



THE CHORAL FOUNDATION

THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE



Giving Choral Music a Future



*“Being part of the choir has
given me amazing opportunities.
It has transformed my life.”*

Ciaran Price, Former chorister

“Some of the music has been heard in the chapel for hundreds of years. It gives me a real sense of history which I hope we pass on to everyone who listens to us.”

Oliver Champness, Former Chorister

OVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES, you can take a glimpse into the Chapel’s rich past, learn about how we support the Choir and choral music here today, and discover the many ways in which you can participate in the Choir’s future.

Play your part in the future of choral music

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION preserves and promotes the unique heritage of choral music at Hampton Court Palace Chapel Royal, and makes it accessible to all.

It is through the generosity and commitment of our donors and partners that we are supporting the musical establishment of the Chapel Royal, building on its rich tradition of choral music and allowing its influence to continue to echo around the world, long into the future.

The Choral Foundation has been successful in achieving its original ambitions. These included vital work to restore the organ, recruiting and training young choristers and supporting adult musicians.

We are now focused on creating an endowment fund that will secure the Hampton Court Palace Chapel Royal Choir for generations to come, allowing it to flourish as one of the leading choirs in this country.

For details of the various ways you can donate, please turn to the last page of this brochure or visit us at www.chapelroyal.org



Her Majesty The Queen

“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 Palace.

This Chapel Royal has had a special significance for Kings and Queens of England in the past, as it has for me and my family: Prince Philip and I remember, for instance, when we worshipped here in May 2004 celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the Hampton Court Conference, an occasion redolent with history; and I enjoyed listening to my choristers who sang for me when I gave my Christmas Broadcast from here in 2010.

I thank all those who support the excellent work of the Choral Foundation.”



HISTORY OF THE CHAPEL

A place of peace and beauty

THE CHAPEL ROYAL at Hampton Court Palace is part of the Ecclesiastical Household of Her Majesty The Queen. Built in 1528 by Thomas Wolsey, it is considered to be one of Hampton Court Palace's greatest treasures and is home to one of Britain's leading choirs.

For over five centuries, music has been an integral part of ceremony and life at Hampton Court. Many kings and queens, including Henry VIII, have enjoyed sacred music underneath the ceiling, which is said to represent the 'Waters of Heaven'.

Today, the Chapel Royal continues to be a living, vibrant church with music at its heart: welcoming all by open invitation of Her Majesty The Queen to services on Sundays and Holy Days.

Outstandingly rich and layered with history, the Chapel's striking blue and gold ceiling is an exquisite example of Tudor craftsmanship and Henry VIII's proclamation of his sovereignty.



The cradle of English choral music

FROM THE CHAPEL ROYAL'S beginnings in 1528, the greatest British composers and musicians have worked within its hallowed walls.

Over the centuries, the Chapel Royal has become a melting pot of the finest musical talent, resulting in a style of composition and performance, as exemplified by the works of Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons and Henry Purcell, that has been at the forefront of the choral movement worldwide.

Central to the Chapel Royal's musical heritage is the beautiful and historic three-manual Schridder/Hill organ. Originally built by Christian Schridder in 1712, it was adapted by William Hill in 1918.

In 2013 the Choral Foundation funded a meticulous and highly skilled overhaul by Harrison & Harrison, which restored the integrity, character and tone of the instrument.

Today, together with the choir, the organ plays an integral part in enabling choral music to live and thrive at the Chapel Royal. It can be enjoyed by everyone at weekly services, recitals and concerts.

Following the extensive overhaul of the historic Schridder/Hill organ in 2013, the Choral Foundation is delighted that the instrument has been awarded Grade II listing as an important organ of more than special interest.

Five centuries of sacred music

THE HAMPTON COURT PALACE Chapel Royal Choir is passionate about upholding the age-old tradition of sharing choral music with all who come to listen. During weekly services at the Chapel Royal, the Choir sings choral works spanning more than 500 years, from 16th century Tudor Times to modern day composers.

Today's Choir is comprised of the Director of Music, the Organist and Organ Scholar together with professional singers known as the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal, and boy choristers known as the Children of Chapel Royal.

A unique characteristic of the choir is that boys come from a wide range of local schools. An annual Open Day gives talented boys the opportunity to become choristers of the future with access to a first class musical education.

The Choir of the Chapel Royal has been influencing choral music around the world for nearly 500 years.

Investing in the future

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION was founded by Canon Denis Mulliner LVO in 2011. As a registered charity, it was established to ensure that congregations and visitors would continue to experience the rich musical heritage of Hampton Court, which has been described as ‘the greatest palace in Britain’.

Our mission today is to enable the Hampton Court Palace Chapel Royal Choir to reach its full potential and take its place at the forefront of the worldwide choral movement.

The Choral Foundation works to raise funds to support the first class musical education of the Choir, to support the Director of Music, Organist and Organ Scholar, to maintain the organ following its critical restoration, and to renew and replace various items of musical and choir equipment.

*The Choral Foundation supports and maintains the Choir,
Director of Music, Organist and Organ Scholar.*





The Choral Foundation's work in action

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION engages with a broad audience and at different levels. We operate a programme of community outreach with local schools, perform at prestigious musical engagements and events, and offer workshops and our annual family friendly Open Day.

Our mission is to provide unrivalled musical and personal development opportunities for all by increasing diversity and accessibility. We also offer tailor-made, non-elitist bursaries and are committed to establishing choral scholarships for young adults.

Our aim is to secure a £1.5 million endowment fund. We have made significant progress towards achieving that target thanks to the generosity of our donors and we are dedicated to meeting our goal for the benefit of the choir, the congregation and the heritage and future of choral music. It is through our donors' continued support that we know they feel as passionately as we do about our cause.

For details of the various ways you can support us, please see overleaf.

"The best things about being in the Choir are the friendships I have made and the musical education I am receiving."

Charles Wainwright-Jones, Chorister



HOW TO SUPPORT US

How you can support our future

VISIT: All are welcome to join the congregation for the Sunday services, to attend weekly Sunday lunchtime music recitals featuring world-class musicians.

DONATE: By donating to the Choral Foundation, you are helping to protect and conserve a vital part of a musical heritage for future generations of choristers, and those who simply wish to enjoy the beauty of choral music in a glorious heritage setting. With your help, we can enable choral music's influence to echo far into the future.

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

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

Judith Weir CBE, Master of the Queen's Music

Support the future of choral music by donating today

BY DONATING to the Choral Foundation, you can play your part in supporting the future of choral music in one of the UK's most prestigious heritage settings.

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 itself you will find donation envelopes and a special donation receptacle for one-off contributions.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Chapel Royal.



**THE
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FOUNDATION**

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HAMPTON COURT PALACE

PATRONS AND TRUSTEES

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Choral Foundation is made up of a range of professional people who have some existing or past link to the choir and who care about its future.

THE PATRONS OF THE CHARITY ARE:

- The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres KCVO
Bishop of London and Dean of HM Chapels Royal
- Elizabeth, The Lady Maclean
- The Revd Canon Denis Mulliner LVO
- Judith Weir CBE
Master of the Queen's Music
- Harry Christophers CBE

“Singing with the choir is giving me a musical education that I couldn’t get anywhere else. We’ve sung in places I might not have ever visited.”

Patrick Redmond, Chorister

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