

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to yet another "Bumper Edition" of Alban Notes which features the ECA Concert on Saturday 22nd September in which many of you sang, and also looks forward to next year's Federation Festival.

However, before basking in the glow of others (sadly I was in hospital at the time of the concert) I have an apology.

In the last issue which featured the Reunion, two captions to the following photographs were incorrect.

They should read...



Tom Pazzi-Axworthy



Cleo Newton & Kitty Bishop

ECA Concert Report

The ECA Concert on 22nd September was a tremendous success thanks to the Director of the joint choirs and former cathedral lay clerk, David Ireson, and Tom Winpenny, Director of the Abbey Girls Choir, and all those who took part. Special thanks are also due to John and Maureen Adams for managing the publicity, and Laura Hicks who stepped in at the last moment with magnificent stage management.



The Dean and Ian Henderson – Chairman FCOCA



Joint Choirs – Conductor, David Ireson



Conductor David Ireson in action



Hannah Watts - Flautist

All the solo participants in the concert were former choristers, former lay clerks or former musicians and this was a tremendous testament to the wealth of musical talent that has been associated with the Cathedral Choirs over many decades. Andrew Parnell returned to the Abbey to accompany three of his former Abbey Girl Choristers who are now carving out their careers, and also Rogers Covey-Crump, former lay clerk and member of the world famous Hilliard Ensemble.

The concert opened with *Give unto the Lord* by Sir Edward Elgar in which the Abbey Girls Choir were joined by the Abbey Singers and Exquire conducted by David Ireson. The early part of the concert included the *Hamburger Sonata* for flute by CPE Bach played by Hannah Watts, two works sung by the Abbey Girls Choir; *Haec est arbour dignissima* by Alessandro Grandi and *O praise the Lord* by Maurice Greene, and a spectacular performance by Claire Innes-Hopkins of Iain Farrington's *Fiesta*.

The first half of the programme concluded with a specially commissioned arrangement of Hayley Westenra's popular song, "Whispers in a dream" and Ennio Morricone's "Gabriel's Oboe" beautifully sung by Rebecca (Bex) Muhley with a haunting oboe solo played by Emily Knight, together with Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs with Baritone soloist and former lay clerk, Stephen Charlesworth.



The Abbey Girls Choir with Director Tom Winpenny



Rebecca Muhley (Soprano) and Emily Knight (Oboe)



Stephen Charlesworth – Baritone Soloist



The Old Hundredth with Tom Semple - Trumpet



Abbey Girls Choir & Exquire



I know that chap!



Rogers Covey-Crump - Tenor Soloist



John Meager – Chairman for the evening!



Sir Hubert Parry - Blest Pair of Sirens



© All photographs: Colin Whyman

Claire Innes-Hopkins (Organ) Tom Winpenny, Director Abbey Girls Choir & Abbey Singers,
Emily Knight (Oboe) Rebecca Muhley (Soprano), Hannah Watts (Flute), Stephen Charlesworth (Baritone),
Andrew Parnell (Organ & Piano), Rogers Covey-Crump (Tenor), Tom Semple (Trumpet), David Ireson (Conductor)

Please visit our website at <http://www.stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk/index.html> to view all the photographs taken at the Concert.

The concert was in aid of the Abbey Girls Choir Tour Fund and a cheque for the surplus proceeds, amounting to £1,300, was presented to Tom Winpenny, Director of the Abbey Girls Choir by the Chairman, Malcolm Bury.



Malcolm Bury and a very happy looking Tom Winpenny receiving a cheque for £1,300

New Release

A new CD by the Abbey Girls Choir and Lay Clerks of choral works by Mendelssohn has just been released on the Naxos label. Conducted by Tom Winpenny, It features a solo by Laura Hicks and the organist is Peter Holder. Check it out!

Members' News

We welcome the following new members: Michael Ballard (treble 1948-49) Alec Newton and Dominic Lowth (ex-choristers), and Abbey Girl Choristers, Emma Huggett (Head Chorister), Nina Vinther (Deputy Head Chorister), Jessica Woodhouse and Freya Young together with ex-lay clerks Peter Crawford (alto), David Entwistle (bass) and Andrew Shepstone (tenor).

Copies of the 2012 ECA Year Book are still available from info@stalbens-exchoirassoc.co.uk at the price of £2.00 to cover the cost of postage.

Future Plans

At the Annual General Meeting the new committee was charged with planning the Association's activities for 2013 and beyond and will meet before the year-end to discuss this. One of the suggestions put forward was the possibility of a weekend visit to **Luccombe** next summer, the idea being that if there are sufficient Exquire members interested and someone to play the organ we could offer to sing one of the Sunday services there. If you are interested in taking part in such a venture please send an email to the chairman at malcolmgb@btinternet.com to register your interest.

Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

Planning is underway for the 2013 Annual Festival which we are hosting at St Albans next September and details for the various packages for attendance will be notified in the New Year. In the meantime the rooms which have been provisionally reserved for us at the Comfort Hotel are already being booked up by Federation members. Those of our St Albans members who live further afield and would like this hotel accommodation for the weekend are advised to reserve their book their accommodation now by completing and returning the Advance Priority Booking form as soon as possible.

The general outline of the weekend is attached.

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations Annual Festival at St Albans



St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association

has much pleasure in inviting you to the

83rd Annual Festival

of

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

St. Albans Cathedral

**from Friday 20th
to
Sunday 22nd September 2013**

Provisional Programme

Friday 20th September:

14.00 Onwards: Arrival at Comfort Hotel, Holywell Hill
16.00 Tea at the Cathedral
17.00 Choral Evensong – Abbey Girls Choir
19.00 Welcome by the Dean - Drinks and Buffet - Refectory
21.15 Compline

Saturday 21st September

Morning to mid-afternoon (One or more of the following events – lunch own arrangements):

City Walkabout / Historic Verulamium /
Verulamium Museum
Cathedral Tour & Talk / Photographic Exhibition

15.00 Rehearsal for Choral Evensong - Quire
16.00 Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir – Quire
17.30 Organ Demonstration (AL & TW)
20.00 Reception and Festival Dinner (Venue: Town Hall)

Sunday 22nd September

08.00 Eucharist (said - Optional)
09.30 Parish Eucharist - Nave (Parish Choir - Optional)
11.15 Choral Eucharist - Quire
12.30 Lunch (Optional) - Refectory /Local Hostelry/Hotel

Accommodation Advance Priority Booking:

To Malcolm G. Bury, 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB, please reserve the following accommodation at the Comfort Hotel.

Surname..... Christian Names.....

Address:

Post Code.....

Home Telephone No..... Email Address

Accommodation / No. of Guests : Single Twin Double