cathedral and most recently here in Portsmouth. The Cathedral Choir was joined by many former singing colleagues from Westminster, Cambridge, Worcester, Chichester and Portsmouth.

We are planning to **commission a set of Evensong canticles** in his memory.

Holy Week and Easter

Our Holy Week and Easter in Portsmouth was attended by **over 3,000 people** over eight days of worship in **words, music, darkness and light**. We were pleased to collaborate with former Choral Scholar, **Tom Heath** who designed an installation of light which helped focus thoughts and invited contemplation of the story of the crucifixion. We welcomed many leaders from across the diocese for the Bishop's annual **Chrism Eucharist** before the services of The Triduum unfolded.



Our worship on **Easter Day morning** was enlivened further by a small orchestra accompanying us all for a rousing rendition of **Schubert's Mass in G** and Handel's Halleluyah Chorus. The men and boys sang a service of early music for **Easter Day Evensong**, this time accompanied by **Priory Consort of viols** (above) and chamber organ. Thanks to all our musicians, including our **Becket Players** who add so much to our worship alongside the choirs and organists.

Winchester and Westminster

The Cathedral Choir sang alongside the **Quiristers** of Winchester College on Tuesday in March. It was good to collaborate in this, marking as it did a recent exchange of singers with one of our young choristers **Joss** moving there last year and two of this year's Choral Scholars, **Maxim and Sam** having come to us for a Gap Year.

It was also good to be welcomed there by **Dr Tim Hands**, former Headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School and now Head at Winchester College.



Tour to Norway and Finland



A number of our Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks flew to **Finland and Norway** immediately after Easter for a short tour. Lay Clerk Dr Nick Pepin frequently takes his **Portsmouth University** students to **Kevo Research Station** in the Arctic Circle. Through his good offices we were able to stay at this magical place on the **edge of a frozen lake** and from there travel to **Utsjoki Church** to sing a concert (*left*).

We then made an internal flight across into Norway to sing at **The Arctic Cathedral** in Tromsö (*right*). It was particularly wonderful to lead the music at their Sunday morning service and to enjoy their wonderful acoustic, stunning architecture and beautiful organ.

The trip also gave us the opportunity to enjoy a **Skidoo** trip across the Finnish tundra, a glimpse of the **Northern Lights**, a trek up a Norwegian mountain and **some reindeer steak!**



'Verbum caro'.....Advent and Christmas music at Portsmouth

All **three of our choirs** have laboured over four intensive recording sessions in March and April to produce our **next CD recording**. We were pleased to work with **Herald Recordings** and their excellent sound engineers Jon and Jeremy alongside Producer, Andrew King.

We have managed to record much of our **2017 Advent and Christmas** repertoire and we plan to release the disc in **September** in readiness for Christmas 2018 sales as well as a tour (using much of the music from the disc) to Belgium in mid-December. If anyone would like to **sponsor** the CD, or even a specific track, please let us

know. You can donate on the following link, or contact us in The Music Office.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/portsmouth-cathedral/christmascd>

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People

It has been excellent to welcome so many new (and not so new) faces to Cantate over the last two terms. Welcome to **Sophia, Lu-Li, Chi-Lee, Liberty, Dawn, Francesca, Sydney, Clara, Honor,** and **Mei-Ling** alongside former boy choristers now joining the back row, **Sebastian, Joe, Edward** and **Ben**. Our **ten new boy choristers** are coming to the end of their first year in choir and have settled in superbly well. Well done **Oliver, Daniel, Noah, Alfred, David, Fraser, Amir, George, Nick** and **Eli**.

We are delighted to hear what our current Gappers will be up to next academic year; they have all landed superb opportunities to take them into their Further Education. **Ben Banks** moves to be Organ Scholar at Oriel College, Oxford reading Music there. **Alfie** and **Sam** will sing and study at Royal Holloway. **Maxim** moves to be a Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. **James** will study music at Cardiff University. **Joe** will study at the Royal Northern College of Music and **Ben H** will study at King's College, London.

Cordelia Hobbs was awarded the Philip Barratt Scholarship at Evensong last term, also with the added distinction of having **designed** the new medallion (see front cover and right).



And finally...



Dean David

Next month sees the retirement of **Dean David**. We are going to miss David, Gill and the family very deeply indeed. When David **arrived in post in 2002**, the cathedral was still in shock from a tumultuous period in its life. David quickly established a **warm, welcoming and generous approach** to cathedral ministry and the work of the place as ceaselessly expanded and embraced over his tenure. Any success we have with our music is very much down to his **tireless support** and encouragement of all involved in the department. **We hope to give him a rousing and heartfelt send-off at services on Sunday 10th June.**

Mr James Priory

We also bid farewell, at the end of term, to the **Headmaster** of Portsmouth Grammar School. He has been a stalwart supporter of the choristers through his work between school and cathedral, but also his **physical presence** at so many services and concerts over the **past ten years** as Head.

We are much indebted to him for all that he has contributed to the musical life of the cathedral through the **Gap Year Scheme**, many joint initiatives, Portsmouth Festivities and even as occasional Preacher. We wish him, Helen and family **God's Speed** as they move to Tonbridge School with our sincere thanks and good wishes.



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