



**THE
CHORAL
FOUNDATION**
THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Campaign target: £1.5 million
Total pledges: £ 724,000

June 2012

The Chairman's Report



Jon Round

In March we took the decision that a monthly update was too frequent; firstly because it's not the best use of the Foundation Manager's time and, more practically, the amount of news didn't warrant it. The plan going forward is to create a single quarterly electronic newsletter to go to all who have supported the Choral Foundation in one form or another. I hope you will find this update encouraging and informative. There has been a huge amount of activity led in large part by our Foundation Manager Michele who writes later on; my thanks to Michele for juggling the multiple issues that we face, with such good humour and diplomacy.

The first half of this year since we formally launched have been a period of settling into a new phase of the Foundation's life. The full time fundraising company (Compton's, who got us going) have been replaced by the sole part time employee of the Foundation (Michele) who a) runs the Foundation, b) leads on fundraising & c) acts as music administrator for Carl Jackson for all activities outside of the regular Chapel Royal services. The first of these now requires good systems, accounts and overall a solid layer of Governance in order to move forward with confidence. The challenges of growing as a charity are identical to

those of a small company; in fact we are a company limited by guarantee. There has been a wholesale review of our filing systems, both electronic and paper, we are in the process of setting up new financial reporting protocols for the Trustees on a monthly basis and we have set up a risk register covering such obvious issues as insurance, data protection, key employee vulnerability etc. It is this work behind the scenes that protects the funds pledged so generously by you for the long term future. My role as Chairman has multiple responsibilities. None are more important than safe guarding the assets of the Foundation.

The Campaign

We are now just short of the half way mark towards the target of £1.5 million pounds. Whilst we formally launched in December, the work actually commenced a year ago. To be best part of half way there in a year, given the current economic climate is pretty good. My sense is that we've done the relatively straight forward fundraising. The numbers coming forward to attend information events has certainly slowed and so we will hold less in the future. We are focusing on 2 key areas: A legacy campaign and a focused approach to foundations and trusts. Most foundations are affected by the economic downturn; their funds generate less and they therefore have less to distribute. In turn we will have to up our game and make the case even more persuasively that ours is a cause that warrants support. We have received some generous support from

foundations already where this case was made well; our aim is to replicate that. Many of you know that we put in a fairly ambitious application to the Heritage Lottery fund at the beginning of the year. We heard last week that this was unsuccessful, mainly because 2 other large applications took all of the £3 million available for distribution. Whilst that was clearly disappointing it's not all bad news as we've been encouraged by the HLF to apply for a smaller amount (less than £100 thousand), and this process is much simpler. We'll make a decision on this once we've reviewed the paperwork that comes back from the HLF.



The Choir performing at the Mayor of Richmond's Civic Dinner in April

The funds raised so far have allowed us to fulfil 2 of our 4 strategic aims: The first being to reach agreement on the organ refurbishment. This will start after Easter next year and take 3 to 4 months. Secondly, we have been able to provide full choristers with music lessons, enabling local boys with musical potential to train as choristers. This represents the beginning of the Choral Foundation's work to secure the music of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace in perpetuity. This was a significant moment.

Thanks are due. . .

The existence and success to date of the Foundation is because of you all. The trustees, the fundraising team, countless gifts of time, expertise, advice, good will and of course those who have pledged so generously to the cause. We are a small but growing entity. I am aware that because we are in large part organised by volunteers we don't necessarily talk to absolutely everyone as often as we might. If you have any questions of the Foundation, any worries, concerns or perhaps ideas then please do approach us. Either Michele or one of the team will do their best to answer the issues raised.

My thanks to you all for the first 6 months or first year, whichever way you look at it. The Foundation is doing well thanks to you and your contribution. We should all feel good about that. Kind regards, Jon.



Carl Jackson, Director of Music, receiving his MVO on the 14th of March

Manager's update: The first six months of the year have been very busy on all fronts. Not least for the Choir who have performed outside of The Chapel Royal; in April for the Mayors of Richmond, Konstanz and Fontainebleau at a civic dinner, and for Her Majesty The Queen at Richmond Park on the 15th May, on the occasion of Her Diamond Jubilee visit to the Borough, pictured below in rather wet



and muddy conditions! Two of the choristers, Arthur Franks and Brendan Soane, were chosen to sing as part of The Diamond Choir at the service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on 5th June and some of you might have seen Brendan being interviewed about the day by Huw Edwards of the BBC. As the choir are about to start their summer break, we are delighted to announce that 6 choristers have been awarded scholarships to their chosen senior schools.

Upcoming events

Practice-a-Thon on 14 July

On Saturday 14th July we will be holding a sponsored musical performance event at The Chapel Royal from 10 am until 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend! Choristers and former choristers will be performing all day long to generate awareness of and raise funds for the Choral Foundation.

Concerts and Recitals

From the autumn of this year the Chapel will begin what will become a regular feature of the musical calendar, concerts. A note for all of your diaries, the first one will be November 20th. The programme is being finalised right now. As supporters of the Foundation, you will be given early notice of all concerts so that you are able to secure tickets. In March 2013 it is expected that the second will take place, using the organ before its decommissioning for repair. Then in July 2013 we are already discussing the possibility of a chamber orchestra to accompany the choir and visiting musicians. We recently held a

successful trial organ recital and the Director of Music is looking at holding regular recitals once the restored organ has been formally launched.

Fundraising continues...

Turning to fundraising, our focus for the second half of the year is applications to foundations and trusts but, more importantly and closer to home, is the development and launch of a coherent and professional legacy campaign. We recognise that leaving a gift in a will is an important way for people to invest in our future. We welcome gifts made in this way and we are working with a number of local solicitors to put together a scheme that makes that easy to do. The campaign will launch in the autumn but, in the meantime, if you feel that this is a comfortable way for you to support us, please contact me. All enquiries will be dealt with in the utmost confidence.

Information events are still held regularly and are open to all. They involve a presentation over refreshments to enable you to find out what progress we are making and what plans we have for the future. We welcome questions and suggestions. There is no obligation to make a gift should you attend.

I am indebted, as always to the efforts and time given by the volunteers on the Fundraising Committee. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to get involved with any aspect of our work please do get in touch. I will be away for a week's holiday in July, when I hope that we will all enjoy some long overdue summer weather!

Best wishes, Michele Price

Sponsored Practice 14th July
Trustee Meeting 16th August
Information Event 20th September