



THE CHORAL FOUNDATION

THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2019

Dear Choral Foundation Supporters,

The Choral Foundation has been busy over the past few months, so I am delighted to be able to provide you with an update.

First, as part of our fundraising aims, we have appointed a new Director of Development, Robert Hughes. You will read more from him in the next article, but this is a significant move for us, and is the first step in launching a new appeal. Having made such significant progress in raising funds to date - refurbishing the organ, attracting and recruiting a fantastic front row of choristers, and transforming the back row - our focus will be on our primary objective of preserving the music in the Chapel in perpetuity. Please contact any of us if you would like to be involved.

The recording of Tallis which the Choir made last year has been selling well, and has continued to receive fantastic critical reviews. The second recording, of works by Thomas Tomkins, is now complete, sounds excellent, and will be released in November. With plenty of solo work by the choristers, this recording provides a showcase for the choir as we embark on a new appeal. Christian Goursaud, Gentleman of the choir, will provide more detail on this further on in the newsletter.

I hope you have the date of the recording launch in your diaries - 24 November at 4pm for Evensong followed by a reception. Our patrons will be well represented and it will be a chance to hear more of our plans. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, our financial year ended in August. Although the accounts have not yet been formally examined, I am happy to report that we added to our reserves again in the past year. Your generosity and kindness is, as ever, much appreciated by us all.

Much has been done, but there remains much to do. I am excited at the opportunity before us. Thanks as ever to the Board, the Chapel team and HRP for their support, dedication, and hard work. Most importantly, thank you to Louise for administering the Foundation so diligently.
With all best regards,
Peter Havelock – Chair

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

"I joined the Choral Foundation, Chapel Royal as Director of Development in September 2019. My priorities are to launch an Appeal in 2020 to increase the endowment fund to £5-£10million to preserve and promote the unique heritage of English choral music at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace in perpetuity. Following an earlier career in commercial marketing, in which I set up and ran my own company providing marketing and new product development consultancy to leading FMCG companies in the food and drinks markets, including Seagram's, Campbell Distillers, Taunton Cider, Tofutti UK, Ben & Jerry's and other major companies, I moved into



Robert Hughes
Director of Development

fundraising in 1996.

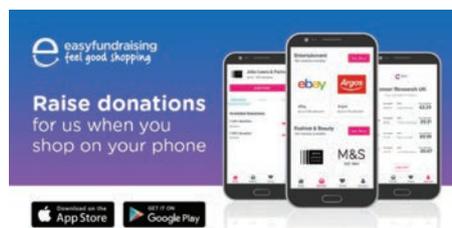
In my professional fundraising career, I have held director level positions in several well-known charities including the Sail Training Association, Bournemouth University (where I was the university's first Development Director), Crimestoppers, the National Army Museum and the children's charity Coram.

I have wide experience across all major fundraising income streams including the Heritage Lottery but with particular achievements in working with high value individual donors, including trustees of grant making trusts & foundations, and the corporate sector.

I look forward to meeting as many of our supporters as possible over the forthcoming months."

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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 Christmastide.

Look out for the forms in the Chapel soon.

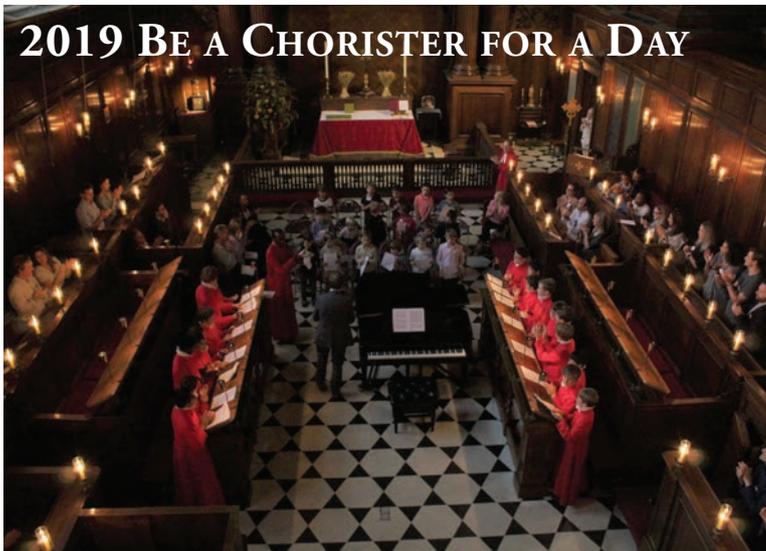


STOP PRESS

Lucy Worsley has recorded a one-off documentary on the history of Christmas carols titled *Lucy Worsley's Christmas Carol Cracker*, which includes filming of the Chapel Royal choir. Check for programme details in the Christmas TV schedules.



2019 BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY



The Chapel Royal welcomed 18 boys and their families to the 2019 Open Day in September after a 1-year hiatus. It proved to be another very successful event with a high number of boys requesting an audition in November.

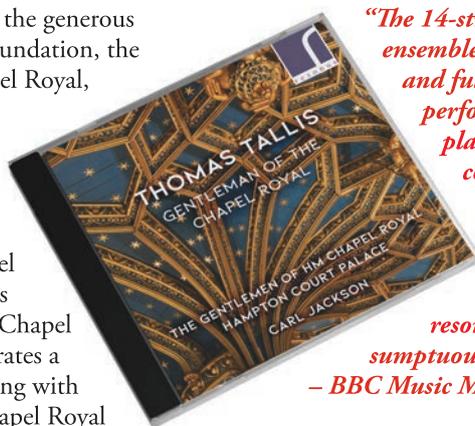
"Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful open day... We all had an excellent time and George loved singing in the Chapel Royal."

"I wanted to say thank you so much for organising last week's open day... it was very well organised and informative... he has not stopped talking about it. He even went into school, got the teacher to print out the words to Oliver, and sang to the rest of the class."

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make it such an enjoyable experience for our visitors and congratulations to Sophie Baylis, Chapel Music & Choir Coordinator, who organised the event so commendably.

SOUND RECORDINGS OF THE CHOIR

In December 2018, with the generous support of the Choral Foundation, the Gentlemen of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace conducted by Carl Jackson released their first commercial recording. Issued on the major classical record label Resonus Classics, Thomas Tallis: Gentleman of the Chapel Royal (RES10229) celebrates a composer who himself sang with the sixteenth-century Chapel Royal choir, for which ensemble he wrote much of his music. The CD showcases Tallis's monumental seven-part Christmas mass *Puer natus est nobis* (A boy is born to us), which is thought to have been composed for the combined choirs of the English and Spanish Chapels Royal in connection with the 1554 marriage of Mary I to Philip of Spain.



"The 14-strong, all-male ensemble gives fervent and full-blooded performances, its ripe plangent timbre coloured by the occasional use of vibrato [...] The recording, in the palace's resonant chapel, is sumptuous and detailed."

– BBC Music Magazine

In July 2019, the Hampton Court choristers joined the Gentlemen and Carl in the Chapel Royal to record a second disc for Resonus Classics, which features the music of another outstanding Chapel Royal composer: Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656). The programme features verse anthems and canticles accompanied on a beautiful chamber organ by Rufus

Frowde, several of which are world premiere recordings. One of the most exciting aspects of Tomkins's music is his demanding and intricate writing for solo voices, not least for the boys, whose superb solos and duets will justly be celebrated when the disc is released in November 2019.

As Peter mentioned, a special launch Evensong will take place in the Chapel Royal on Sunday 24 November at 4pm, which will include liturgical performances of the finest items from the new Tomkins recording. A reception will follow, with the opportunity to buy copies of the CD and to meet many of the performers.

CDs of the Tallis recording are on sale now from the Chapel Vestry and from the Palace shop, priced at £12.99 each. Copies of the new Tomkins disc will be available in November.

Christian Goursaud – Gentleman in Ordinary, Her Majesty's Chapel Royal

SPAM OR SCAM EMAILS

As with many other organisations, we have received a number of reports of scam emails from the Choral Foundation over the past couple of years. Please always check the sent address within the email to verify it first. Our email address is choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk. Please do not open any attachments or click on any links unless you are sure it is a genuine email. *We will never ask you for any personal information.*



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
020 3166 6516
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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