THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

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From the Chairman

Feedback from the ECA Committee Meeting

The ECA Committee met early in October to discuss plans for 2017 which will include a further **Service of Choral Eucharist for Exquire on Sunday 4th June** and, hopefully, a visit to **Luccombe for the weekend of 28th to 30th July** so please put these dates in your diaries now.

New Committee Members

I am delighted to welcome former Cathedral Chorister, Jeremy Meager LRSM ARCO to the ECA Committee.

Jeremy first started singing as a boy at St. Mary's Church, Nottingham before joining the Abbey Choir in 1975, where he went on to become a Woollams Scholar.

Even though he's always been passionate about the English Choral Tradition, it was a chance invitation by John Clough to turn pages one Sunday morning that truly ignited his love of the organ and of accompanying choirs. He remembers the piece as being "Procession of Palms" by Malcolm Williamson.

Following organ lessons with Stephen Darlington, Harry Bramma and finally with Peter Hurford, Jeremy left school to attend the RNCM in Manchester but left after deciding that a full-time career in music was not what he wanted to do.

For the past 25 years, Jeremy has worked full time in the digital organ industry and for the past 10 years has been Managing Director of Viscount Classical Organs Ltd based in Bicester. He still maintains a busy part-time music career as both accompanist and recitalist.

Jeremy is delighted to have been co-opted onto the ECA committee, and as 'Big Mac' said at the time "the younger generation are the future of the Association."

Data Protection

One of the topics discussed at the committee meeting was our ECA membership database and how member's data is collected, stored and used. In general, all data comes from individual members themselves, whether they are newly valedicted choristers and lay clerks or former people who emerge as a result of our research.

We are acutely aware of the Data Protection Act 1998/Data Protection Principles and accordingly all data held complies with the Act and is restricted to that which meets our needs, both for communications and historical purposes. This is limited to members' names, postal addresses, email addresses, voice part, dates of service, professional qualifications and awards, and cathedral choristerships.

This data is stored on a secure web server and is accessible only to the ECA Chairman and IT Manager.

There is a link to the Member's Page on our ECA Website which is open to the general public and where members are listed by name, general location, voice part and dates of service. This information is also included in our published biennial Members' Year Book.

We use this information to send out our communications, now mostly by email, including Alban Notes, notices of forthcoming events and activities and, also, items of news about the Abbey and the choirs that may be of interest.

Whist we reserve to right to maintain these data we do understand that in some cases where a member has a high public profile they may wish to have their data removed from our public records in which case they should write to the Chairman.

New ECA Members

We are pleased to welcome to the association the following choristers who were valedicted in the summer:

- Cathedral choristers - **Theo Whiterod** and **Theo Gannon**
- and Abbey Girl chorister - **Niamh Shepherd.**

2016 ECA Members' Year Book

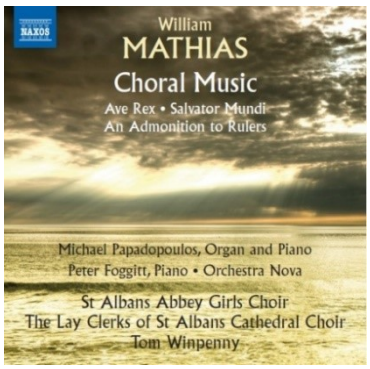
Unfortunately, for family reasons, the publication of the 2016 Members' Year Book has been delayed but should be available soon. If members would like a copy they should complete and return the order form below together with a cheque for **£2.50** to cover postage and package. Alternatively, orders can be made online at www.stalbanseca.org/year-book-order-form.

Orders received from members of the Abbey congregation, or those who visit the abbey regularly, may collect a copy from the respective alpha-slot in the Abbey mail boxes.

Cathedral Choir News

In a three-hour ***Hymnathon*** on the afternoon of Sunday 9th October, the Cathedral Choir, with Andrew Lucas, Tom Winpenny and Nicholas Freestone 'glued' to the organ stool, raised £2,445 in aid of the Cathedral Music Trust – a superb achievement. Favourite hymns were sponsored by the singers at various amounts ranging from £10 to £50 but if you wanted "Shine, Jesus, shine" it would have cost you £1,000 – surprisingly (and probably to the relief of the choir) there were no takers.

New Recording – Abbey Girls Choir and Cathedral Lay Clerks



The latest CD from the Cathedral's choirs has been released on the Naxos label. *William Mathias - Choral Music* was recorded last summer, and is sung by the Abbey Girls Choir and the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Tom Winpenny with Michael Papadopoulos, former Organ Scholar, accompanying.

The recording features a wide range of music by the renowned Welsh composer including the anthem *Lift up your heads, O ye gates* and the *Jesus College Service*. The more reflective side of his work is featured in his setting of *The Lord's Prayer* (a world premiere recording) and *As truly as God is our Father*. The CD also includes the famous Christmas cycle *Ave Rex* and a carol sequence for upper voices *Salvator mundi* in which the Abbey Girls Choir is joined by Orchestra Nova.

Tom Winpenny, Director of the Abbey Girls Choir, said "Making a recording is always a highlight for the choir, and is the culmination of many months' work. The music of William Mathias is some of the most exuberant and varied in the modern repertoire, and the girls and Lay Clerks much enjoyed performing it and rising to its challenges."

The recording is available from the Cathedral Shop or via the Cathedral Office, price £6.99.

Abbey Girls Choir 2016 with Director, Tom Winpenny and Organ Scholar, Nick Freestone
Photo: Simon Tottman

Surplus to Surplices

Members may recall that in January this year I published my book entitled *"The Choirs and Musicians of St Albans Cathedral."*

Sales of the book to date are just under 250 but are still going strong. As a result I was able to present Andrew Lucas, Master of the Music, with a cheque for £1,200 which will yield a gift aided donation of £1,500 and go towards the purchase of new surplices for the Cathedral Choir.

The book is on sale in the Cathedral Book Shop and I should like to thank Julia Cammack, the Retail Manager, for making the books available.

Andrew Lucas & Malcolm Bury

Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations 2016 newsletter published

The latest FCOCA newsletter can now be downloaded from the ECA website -

http://www.stalbanseca.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/FCOCA_Newletter_Aug2016.pdf

St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers Association

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