

Cathedral Music News

EASTER 2021



Nico Muhly

HYMNUS IN NATALE MARTYRUM

for SATB choir unaccompanied

Chester Music



PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

Round-up



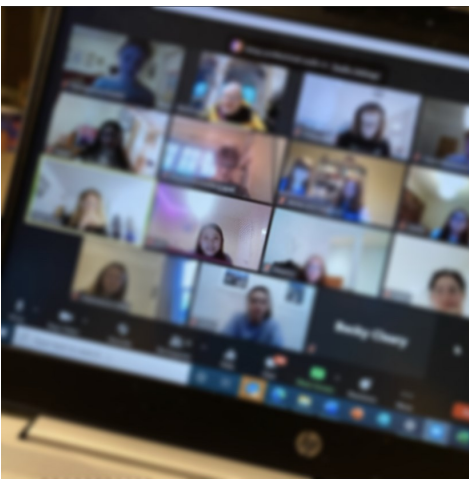
Although we had as near normal an Advent and Christmas as possible, we **did not predict** quite how the beginning of 2021 was destined to be, nor quite how restrictive new **Government guidance** as announced just after Epiphany. Thankfully by the time Holy Week arrived, we had a little more freedom to adjust plans in the nick of time.

Christmas 2020

Despite expectations to the contrary, we were able to mark and celebrate Christmas in some style amidst changing circumstances. The **pattern of seating** for our Christmas congregations was adapted cleverly by our vergers and we were able to welcome **good numbers** to our carol services.



Lockdown 3 and Virtual Choir



Members of our choirs showed their **resourcefulness, patience and understanding** as we navigated a third lockdown. Our scholars were best placed to hold the musical fort for most of last term, though we had to search out repertoire for **tenors and basses** only, that being the make-up of this year's Choral Scholars. On top of that, a bizarre government diktat limiting us to **three singers only** when open to a congregation complicated things still further.

Meanwhile, renewed thanks to our **Lay Clerks** who reverted to flexible furlough for some of last term and **our choristers** who faithfully tuned into virtual rehearsals when schools were closed and produced some beautiful virtual choir recordings for our Lent and Holy Week services.



PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

Holy Week and Easter



We are so grateful to a number of **Consort Sopranos** who helped lead our worship for Holy Week and Easter alongside teams of Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars. This year's circumstances made it possible for us to review the pattern of some services, and it was particularly good to be able to mark the **Holy Saturday Vigil** with a first eucharist of Easter on this occasion.

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis
St Thomas Service
for David Price and the scholars of Portsmouth Cathedral Sean Farrell (2021)

Allegro moderato ♩ = 100

Tenore
Baritone
Basso

My soul doth magnify the Lord

Allegro moderato ♩ = 100 *colla voce*

Organo
soft F (sw)
Ped.

T.
B.
B.

and my spi-rit hath re-joiced in God my Sa-viour...

Organo
Distant - bell-like

New Music

Many thanks to **Sean Farrell**, father of Choral Scholar Oscar, who kindly wrote us a new Magnificat and Nunc dimittis with our particular choir in mind - thank you for such a generous gift which is now firmly in our repertoire. In addition, composer **Simon Beatie** similarly sent us a new set of canticles and **Lee Dunleavy** a new set of responses.

Moreover, thanks to a private donor, we have been able to commission a thrilling new motet to mark Bishop Christopher's **farewell evensong** from

composer **Nico Muhly**. He gives us an insight to his composing process here....

Capturing the poignancy of the occasion was tricky, but I made the initial structural decision that the text "Alleluia" would occupy the entire second half of the piece, and that the pitches attendant to Christopher Foster's initials (C-F) would sound in each bar from the midpoint to the end. From there, I explored various ways of setting the single word Alleluia: sometimes rhythmically disjointed, sometimes hushed, sometimes in unison both of rhythm and pitch, and other times at severe, joyful angles. The setting of that word is encoded with, I hope, the highly specific emotional needs of that precise moment in that precise building at that precise day, but also with a general sense of the various ways in which giving thanks to God can manifest themselves in music.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

Choral Evensong
in Commemoration and Thanksgiving
for the life of
**HRH The Prince Philip
Duke of Edinburgh**
(10th June 1921 - 9th April 2021)
Sunday 11th April 2021
1900

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Like many cathedrals and churches across the land, it was our honour to mark the **death of Prince Philip** with a special evensong. The service featured music from his long life and contributions from local schools and The Royal Navy.

PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

Bishop Christopher

We bid a **fond farewell** to our Bishop this month when he retires after eleven years leading the Diocese of Portsmouth. +Chris has been an **unfailing supporter** of music and musicians in the cathedral and diocese and we shall miss his friendly, warm and affirming presence at cathedral services.

We thank him for his **concern and care** for the cathedral during his episcopacy, and for the increased role we have played at key moments in the life of the diocese at his direction. We wish him and Sally a long and happy retirement.



People



Many congratulations to Organ Scholar Mr Field on gaining his Associateship of **The Royal College of Organists** and to Dr Price on his election as a Fellow of **The Royal School of Church Music**.

We were pleased to welcome some **new recruits** to our choirs in the course of the year. Welcome to **George, Brodie, Jasper** and **Sam** and to **Poppy, Elsie** and **Katharine**.

And finally...



Join our choir

With opportunities for boys and girls aged 8-11, the Portsmouth Cathedral Choir is a fantastic experience for those with a passion for music and singing.

Find out more at portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/join-the-choir

We are recruiting to all our choirs at the moment. Places are available for boys (aged 7-10), Girls (8-14) and also for our Gap Year Scheme. Email for details or see our website

www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/joinourchoir
Information on all Cathedral Choirs from

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