

FROM THE CLOISTERS

The Choirs of Jesus College Cambridge

October 2019



From the Director of Music . . .

Michaelmas Term 2018 saw an incredibly high turnover within the choir – two thirds of them were new. In addition to the regular round of Michaelmas Term services, the College Choir sang jointly with the girl choristers from Truro Cathedral, and with Clare College Choir. The Choristers sang a joint service with the St Catharine's girl choristers and another with the Neuer Knabenchor Hamburg. Britain's Got Talent star Ronan Busfield joined us for our Christmas Concert, which sold out before we had put up a single poster! It was very well received and included the premiere of a specially written arrangement of 'Mary's Boy Child' by Grayston Ives. The last commitment of the term was a trip to Windsor Castle for the Chapel Choir, who sang the four weekend choral services in St George's Chapel. The choristers were accommodated in St George's School and the gentlemen in St George's House, both within Windsor Castle.

After Christmas, the College Choir made the first of three trips to HMP Whitemoor. This important outreach signified a huge learning experience for students and staff alike, and the project (run in conjunction with *Learning Together*) was hugely rewarding for all involved and greatly appreciated by the residents of the prison. The choirs also performed as part of the annual Cambridge University Music Society Concert in King's College Chapel. This year it was Britten's War Requiem. The College choir joined the choirs of several other colleges to form the chorus and our choristers, jointly with the St Catharine's College girl choristers formed the children's choir.

Term-time included a memorial service for Professor David Fieldhouse, a joint service with the choir of The Royal School, Haselmere, and Ash Wednesday was sung jointly with the newly formed Pembroke College Girls' Choir. The term concluded with a rewarding tour to Romania with the combined choirs, where we sang



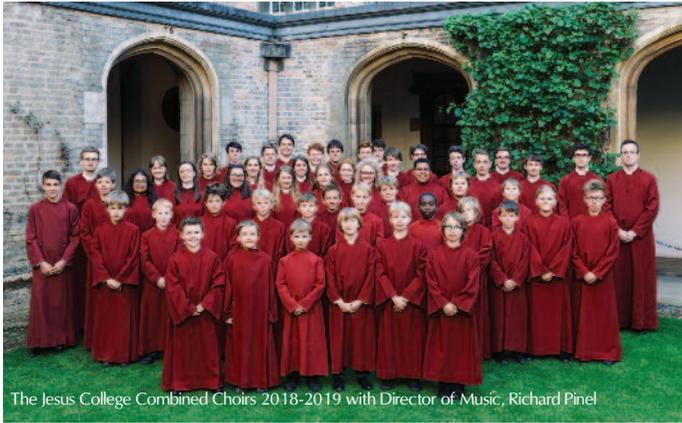
four concerts in various venues throughout Transylvania.

Easter Term began with our final two visits to HMP Whitemoor, and we marked Holy Week and Easter with special services for Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day. Early on in term, the choirs travelled to London to perform Mozart's Requiem to a packed St Martin-in-the-Fields as part of the Brandenburg Choral Festival. Again we enjoyed several joint services, this time with Ibstock Place School, Peterborough Cathedral Youth Choir, Trinity College Choir and the choristers from Bath Abbey for a weekend that included football, a trip up Great St Mary's tower, a joint evensong and a lunchtime concert at Great St Mary's. The College Choir also gave an evensong as part of the Cambridge Female Composers Festival.

The year concluded with three concerts – one on home turf with the combined choirs, and another



The Combined Choirs on tour in Medias, Romania



The Jesus College Combined Choirs 2018-2019 with Director of Music, Richard Pinel

given by College Choir at All Saints', Hundon (a College Living). Perhaps the biggest event for us this year was the St Albans International Organ Festival's Three Choirs Concert. This concert is a popular component of the International Organ Festival, which was founded by former Organ Scholar and Honorary Fellow, Peter Hurford. It was particularly poignant this year as it was in memory of both him and his wife, Pat. For this event, our Combined Choirs joined the choirs of St Albans and Salisbury Cathedrals and we tackled some large scale repertoire en masse, in addition to showcasing our choirs by themselves. The Nave of St Albans Cathedral (the longest in the country) was packed, making for an

incredibly memorable event!

Over the course of the academic year, we have been fortunate enough to give first performances of works by Caroline Shaw (a UK premiere), Ralph Schmitt (UK premiere), Fredrik Sixten, Alexander Campkin, Bernard Hughes, Henry Darlison, Joanna Ward (two pieces), Grayston Ives and Matthew Martin. The latter two were commissioned for our choirs, and both Henry Darlison and Joanna Ward are current choir members.

As ever, the end of the choir's year is bittersweet – it is always at this time of the year that we are able to put on our most exciting performances, however it also signals the time for various people to move on to the next stage in

their lives. We are sorry to say farewell to Choristers Nathan Bennett (Head Chorister) and Hugh Chippington (who takes up a music exhibition at King's Ely) and to choral scholars: Amy Butterworth, Jacqueline Rowe, Sarah Mansfield, Serena Shah, Joanna Ward, Naomi Reiss, Ali Austin, Adam Fyfe, Hamish Macgregor, Brian Woods-Lustig, Ruari Patterson-Achenbach, Billy Lee and Ben Dennes.

On the Chapel side of things we are extremely sorry to say farewell to both members of the Clergy. Both Jennifer Adams-Massman and Paul Dominiak are the rocks on which the Chapel community rest and they will be sorely missed.

Recruitment of the choirs remains healthy for both of our choirs, although there is always more work that can be done on this. Our Choristers enjoy a close relationship with their opposite numbers at St Catharine's College and these joint outreach and recruitment initiatives are an important way in which the College gives something to the city community. As music in primary school continues to feel the financial pinch, this offering to the local community really increases in importance.

Jesus College Choirs are very well supported by the College and our network of generous Choir Patrons. This creates a real feeling of 'family' within the choirs and the Chapel, and helps make the Chapel such a special place within the college.

Finally, I must thank our two organ scholars Dewi Rees and Jason Richards, along with the Chapel and Choir Administrator Alice Kane for all that they have done in support of me and the choirs over this last year.

Richard Pinel
Director of Music



The leavers of the Jesus College Mixed Choir 2019

A FORTNIGHT OF MUSICAL FIRSTS

Thanks to the generosity of many of its patrons, the Choir enjoyed a highly successful and memorable tour of South Africa in July 2018. Choral Scholar Elizabeth Nightingale (2016) reports.

Our fortnight began in Grahamstown, now called Makhanda, at the National Arts Festival, with two concerts ending in standing ovations. A service in the cathedral featured hymns in four languages, followed by an impromptu dance class from the cathedral's music intern, Kepadisa Kutlwano. This was rather different from our usual Sunday Eucharists but we left with a passable ability to sing "Shosholoz", a traditional miners' song thought of as South Africa's second national anthem.

During our drive west along Africa's southern coast, we spent two days in George, between Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, with an outreach morning at Life Community Services, which was quite possibly the first time many Choir members had touched a paintbrush or played volleyball since secondary school. At a joint concert with a church choir in Thembaletu, we were immediately invited to take off our jackets and feel at home, and to stay for bread and soup after. We had been a little nervous about following their vibrant performance with our Renaissance fare, yet I doubt Palestrina's serene "Sicut Cervus" has ever been received with such enthusiasm.



There was a short break from singing in Cape Town. A choppy boat-trip to Seal Island caused much amusement: Nico Muhly's setting of "Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart" was part of our tour repertoire. We also watched in dismay as Croatia knocked England out of the World Cup semi-final, robbing us of the opportunity to perform the lively four-part arrangement of "Three Lions" which we had so carefully rehearsed on those long coach journeys.

Our musical adventures resumed with an amazing joint concert with the Desmond Tutu High School Choir and a local chamber choir. As with the Palestrina, Peter Philips' "Ascendit Deus" was received with cheering and ovations: appropriately, given the title. Spontaneous dancing broke out at the end and the Desmond Tutu choir would not let us get away without our joining in. Music does have a unique ability to unite people and bring out the best in them.

Then, after repeated requests by flight attendants, we sang "Shosholoz" on the plane to Johannesburg, but unfortunately there was no space on board for our newly acquired dance moves! In Johannesburg, we had a busy five days singing and sightseeing. We sang at a service in Soweto's Holy Cross Anglican Church, by which point our Xhosa hymn-singing was definitely improving. An eye-

opening event was a visit to the city's Apartheid Museum. Its bleak, eerie atmosphere will stay in the memory of many of us for years to come.

We were in Johannesburg on what would have been Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday and saw Vila Kasi Street in Soweto, where he had a house, as does Desmond Tutu: surely the only street in the world with the homes of two Nobel Prize winners. While rehearsing, with the Chanticleer Singers, a joint concert marking the lives of Mandela, Hubert Parry and Leonard Bernstein, we found ourselves just across the road from Barack Obama, who was also visiting South Africa for the same momentous birthday!

Although our tour was very much a "fortnight of firsts" – from seeing elephants and giraffes in the wild for the first time to spontaneous post-concert dancing – it was also one of lasts. As is always the case for our last commitment of the academic year, it was the final time that we all sang together and we bade farewell to many of those graduating. But going on a music tour enables you to experience and discover so much about a country: its history, landmarks, culture, language, and the effect its music has on people. This is what I find unique about being on tour. It leaves with you a holistic image of a place, and I know I am not alone in being intensely glad that I was able to discover South Africa in this way.

For a video showing some of the highlights of the tour, please visit: www.jesuscollegechoir.com



HELLO FROM OUR NEW DEAN OF CHAPEL

James Crockford



I am utterly delighted to be joining the Chapel and College community at Jesus as its next Dean of Chapel. My beagle Benny and I are freshly moved in and already enjoying meeting new friends and colleagues as preparations continue for the coming term. The Chapel holds fond memories for me – as a theological student at Cambridge I heard my first performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* here and can still recall the vigour and alertness of the combined choirs. I am myself a (rather loud) saxophonist, and my main field of study is in how theologians make sense of music's power and purpose, so I see music very high on the

agenda of a thriving Chapel life, and a key part of the community that is built there. I look forward to doing all I can to see the musical life of the Chapel continue to flourish under Richard Pinel's leadership, and to getting to know all whose skill, support and enthusiasm make Jesus Chapel such a special place.

SALVETE & VALETE

Following the retirement of Head Choristers Theo Amies (June 2018), Tobias Fitzgerald (December 2018) and then Nathan Bennett in July 2019, Oliver Dunlop has now taken up the mantle of Head Chorister. Following Oliver's promotion to Head Chorister and the retirement of Nathan Bennett, we now have two Deputy Head Choristers, Arthur Beresford-Jones and Oliver Norfolk.

Over the last 18 months we have said goodbye to the following Senior Choristers: Hugh Chippington, Toby Hadden, Eddie Smith and Westcott Stark and have welcomed many Junior Probationers, some of whom have gone on to be promoted to Senior Probationers and, in a couple of instances, have now been promoted to Junior Choristers.

July 2019 saw us say goodbye to choral scholars Alasdair Austin, Amy Butterworth, Ben Dennes, Adam Fyfe, Billy Lee, Hamish MacGregor, Sarah Mansfield, Tom McIver, Ruari Paterson-Achenbach, Naomi Reiss, Jacqueline Rowe, Serena Shah, Joanna Ward, Brian Woods-Lustig. We also said goodbye, very sadly to Paul Dominiak, Dean of Chapel for the past 4 years and Jennifer Massman-Adams, Assistant Chaplain for the past year. Paul has taken up the role of Vice Principal at Westcott House, and Jennifer has been appointed the Chaplain at Peterhouse College. We are so very grateful to them both for their contributions to both the College and Chapel and we wish them well in their new roles.

In July 2018 we bade farewell to Jack Bazalgette, Harry Cheate, Dewi Eburne, Robert Hawkins, Dorothy Hoskins, Jacob Oberholzer, George Raikes, Matthew Rogers, Anna Semple, Victoria Taylor, Laurence Trowsdale-Stannard, Owen Winter, Jordan Wong (Senior Organ Scholar).

We owe all of those mentioned above a huge debt of gratitude for the contribution they made to the life of the Chapel and the music performed therein.

Dewi Rees, having graduated in July 2019, is now the Assistant Organist and Jason Richards, in his second year at Jesus studying law, is Organ Scholar.

TOUR TO ROMANIA:

Hugh Chippington,
Chorister



I really enjoyed the tour to Romania for many reasons.

Firstly, the opportunities for singing were incredible. The number of places we had the opportunity to visit were vast and the time and effort that was put in really paid off so all of the choir had a really good time!

Secondly, it helps the choristers to bond as we are living and singing together for a week, lots of unexpected friendships definitely arose. One highlight of the places we went to sing at was the Fortified Church.

Thirdly, I enjoyed talking to a gent about what he is studying at Cambridge; we came up with an idea for a mag-lev fan as he had been set a design task for a moving fan!

It is said that an army marches on its stomach, this also true of choristers. The food was plentiful and tasty, and was enough to satisfy most choristers' appetites – some have very large ones!

I thought the repertoire we sung was varied inasmuch we sang works from Tallis to Tippett.

The tour to Romania has left me with many happy memories of my time as a chorister at Jesus College.