

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION

THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016/2017

Dear Choral Foundation Supporters,

I am delighted to bring you an update on our progress this year.

The significant announcement is that the original campaign target of £1.5 m in pledges is within touching distance! Thank you to everyone who has supported us from the beginning or joined us more recently in making that happen, this is indeed a fantastic achievement that we should all celebrate.

However, we are not going to rest on our laurels as there is much still to be done to ensure that choral music at Hampton Court is guaranteed for future generations to enjoy.

We will, at this important milestone, take a pause to evaluate where we are and what our strategy should be for the next exciting stage of our development. While we do that, Michele Price, our Director of Development, is also taking the opportunity to move on and has decided to leave us after 5 years of spearheading our fundraising and outreach campaigns.

It would be remiss of me not to take a moment to reflect on what she has helped the charity achieve during her time with us. Having initially offered to “stuff some envelopes”, Michele made the role her own

and quickly established a number of activities that are now firmly part of Chapel Royal life. The open choir rehearsals and the Sunday lunchtime recitals to encourage visitors to attend services or enjoy the musical heritage of the chapel. The concert series featuring visiting artists, many of whom she persuaded to give their services pro bono for our cause; who can forget the Royal Harpist concert, for instance?

Perhaps the best example of Michele’s energy and determination is the Chorister Open Day which she created in response to a lack of choristers. This acclaimed recruitment programme and associated outreach work set the “gold standard” and have now become the envy of choir schools across the country. As a result, we have given over one hundred talented boys from an array of backgrounds the chance to experience life as a chorister. The Choral



Foundation open day is, as our Patron Judith Weir says: “on the leading edge of accessibility in recruiting choristers”.

Michele has been at the heart of the promotion of the choir and publicity events, such as television and radio performances, the Royal Festival Hall concerts and arranging for the choir to sing for HM The Queen in the Diamond Jubilee year. She has also worked diligently behind the scenes to manage the business side of the charity, but more importantly to build and develop close relationships with a number of you as individuals or as the representatives of grant making bodies.

I would like to thank Michele for her dedication, creativity, and sense of humour while juggling the various demands of the Choral Foundation in the midst of a wonderfully eccentric world at Hampton Court Palace.

Michele says “I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of my time with the Choral Foundation. What a privilege to serve in this way! When I offered to help out I could not possibly have imagined some of the things I would have done, or the people I would have met in the course of preserving and promoting this unique heritage of choral music. Special moments include meeting HM the Queen; hearing Carl Jackson playing the renovated organ for the first time; helping Rufus Frowde with an organ workshop for children with cerebral injuries; working with Judith Weir on the new anthem and with The Sixteen on BBC Ten Pieces; and of course the privilege of hearing the choir and →

THE OPEN DAY

We welcomed 29 boys and their families to another exciting and successful open day in September and, at the last count, 23 of them are auditioning in October, so Mr Jackson will continue to have a stream of wonderful talent to work with in the future. It is good to see that the upward trend of an increase in the numbers of boys from state schools and wider backgrounds continues. We have truly created a level playing field to make choral singing accessible for a boy of talent from any background.

“It felt like I was the star” – Finn

“I enjoyed the end when everybody clapped” – Alex

“I liked doing all the actions” – Edward

“I liked eating all the cake” – Johnny

Our thanks to all those who helped make the day such a well-run and enjoyable experience for our visitors, especially the Choral Foundation volunteers, the choir parents, and HRP volunteers who excelled



themselves with the delicious home baked cakes. The next open day will be on Saturday 23rd September 2017 at 2pm.

➔ organists rehearse while I work away above the organ loft.

The terrifying moments have included being a photographer's assistant on the roof of the palace to get that iconic shot of the boys and the chimneys, and having to step in as the last minute replacement for Carl Jackson in a BBC Radio 3 interview about sacred Tudor music! What will remain with me forever are the moments with donors, especially when carrying out their wishes in memory of a loved one; and close to my heart are the boys that I have seen through from open day to head chorister. I joined the Choral Foundation, as so many of us have done, to give something back in recognition of my son's time with the choir, but I leave with a real sense of having done, not just that, but of having made a difference. I could not have done so without the aid of a phenomenal set of volunteers; wonderful HRP colleagues; and an incredibly talented and supportive board of trustees. Thank you."

Importantly, Michele retiring is merely the end of the first chapter of our young charity: our ambition is to ensure that fabulous music is secure at Hampton Court Palace in perpetuity. I'm delighted that Louise Cole has been working with us in the office for the last 4 months and is clearly getting to grips with all that entails. Louise has one son in the choir



with another as a pre probationer, so her association with the Choral Foundation is much like Michele's 5 years ago.

Our initial campaign struck a chord: the future of music at the Chapel Royal was in jeopardy. From the outset, we were quite specific about the areas we were targeting: the organ, choristers, gents, and organist/director of music remuneration. All four have been tackled; all four are in considerably better shape due to your collective generosity. Over the next few months, we will be reframing our fundraising targets into meaningful and achievable milestones to build on this success. Most importantly, your on-going support is making a real difference to people's lives and to music in the Chapel Royal, as other news items demonstrate.

LEGACY GIVING

We have seen an increase in the number of donors wishing to make arrangements in their wills, especially in these somewhat uncertain economic times. This is a valuable way to support the charity while taking advantage of tax allowances for charitable giving. If you are thinking of making a gift in this way, please do consult your solicitor or financial advisor for tailor-made advice. We have a list of local solicitors who will be happy to assist you with making a will, updating an existing will, or making a codicil. It is worth noting that you should consider updating your arrangements every 3 to 5 years to make sure that you take advantage of changes in tax and charity legislation.

THE PIANO FUND

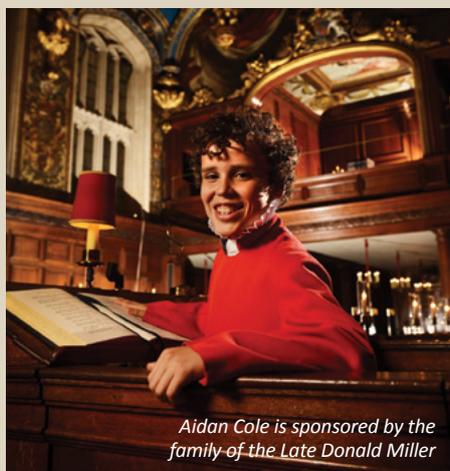
You will be aware that we have been fundraising this year to replace the piano used in the song school. This piano was donated by Buckingham Palace over 50 years ago so I am sure that it has some stories to tell. It has been put to good use by Mr Jackson and his predecessors in training choristers over the decades but sadly has reached its sell by date. We are delighted to announce that we have been able to order a Yamaha C1X thanks to the generosity of a number of sponsors but in particular Norton York of Rockschool, dad to Head Chorister Ben, who was able to negotiate a favourable price for the charity. We very much hope to have the instrument in place for Christmas if Santa's helpers can fit in our order!

Our beautiful Christmas cards on sale after the services are being sold in aid of the piano fund and feature the stunning chapel ceiling.

DONORS' LUNCH

The Choral Foundation open day and the musical education of the choristers who come through our recruitment programme are funded by donors and grant making bodies, so it was wonderful to have a well-attended donors' lunch on 18th September when many of you had the chance to meet the chorister that you sponsor. The boys equally enjoyed meeting their sponsors, who fund their music lessons, and, in some cases, their equipment and uniform. It gave them the chance to say thank you and to tell the donor what a difference their funding makes.

If you were unable to attend the lunch, then please do get in touch with Louise Cole for the next event. If you would like



Aidan Cole is sponsored by the family of the Late Donald Miller

to sponsor a boy in your name or the name of a loved one, then please do contact me so we can put your wishes in place.

With good wishes for the season of Advent, Christmas and the New Year.

Jon Round

The Choral Foundation preserves and promotes the unique heritage of English Choral Music at The Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace.

For further information please contact Louise Cole.

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The Choral Foundation supports music at The Chapel Royal, a living vibrant church, located at the heart of the historic Palace of Hampton Court. Everyone is welcome to attend the regular services held in the Chapel Royal and to worship in the place where kings and queens have done so for centuries.

The Choir sings Choral Matins or Sung Eucharist at 11am and Evensong at 3.30pm every Sunday (except during the choir recess in the summer) The services are from the Book of

Common Prayer. Those attending The Chapel for a service only do not pay the Palace entrance fee. Please enter by Tennis Court Lane.



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