



# THE CHORAL FOUNDATION

THE CHAPEL ROYAL  
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

*Dear Choral Foundation Supporters,*

2022 was a year of progress and success for the Choral Foundation at the Chapel Royal. A newly reinvigorated relationship with Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, the launch of our schools' singing programme, 'Songstars', success in fundraising and grant applications – all have taken enormous efforts by the Chapel and Foundation teams and the Board, and I am immensely grateful for their hard work and commitment.

Of course, our year was also tinged with great sorrow at the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and we will be looking at how we can best celebrate her support for the Chapel and the Foundation over the years. We also look forward to the Coronation of HM The King, and a future newsletter will provide more information about our plans to celebrate that event, and to raise funds for a 'Coronation Chorister'.

More recently we have been deeply saddened at the death of Simon Offen, who has been advising us on fundraising, and established our Christ Church connection. Simon was an enthusiastic and vibrant supporter, and we send our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

We said farewell as a Trustee to Peter Menneer in December, after over 40 years of service to the choir and the Foundation. He has been greatly influential in our success, and I thank him for his support to me and the Chapel. We welcomed – back! – Justin Basini as a Trustee. Justin was a Head Chorister in the 1980s and brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our work.

As ever, my warmest vote of thanks is to you, our donors and supporters. Without you none of this would be possible, and I hope you take some pride in your Foundation's progress.

*With all best regards,  
Peter Havelock – Chair*

## SONGSTARS SINGING PROGRAMME

The Choral Foundation has recently launched 'Songstars', a new singing programme that offers enhanced singing support to girls and boys at state primary schools in Southwest London. For the Chapel, this programme enables us to reach a new congregation, as well as a new generation of singers, demonstrates our commitment to education, opportunity and inclusivity, and provides fertile ground for fundraising. We are delighted to have received generous grants from the Cathedral Music Trust and the Victor Ford Foundation, which fully cover our costs of the first year.

During the pilot year, Songstars is working with four local schools: one receives a full year of weekly support, and three receive 10 weekly school visits over the course of a term. Each school will be invited to an educational tour of the Palace and work towards a finale concert in the Chapel in June. In addition to this, we run free termly CPD vocal leadership workshops which all local schools are welcome to attend. The programme is initially focussed on the London Borough of Hounslow, but with plans to expand to other boroughs local to the Chapel Royal.

The pilot of Songstars is taking place over this academic year, September 2022 - June 2023. A specific objective of this pilot year is to test the relative effectiveness of different ways of designing and delivering the programme. The programme has been devised and developed in partnership with the Hounslow Music Service, and the weekly sessions and concert days are delivered by experienced vocal animateur, Laurel Neighbour.

Results from the first term of the programme are encouraging, and teachers have fed back how much of an impact the sessions have already had:

*"My son is in the class singing and adores it. It's his favourite time of the week, and he sings your songs now every morning and every night!" – Cath Pinkney, Green Dragon class teacher.*

A core aim of the programme is to improve the confidence and skills of classroom teachers to deliver consistently high quality singing and musicianship to their classes. We are justifiably proud that the Chapel and Foundation will therefore leave a tangible legacy at each school, and play a central role in improving the standards of singing in the area.

## SAINT CECILIA'S DAY CONCERT

On Saint Cecilia's Day, Tuesday 22 November, the Chapel Royal welcomed the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford to give a concert with our own choir, under their Directors of Music,

Steven Grahl and Carl Jackson.

They were ably accompanied by the period instrument ensemble "Instruments of Time and Truth", and by Rufus Frowde, making his way alternately between the



organ and the Mackinnon & Waitzman harpsichord - brought down to the Chapel from its normal home in the Queen's Drawing Room.

The evening's programme was devoted to Henry Purcell: a selection of his choral and instrumental music. Following in the steps of his uncle, Thomas Purcell, he was admitted as a chorister of the Chapel Royal. As an adult he was simultaneously organist at Westminster Abbey and at the Chapel Royal – whose organ at Hampton Court was familiarly known as “Purcell's Pipes”. The high moment of the concert was the final item, Purcell's setting of Psalm 96: O Sing unto the Lord, which triumphantly interweaves instrumentation, vocal solos and contrapuntal choral passages.

The evening was organised to raise awareness and funds for the Choral Foundation. It was initiated by Simon Offen who in the spring had arranged for the Chapel Royal Choir to visit Christ Church and sing a combined Evensong with the Cathedral Choir. We are deeply saddened by Simon's recent death, and are committed to ensuring this relationship be one of his many legacies.

Prior to the concert the audience was invited to a talk given by Tracy Borman HRP Joint Chief Curator and by Canon Anthony Howe on the Anne Boleyn white falcon and a unique copy of the Prayer Book from the reign of Elizabeth I – or to go on one of a number of alternative tours of the Palace. The evening concluded with a reception held in the spectacular King's Guard Chamber, with canapés and Chilworth Manor sparkling wine from the Surrey Hills.

It was a brilliant evening that had required unprecedented coordination, planning and participation between the staff of Historic Royal Palaces, the Chapel Royal and the Choral Foundation. Our sincere thanks to all those who took part: HRP and the staff and musicians from The Chapel Royal and Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford who created for us so memorable an evening.

## LEGACIES

We mourn the passing of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and reflect upon her life of service, duty and faith. She has left an immeasurable legacy. The Choral Foundation is extremely proud of the support that she showed in a number of ways to the charity, from personal notes and good wishes to our team, to endorsing and publicly celebrating our successes in fundraising for the choir.

The Choral Foundation is ensuring that the choir established at the Chapel Royal Hampton Court Palace to sing for every monarch since Tudor times, continues that unique tradition. Her Late Majesty made it very clear that she supported our aspirations and her last visit, on the occasion of the first service for the Companions of Honour, joyously commemorated that ambition.

These events remind us all of the legacy that we leave, the imprint that we make on human history, and the difference that we make to what matters to us. We therefore have no hesitation in inviting you to discuss leaving a legacy in your Will, a lasting



memorial of your personal support for this special choir. Please contact Michele Price, Trustee, in complete confidence to discuss leaving a gift on 07399 114 937 or email [michele.price@gunnercooke.com](mailto:michele.price@gunnercooke.com)

Michele writes *“The first time that I received a letter from The Late Queen thanking the Choral Foundation for its work, a prized possession, I was honoured to know that we were in her thoughts. Subsequent meetings, including her obvious delight when the choir sang for her in Richmond Park on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, are moments treasured by the Choir and Choral Foundation, motivating us to fulfil our promise to Her, now extended to The King, to preserve the choir in perpetuity”.*

## THE TEDDINGTONES

The Chapel hosted a wonderful community choir concert on 9 November 2022, which raised £2389.38 for the Choral Foundation.

A new local community choir, aptly named, the Teddingtones, gave its inaugural performance in collaboration with the Chapel. Some 45 strong, ably led by their music director, Laura Luck, they gave a rousing performance of Fauré's Requiem to a full chapel, followed by a reception in the Clore Learning Centre. The treble solo was performed beautifully by Chorister Edward Cassidy, Christian Goursaud, Gentleman of the Choir, sang the wonderful baritone solos, Philip White-Jones accompanied the whole concert, Sophie Baylis performed a wonderful flute solo, Father Anthony gave a fabulous thank you speech and James Harris and the team brilliantly organised everything behind the scenes. There were also wonderful solo performances from members of the

choir; Laura Luck and Ruth Vanni.

The Teddingtones is a new community choir based in Teddington that welcome singers of all backgrounds and abilities from the local area - to have fun, enjoy making music and to raise money for local charities. The members had the most wonderful evening – for some it was the first

performance they had ever done and others it was the first time visiting the Chapel Royal. *Jane Crowther, Choral Foundation Trustee (and member of the Teddingtones!)*



**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.



All images of The Chapel Royal are reproduced with the gracious permission of HM The King.

The Choral Foundation, The Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU, UK.

Tel +44 (0) 20 3166 6516 | e-mail [choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk](mailto:choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk) | Registered Charity Number 1142075 | Company Number 7542466.