

presents



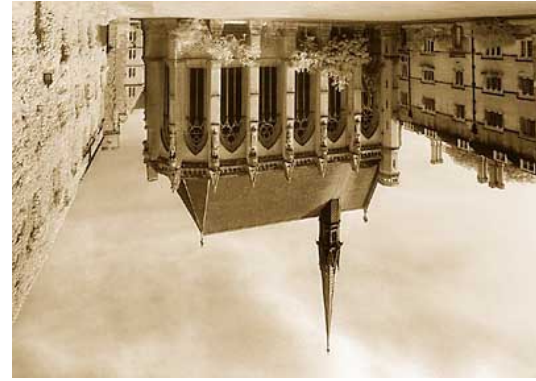
Exeter College Chapel, Oxford
Saturday 12 December 2009

Musical Director: Richard Vendome
Accompanist: Benedict Lewis-Smith

*Please stand to sing where indicated and
only applaud at the end of the concert*

15th Annual
Dinner and Carols

*We hope you enjoyed the concert
and on behalf of OAC Actuaries and Consultants
we would like to wish you a
Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2010!*



Oxford Youth Choirs – the first 25 years

Oxford Girls' Choir was founded by Richard Vendome in 1984 when a group of families whose sons sang in Oxford's famous male choirs decided to do something for their equally talented daughters. It pre-dated the recent development of girls' cathedral choirs, and was the first of its kind in England to develop girls' singing as a musical medium in its own right, and not just as a substitute for the adult or the boy's voice. Former members have gone on to become professional musicians, and several have won choral scholarships to Cambridge or places at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music. Demand for places in the choir grew rapidly, and in 1986 a junior section was formed. The strong musical culture of Oxford has nurtured an interest in music and the very young, and this gave rise to the mixed Prep Choir some ten years later. Our boys' choir provides an alternative to the church music tradition, and each year some of our boys go on to win scholarships to college or cathedral choirs. Every Saturday morning during term the choirs provide a vocal and musical education for 150 children from state and independent schools in the Oxford area. Sometimes the choirs perform together, as at the 2005 Mediterranea Festival in Gozo, when they provided much of the chorus for a production of Puccini's "La Bohème".

Oxford Girls' Choir has sung in Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Malta, Ireland and Wales. The choir provides a thorough technical training and sings a wide range of music, including jazz, opera and all areas of choral music, with regular workshops taken by visiting specialists. A regular choir production, which includes period costume, dance and instruments, is Purcell's opera-ballet "Dido and Aeneas", appropriate because most of the solo roles are for women. The choir is also active in the world of contemporary music, and has commissioned or premièred many new compositions and arrangements. The most experienced singers undertake paid work as a chamber choir and help with the running of the junior choirs.

Members of the choir have made three award-winning CDs of music by Hildegard of Bingen with the ensemble SINFONYE, and three others of medieval music. In 2005 a group of past and present members formed "Vivaldi's Women" to make some radio and television programmes for the BBC, working in Venice with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. The choir's most recent CD is "A Ceremony of Carols", and includes music by Fauré and Britten.

Oxford Youth Choirs (registered charity no. 299109) is managed by a committee of trustees. Choir patrons are Lord and Lady Berkeley, opera singer and composer Roderick Williams, and BBC presenter Catherine Bott.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen

Audience and choir

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

G F Handel (1685-1759)

Messiah

And the Glory of the Lord

But who may abide

(contralto: Lucy Prendergast)

Hallelujah

Ian Clarke

Sunstreams
(flute: Felicity Souter)

In Dulci Jubilo

Audience and choir

In dulci jubilo
Let us our homage show;
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praeseptio,
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio;
Alpha es et O,
Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule,

My heart is sore for Thee;

Hear me, I beseech Thee,

O Puer optime;

My prayer let it reach Thee,

O Princeps gloriae;

Træhe me post te,

Træhe me post te.

O Patris caritas!

O nati lenitas!

Deeply we were stained

Per nostra crimina;

But Thou for us hast gained

Caelorum gaudia:

Oh, that we were there!

Oh, that we were there!

Schubert (1797-1828)

Du bist die Ruh
(soprano: Georgina Whittington)

Missæ Sancti Nicolai

Haydn (1732-1809)

Kyrie

(soprano: Felicity Souter, contralto: Anna Souter)

Gloria

(soprano: Georgina Whittington)

Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

O for the wings of a dove

(soprano: Rosalind Dobson)

Sanctus / Benedictus

(soprano: Rosalind Dobson, contralto: Julia Dilnot)

Hark! The Herald angels sing (melody by Mendelssohn)

Audience and choir

Hark! the Herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn King.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn King.