

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER



THE
CHORAL
FOUNDATION

THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

DEAR SUPPORTERS, can you believe that we are celebrating our 5th Birthday? Slightly overshadowed by all the celebrations going on for HM The Queen's 90th birthday I know, but I believe that likewise we have demonstrated a level of commitment and loyalty to a wonderful cause. We have done so with your unwavering support and therefore I think it right that we take a moment to enjoy our success so far and to share our plans for the future.

The Choral Foundation preserves and promotes the unique heritage of English choral music at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace and makes it accessible to all.

Our original campaign target was £1.5m and thanks to your generosity, we will reach that target this year. We set off with 4 strategic aims and I am delighted to report that we have fulfilled them:

- We funded the overhaul of the organ by Harrison & Harrison, which is now recognised as an 'instrument of importance to the national heritage', with Grade II listing
- We fund music lessons for every chorister from the moment they begin training with the choir to ensure that the Director of music has a pipeline of young talent
- We financially support the Director of Music, Organist and Organ Scholar
- We are supporting the Director of Music in improving the artistic quality and range of the professional adult singers



“ This particularly historical foundation is on the leading edge of accessibility in recruiting choristers. ”

Judith Weir CBE
Master of The Queen's Music



BBC Ten Pieces – outreach and education in the Chapel Royal

Of course these achievements have not been in isolation.

- The overhaul of the organ enabled us to establish a flourishing Sunday lunchtime recital series
- The music lessons have led to the establishment of an acclaimed chorister recruitment and training programme
- Our fundraising campaign has allowed us to hold some memorable concerts with top class visiting musicians
- Our contact with local schools and community groups has led to a much commended outreach and development programme, especially with children from some of the most deprived backgrounds
- In raising the profile of the choir, we have produced or featured in BBC TV and Radio broadcasts, a short film released to cinemas nationally and countless national press and media articles

Our commitment to the future of English choral music led us to commission a new Anthem for the choir. In partnership with Historic Royal Palaces we commissioned Judith Weir CBE, Master of The Queen's Music, to write a piece to celebrate 500 years of Hampton Court Palace. Of the Hampton Court Chapel Royal Choir, Judith Weir says: "This particularly historical foundation is on the leading edge of accessibility in recruiting choristers." *Praise Him with Trumpets* premiered in the Chapel Royal in November 2015.

All this has been achieved with one part time member of staff and the most wonderful band of stalwart volunteers. We know that our passion and enthusiasm for this campaign is matched by yours. Over the last year we have enjoyed revisiting many of you who bravely supported us from the very beginning and we know that you feel just as we do, that this historical foundation is so important to all of us and deserves to be the very best that it can be.

This is not always easy. In terms of grant making bodies we do not have the easy kerb appeal of some charities, indeed some would say that we are towards the elitist end of the spectrum. We disagree, but it means that we have to work harder to demonstrate the importance of this choir and the life changing opportunities available to boy choristers from all backgrounds.

Last year we were involved in BBC Ten Pieces with The Sixteen, which saw 300 children from Inner London Schools participate in a joyful performance of *Zadok the Priest* in the Chapel Royal. It is this work and others such as our ongoing outreach with a school on the Angell Town Estate in Brixton that enables us to engage with trusts and foundations and apply for grants. A former chorister has said "if you can stand up and sing for your Queen, you can do anything with your life". Our development work is making this a reality. In September a boy chorister will join the choir from Angell Town and we are very grateful to the Prince of Wales Charitable Trust, the Alecto Trust and individual donors including The PH Estate, for making this possible. >



The historic service of vespers with the Dean and Cardinal

OVER THE PAST 5 years our group of Trustees has changed but as always I am grateful for their skills and generosity of spirit. Most recently Nicholas Jenkins, former head chorister and renowned young opera conductor has joined us and Alexander Scully MVO will join the board in September as a representative of the Royal Household.

We have also welcomed three new Patrons. Canon Denis Mulliner LVO took up the role of Patron upon his retirement. Judith Weir CBE, Master of The Queen's Music, accepted our invitation to become Patron of our schools outreach programme and Harry Christophers CBE joins us as Patron for our proposed young adult chorister programme.

In February, the first service of Vespers was held in the Chapel for more than 450 years. This attracted much publicity and put the Chapel at Hampton Court Palace back on the map. It also led to plans to give talented young adult choral singers, on the threshold of professional careers, access to this wonderful musical heritage. Having fulfilled our original aims, we will enter a period where existing projects mature and new opportunities are investigated. Our investment team are working very hard to ensure that our endowment grows as quickly as it can in these financially testing times and we will continue to seek funding from all possible sources.

Michele Price has been at the heart of the Foundation for many years, more latterly focusing on development opportunities. Michele (who is also a Magistrate) is reducing her days to 3 per week. At the same time I'm delighted to welcome Louise Cole as part time Administrator. Louise is mother of choristers Aidan, and also Pearse, who joins as a pre-probationer in September, so she already has close links to the choir. Louise joined us in early June and will be working part time hours across several days of the week.

Our priority is to make sure that you, our donors, are up to date with what we are doing and have every opportunity to engage with us; and to share how we are investing your contribution. To that end I very much hope that you can join us for:

- A special end of term recital on Sunday 17th July at 1pm, given by *Genesis Sixteen* conducted by Harry Christophers CBE
- Donors' light lunch after morning service on 18th September 2016. (Please contact us on 020 3166 6516 to reserve your place at this event)

I hope you agree that much has been achieved and as ever, this is with your support. Indeed none of this could be achieved without the generosity of our many regular and one off donors. There is much more to be done and I would be delighted to talk to you about other projects and areas where sponsorship is needed.

Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. In her birthday year, I will leave it to The Queen to express my thanks to you all.

With very best wishes

Jon Round
Chairman of The Choral Foundation,
The Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace

“I am delighted with the progress that the Choral Foundation has made in securing the future of the unique English choral heritage in my Chapel Royal at Hampton Court. I thank all those who support the excellent work of the Choral Foundation.”

Her Majesty The Queen

SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

BY DONATING to the Choral Foundation, you play your part in supporting the future of choral music in one of the UK's most historic places of worship.

As well as contributing to the Choral Foundation through donations, many of our supporters choose to leave a gift to us in their will, while others have helped us connect with individuals and organisations who have then become donors, sponsors and partners.

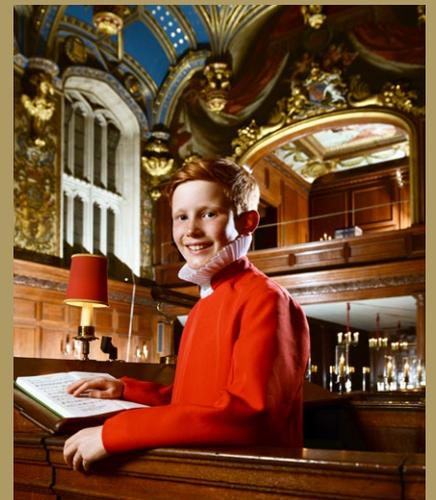
You can donate by:

- Making a one off gift
- Donating a regular amount by standing order
- Leaving a gift in your will or in memory of a loved one
- Sponsoring a chorister or gentleman of the Choir
- Contributing to a capital cost

PLEASE EMAIL:

choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk
for information about how you can make your gift and how you would like to have your contribution recognised.

WITHIN THE CHAPEL ROYAL:
you will find donation envelopes and a special donation receptacle for one-off contributions.



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