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Chorister

July 2010

Welcome to the revamped 'Chorister' Newsletter

CITY CHORUS

90th ANNIVERSARY

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

COMPETITION

The London based City Chorus is celebrating its 90th birthday season in 2010-2011: the culmination of our anniversary year will be a concert in July 2011, which will feature a newly commissioned 20-minute work for chorus.

Composers from around the world are invited to apply for this GBP2000 commission. City Chorus is an adult mixed choir, open to all without audition, and our 'ideal' composer will be able to write music that is original and exciting, yet within the capability of our amateur singers.

Deadline: 3 December 2010.

for full details, please visit:

<http://www.citychorus.info/> and click on "competition"

or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

City Chorus Commission Competition
Woodfall House
53 Carpenters Wood Drive
Chorleywood
Hertfordshire
WD3 5RP
England

Supporting the British Choral Tradition

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC

FIRST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR CHORAL COMPOSITION "A Choral Work for Peace"

NOTIFICATION AND REGULATIONS

The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), in cooperation with Europa Cantat and Jeunesses Musicales International, announces the First International Competition for Choral Composition "**A Choral Work for Peace**" with the aim of promoting the creation and the wide distribution of a new choral repertoire and, above all, of promoting peace among the people of this world with the help of music.

The Competition will be held every two years in conjunction with an important event organized by one of the three partners.

Participation is open to composers from any country, and any nationality, who are under 35 years old on 31 December 2010.

The Competition calls for "a cappella" choral compositions (*SATB or divided into as many as eight parts, SSAATTBB*) with a maximum duration of 6 minutes. The text of the composition, sacred or secular, in any language (*English translation is required*), written for the occasion or pre-existing, must treat the theme of the peace. If the texts are not in the public domain, written permission to use them must be obtained from the author or copyright holder of the texts and shall be enclosed with the entry form.

A maximum of two works per composer may be submitted. Entries shall arrive by e-mail no later than 31 December, 2010.

There is no entry fee for participating in the Competition.

Entries must be submitted in the form of scores (either typeset in **pdf** format or as scans of neat handwritten music scores). In addition, relevant MIDI files may be submitted but are not essential. Do not submit tapes or CDs. The composer's name should not appear anywhere on the scores. The IFCM Competition Office will receive the entries and forward them to the members of the jury. The composer's identity will be released by the IFCM only after judging has taken place. All participants must include a document (*.doc or .rtf*) with their full address, contact details and the title of the composition. This document shall also contain a statement by the composer declaring that each and every score submitted is unpublished, so far unperformed and has never been awarded a prize in any previous contest. Entries should be sent by e-mail to: competition@ifcm.net

The competition will be judged by a five-member jury consisting of international choral conductors and composers. The judges' decision is final.

Strong consideration will be given to a work's potential for performance and repeated performance by the majority of choirs possessing the appropriate voicing requirements. The winning work will demonstrate excellence of writing, "sing-ability" (given reasonable rehearsal time) and choral (idiomatic) effectiveness.

The winning work will be premièred by the World Youth Choir in its first concert after the announcement of the result. The three organisations who support this competition, IFCM, Europa Cantat and Jeunesses Musicales International, may award further prizes to the winning work.

The winning work will be published by a prestigious publishing house (the name of which will be announced later). Meanwhile the "Composers' Corner" column of the April 2011 issue of the *International Choral Bulletin* (ICB) will publish an interview with the winning composer and some excerpts of the winning score as a measure to promote the composer and his works. Europa Cantat and Jeunesses Musicales International will also promote the winning composer and his work through their publications.

Participation in the competition implies full knowledge and acceptance of these regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Andrea Angelini, ICB Managing Editor, IFCM • Tel.: +39 347 2573878 e-mail: aangelini@ifcm.net



MUSIC SURVEY IN WALES

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) in Wales has just launched an online survey of the church music scene throughout the country. The survey, which can be found at www.rscm.com/wales, aims to take a snapshot of what is happening in Sunday worship, and to give a picture of musical resources. The results will help to guide the RSCM's support for its affiliated churches and members in Wales.

The survey which is being distributed to all RSCM affiliated churches and members, asks a variety of questions, from the range of music sung at services and the number of children and adults in the choir, to the state of the organ and details of any music group. It is the second time that an RSCM survey has been held in Wales; the last was in 2003. "At the time I gather we had a very good return; in some churches music was flourishing, while in others it was clearly a challenge," says Lindsay Gray, the Director of the RSCM, but former Headmaster of Llandaff Cathedral School.

Seven years on, the variety of ways in which the RSCM supports church music-making has increased through its range of music publications, magazines, training programmes such as *Voice for Life*, courses, training choirs and above all, local events. In Wales there are 130 churches affiliated to the RSCM and 80 individual members. "Although this is primarily for our affiliates and members, I hope as many churches as possible will take part," says Lindsay Gray. "The responses will help the six area committees in Wales and the central administration to shape the support and training we offer to our affiliated churches and their musicians, be they from town or country."

For more information on how to take part go to www.rscm.com/wales where responses can either be made online, or by downloading hard copy. The closing date is 1st September 2010.

Notes for Editors

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an international ecumenical charity that educates, supports and enables musicians, composers and clergy in promoting sacred music in churches, schools and the wider community. The RSCM publishes music and training resources (such as its popular *Voice for Life* training scheme for singers of all ages), and organises a wide range of courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is supported by over 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

A photograph of Lindsay Gray may be downloaded from our Picture Gallery.

Go to http://www.rscm.com/about_us/pictureGallery.php (Thumbnail panel 4)

For further media enquiries contact Stuart Robinson:

RSCM Media Relations Organiser & Coordinator in Wales. srobinson@rscm.com 01492 556378 / 07831 827701

COL CANTO ASSOCIATES WEBSITES

Chorister' covers information and news regarding the web sites 'British Choirs on the Net', 'Concertfinder', 'Choirsites' and other associated websites under the banner of Col Canto Associates. British Choirs on the Net has become the foremost Choral Resource Listing web site in the UK. The aim is to support the British Choral tradition, the Music Manifesto and 'Singing for Health'. This newsletter has been sent to you as you are currently listed on one of the sites, or because the services you provide may be suitable for our website.

British Choirs on the Net The site continues to grow with over 2601 choirs now listed and we continue to welcome new choirs both UK based and internationally. www.choirs.org.uk The site continues to successfully place music musical directors and accompanists with choral societies and choruses across the UK. British Choirs on the Net is a member of TONSIL, who you will find more about in this newsletter.

British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum

This is a new group set up on Facebook to enable Choral Directors, Choirs Secretaries and Choir members to informally discuss issues of performance practice, request new music and music exchanges and discuss other choral related issues. www.facebook.com We also have a presence on Twitter at www.twitter.com/britishchoirs

Concert Programme Notes British Choirs on the Net hosts a library of Choral repertoire programme notes which are available for the free use of Choral Societies. We do ask however that you acknowledge in your concerts the authorship of these programme notes, as appropriate. Recent additions to the list include Stanford's Stabat Mater and Bob Chilcott's The Making of the Drum & Little Jazz Mass, all kindly provided by John Bawden. The latest addition is a new programme note for J S Bach St John Passion, provided by Peter Foster.

British Choirs on the Net Mailing Services

British Choirs on the Net holds a database of over 2000 choir email contacts as a result of its business with these choirs. While the site has no intention of selling this it can provide a mailing service to choirs and businesses to help promote events and services of interest to the choral community.

Recent mailings have been sent out on behalf of OneStage Specialist Tours and the Langlais Choral Course.

Corrections and Amendments

British Choirs on the Net is only as useful as the information held on it. Please email me with any corrections and omissions to choir information, email addresses or website choir addresses. Please email any corrections and amendments to phillip@colcanto.co.uk

Choirsites

We are pleased to welcome **Monton Voices** to this site providing website design and web hosting to choirs. www.montonvoices.co.uk Other choirs include;

Balsham Singers, Cambridge
Clarkson Singers Wisbech
Chester-le-Street Civic Choir
Holymoorside Choral Society, Derbyshire
Leominster Choral Society, Herefordshire
www.choirsites.co.uk

Concertfinder, the online calendar of choral concerts, is now listing events for 2010, 2011 and even 2012. Please submit your concert details via email in text format. Please do not send pdf or html posters which require the salient points to be extracted and can delay posting the concert. www.concertfinder.co.uk

Choirfriends This small site is designed to help chorister get back in touch with their friends and colleagues when you move to other choirs or (heaven forbid) stop singing. Recent searches have been for former members of the Belfast Girls Choir (in the 1940-1950's), Ulster Girls Choir, the Hall Russell Male Choir (in the 1920—1930's) and the Wolverhampton Girls Choir (in the 1950's) www.choirfriends.co.uk

VocalBroker This is a site which lists vocal soloists seeking work with Choral Societies and Choruses on the Oratorio or concert platform. It is not an agency and the Societies negotiate directly with singers with vocalbroker taking no commission. They are all experienced singers and choral societies and choruses are asked to consider these singers when selecting voices for concerts. www.vocalbroker.co.uk

WeddingSingers This is a site which lists soloists, choirs, barbershop and gospel group who are looking for work performing at weddings www.weddingsingers.org.uk



CLASSIC *fm*



CLASSIC FM AND MAKING MUSIC GET THE WHOLE NATION SINGING

On 1, 2, 3 October 2010 people from all over the UK will come together to celebrate the power of singing in aid of Classic FM's charity Music Makers as part of the first ever national singing weekend, *123sing!* Created by Classic FM, the UK's largest national commercial radio station and Making Music, the largest umbrella body for amateur music, *123sing!* will highlight the life-changing effects of singing and how it can be a valuable activity to deal with the stresses of everyday life.

123sing! invites the public to host, join or enjoy a singing event over the weekend of

1, 2, 3 October 2010, all in aid of Classic FM's charity Music Makers which raises money to fund music education and therapy projects working with the most disadvantaged children and adults across the UK. The event is open to everyone of all abilities and the *123sing!* website is packed full of ideas to help people get involved. Simply check out www.classicfm.com/123sing.

Events can range from a concert for the community to a karaoke night with friends and neighbours, a singing workshop for beginners to a talent show at school or in the office. All types of music are welcome, so whether you love classical or pop, rock or musicals, you can get involved.

Classic FM and Making Music are working closely with all the major singing organisations in the UK, including Sing Up, Youth Music, the British Association of Barbershop Singers, who want to help more people and communities reap the benefits of singing.

Sing yourself happy

There is now significant research evidence on the value of singing for health and wellbeing. Professor Stephen Clift of the Sidney De Haan Research Centre at Canterbury Christ Church University, the only research institution in the world that focuses on singing and health, says, 'I think *123sing!* is a fantastic idea. It's a great opportunity for people to come together and sing. A growing body of research shows that singing is good for wellbeing. So people can join in with singing and have a good time and know that it's doing their health good too.'

For scores of ideas on how you can run your own *123sing!* event and to sign up to take part, visit www.classicfm.com/123sing.