



# THE CHORAL FOUNDATION

THE CHAPEL ROYAL  
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2021

Dear Choral Foundation Supporters,

First of all, let me express the deep sorrow of the Choral Foundation at the passing of The Lady Maclean. As our founding patron, Lady Maclean was an indomitable force behind our conception and launch, and has been a steadfast support to us over this past decade. We have enormous gratitude for all she has done for the Chapel and the Foundation, and she will be very much missed.

Gradually we emerge from the pain of the past 18 months, and it is heart-warming to see the Chapel bustling and thriving again. It is in no small part down to Father Anthony and the Chapel team that we were able to maintain a rhythm of service and worship through all our lockdowns, for which we are very grateful. Similarly, it is down to you, our donors, that we were able to continue the Foundation's support to the choristers and gentlemen over this period. Thank you.



Carl Jackson

We passed a notable milestone in the past few weeks, as Carl Jackson celebrated his (first!) 25 years as Director of Music. Carl is the corner-stone of the music in the Chapel and continues to delight and amaze with its extraordinarily high quality.

In recognition of this anniversary the Choral Foundation is to inaugurate a new *Carl Jackson Silver Jubilee Organ Scholarship*. This will exist alongside the Gordon Reynolds Organ Scholarship, and will provide financial support to a promising junior organ scholar, aged up to 18 years. I hope this will be a fitting tribute to 25 years of dedicated and outstanding service.

As you will recall, our plans for significant fundraising had to be paused as a result of the pandemic. We have, however, continued to refine our thinking, take counsel, and prepare our plans for 2022. As a result, I'm delighted that we will soon be able to announce a major campaign which will incorporate ambitious targets for financial support to the Chapel, fundraising, and for new partnerships with schools and colleges. I look forward to sharing more details in the near future. We're also very pleased to welcome a new Trustee, Charles MacDougall, who has much experience to bring to the charity.

In the meantime, as ever, let me express the deep gratitude of the Choral Foundation and its staff for all the support you continue to provide us. Your contribution genuinely makes a difference, and means we can preserve and promote the extraordinary musical legacy of HM Chapel Royal at Hampton Court.

With all best regards,  
Peter Havelock – Chair



Peter Havelock

## NEW TRUSTEE

Charles MacDougall is an award-winning tenor, vocal coach and choral director known equally for his voice and his transformative work with choirs and singers. Formerly a member of internationally-acclaimed vocal ensemble VOCES8 (2005-12), he currently sings for a number of other ensembles, including the Gabrieli Consort, London Early Opera and London Voices.



Charles MacDougall

An accomplished choral conductor and vocal coach, he is the Choral Director of The Voices Foundation (one of the UK's foremost music education charities), Vocal Ensembles Coach and Tutor in Vocal Studies at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (Junior), is Chorus Director for Gabrieli ROAR (the UK-wide youth choir of the Gabrieli Consort and Players), and directs two choirs in London.

In 2018 he was part of the team that received the Music Teacher Award for Excellence in Primary/Early Years (for creation and delivery of the VF/DRET (Voices Foundation/David Ross Education Trust) Singing Schools pilot programme) and in 2020/21 he helped devise and deliver the daily VF Virtual Sing for children unable to attend school due to national lockdown. More recently, he has written the first volume of *Inside Singing*, a choral resource for entry level choir leaders to be published by The Voices Foundation. He is a Britten-Pears Arts Community Ambassador, consulting for the organisation on their education programmes, as well as being a trustee of opera company IntoOpera.

He is delighted to become a director and trustee of the Choral Foundation of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, and looks forward to being part of the team, especially developing music education partnerships and opportunities for local children to engage with high quality singing programmes.

## DONOR RECEPTION

Our next Donor Reception will be after Choral Matins on 21 November and we look forward to seeing you there. If you have family or friends you think could be interested in supporting the work of the Choral Foundation do encourage them to attend this reception. We would be delighted to meet them.

## A NOTE FROM THE GENTLEMEN

The Gentlemen of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace would like to join our fellow musicians and other Chapel staff in expressing gratitude for the Choral Foundation's donors' support over the past eighteen months. We have been pleased to have been able to participate in Chapel worship as and when it has been possible during the recent public health emergency, and we continue to give thanks for the present return to a normal pattern of musical provision.

## OPEN DAY

The Chapel Royal hosted the first *Be a Chorister for a Day* event for 2 years on 25 September 2021. Fifteen interested boys from 11 different state and independent schools attended the day and enjoyed musical direction from Carl Jackson and Gavin Cranmer-Moralee (a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal Hampton Court). This resulted in a high number of audition requests which will take place in November. Our thanks to all the Chapel Team for putting on such a successful event, especially Sophie Baylis for organising it all.



## CHORISTER EXPERIENCE



Benedict Foley Cook

*"I am Benedict Foley Cook, the Head Chorister of Decani and Senior Head Chorister of the Chapel Royal here at Hampton Court Palace. I have been in the choir for six years now and it has been such a great experience, providing me with an excellent opportunity to develop my musical skills.*


*I was sad that we couldn't sing for over a year in services during lockdown because of Coronavirus. Coming back*

*to normal Sundays this year was hard at first as lots of older/senior boys left during lockdown (because their voices had changed) and there were new social distancing rules in the stalls. However, despite these setbacks, the return to choir life has gone swimmingly.*

*The choir has really helped me develop in other areas of music such as clarinet and piano, the two instruments I play. The Choral Foundation's bursary pays a great deal of money towards every chorister's music lessons. Personally, without this I would never have been able to learn both these instruments to a good standard and so this I am truly grateful for.*

*I fear I do not have much time left at Hampton Court, but it is a part of my life I will never forget and for which I will be forever thankful".*

## DONATE & SUPPORT

Help to support the choir and keep the music alive by donating via **JustGiving** and using  when shopping online. Do tell your friends and family about the wonderful music at the Chapel Royal and how the Choral Foundation is supporting this. If they would like to know more put them in touch with Louise Cole: [Louise.Cole@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Louise.Cole@hrp.org.uk) – Thank you.

The Choral Foundation preserves and promotes the unique heritage of English Choral Music at The Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace.

For further information please contact Louise Cole.

[choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk](mailto:choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk)  
020 3166 6516  
[www.chapelroyalhamptoncourt.org.uk](http://www.chapelroyalhamptoncourt.org.uk)

The Choral Foundation supports music at The Chapel Royal, a living vibrant church, located at the heart of the historic Palace of Hampton Court. Everyone is welcome to attend the regular services held in the Chapel Royal and to worship in the place where kings and queens have done so for centuries.

The Choir sings Choral Matins or Sung Eucharist at 11am and Evensong at 3.30pm every Sunday (except during the choir recess in the summer). The services are from the Book of

Common Prayer. Those attending The Chapel for a service only do not pay the Palace entrance fee. Please enter by Tennis Court Lane.



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## LEGACIES

*"Listening to the choir on Sundays has given me such joy and enriched my spiritual life. Leaving a legacy is my way of ensuring that the choral heritage of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace is preserved for future generations to treasure, just as I do" – a Legacy Donor*

October is Free Wills month, when traditionally legal advisers review or write Wills for free where a gift is being included for a charity. While you might be forgiven for thinking that legacies are only important to the big charities, the Choral Foundation has been honoured by gifts left in Wills by supporters that have been sustaining and transformative. They are such a useful way for donors to preserve income during their lifetime, while making a cherished tax-free gift from their estate.

Figures show that only 7% of people donate by making a gift in their Will, although 75% of people donate to charity during their lifetime. Campaigns like Free Wills month help demystify and simplify the process and the Choral Foundation is delighted that it is able to extend the same service to those interested in supporting us in this way, but we shall do so throughout the year, not just in October.

Michele Price, a Trustee of the Choral Foundation and Legal 500 recommended Charity Lawyer, will be available after services once a month, beginning with Matins on 21 November, or by appointment at any other time, to discuss, in confidence, how you can remember the Choral Foundation in your Will, and how the Choral Foundation will remember you. Contact Michele Price at [gunnercooke llp](mailto:gunnercooke llp) on 07399 114937 or email: [michele.price@gunnercooke.com](mailto:michele.price@gunnercooke.com)

*"The lasting legacy of gifts in Wills, whatever their size, is written into the very fabric of the Chapel Royal. Read the gold inscription on the back the choir folders, the plaque on my music stand, the heartfelt thanks of choristers who hold bursaries donated in this way, the dedication mounted on the organ console. We remember those people every time we sing; the music is their memorial" – Carl Jackson*

## CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Remember a loved one this Christmas with a Christmas Angel decoration. Each donation of £10 or more will ensure that the name of the person you nominate is written on a beautiful Christmas Angel decoration. These will be hung on a Christmas tree in the Chapel Royal from the 1st Sunday in Advent to the end of December. All names commemorated will be recorded in a book displayed in the Chapel from early January until the end of Christmas tide. *Look out for forms in the Chapel.*



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