



**THE
CHORAL
FOUNDATION**
THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2020

Dear Choral Foundation Supporters,

I think none of us are in any doubt, but the past few months have demonstrated without question, the support, compassion, and value that our Choral Foundation can deliver. I am proud and grateful that when the Chapel closed its doors, you helped us to step in and provide that support to our musicians when it was most needed. Thank you.

And with that renewed sense of purpose, we can now look forward as services resume, to when we can meet again, and when we can restart our fundraising campaign. We'll tell you a little of that in this newsletter which features the launch of a new Legacy Campaign, support for the new "Old" Choristers' Association and an update on how technology and social media is helping.

We'll also tell you about lockdown life, and the great things the choir has been doing to maintain connection and engagement.

Extraordinary times have produced extraordinary accomplishments, and I am so glad to be part of this wonderful place.

With all best regards, Peter Havelock – Chair

HAMPTON COURT CHAPEL ROYAL CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

We have long supported the idea of an 'old choristers association' as it will connect the Foundation to alumni choristers and musicians, and provide them with an opportunity to support the choir. The Association advises: "Good progress continues to be made in spite of coronavirus; a central directory of members, associate members and honorary members is being built and a formal letter has been sent out to members requesting feedback. However adjustments will now need to be made to our plans; identifying members to serve on the Association's Committee can continue but arranging a reunion service and reception will need careful consideration and may not take place as soon as we hoped.

For any queries please get in touch with the Association at HamptonCrtChapelRCA@gmail.com or better still, if you have a connection with the choir please fill out the feedback form at <https://tinyurl.com/HCCRCAform>. If you are in touch with former choristers, organ scholars or gentlemen we would be most grateful if you directed them to do the same."



Andrew Cooper singing Pearsall's 'Lay a Garland'

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHOIR

Since the Chapel Royal choir-stalls fell silent in March, the Gentlemen of the choir have been unable to sing together. This has of course been a difficult time for us, as it has been for so many musicians worldwide.

Many will have heard the recent broadcast services led by Fr. Anthony, for which the six Gentlemen have made home recordings. We hope these have helped to recreate some aspects of normal Chapel worship. Recording music that normally forms part of a corporate act of worship in isolation can be deeply bizarre. We are grateful to Rufus for coordinating this, and to Resonus Classics for permission to use tracks from our Tallis and Tomkins discs.

We have all been trying to make the best out of lockdown. Andrew has found success on social media. He writes, "I'm fortunate to live on a school campus, as there is a lot of space and a number of accessible musical instruments. I have produced video projects in which I make music with myself. In some I sing all the choir parts, and in others I play instruments as well. My videos of Pearsall's *Lay a Garland* and Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet* have gone viral on Facebook." Jack has also been creating online content during lockdown, and participating in videos for Ex Cathedra and the Temple Church.

Karl has helped amateur singers in south London by creating a 'virtual choir' video. He has also typeset Sheppard's Second Service for the choir's forthcoming disc of this Chapel Royal composer. Martin has revised and typeset some of his compositions, which have featured in recent online services.

The Gentlemen have explored other interests. Gavin has rekindled his love of baking, Martin has learned to make rye sourdough bread and other recipes. Jack has cooked with his housemates, played tennis and cleared his garden pond.

For me lockdown has also presented opportunities along with challenges. My study of the notational habits of the fifteenth-century composer Antoine Busnoys has progressed well, though the performance of his *Missa L'homme armé* with colleagues in a February lunchtime recital is now just a memory.

At the time of writing, we do not know when choral services will return to the Chapel.

Our musical tradition remains strong, however, and we look forward to when we can come together once more in fellowship, prayer and song.

Christian Goursaud, Bass, Gentleman of the Choir

NEWS FROM LOCKDOWN



CHOIR PRACTICE

Along with many other choirs around the country, The Chapel Royal have continued to keep the music alive by setting up two sessions of weekly online rehearsals for the boys on Zoom.

The first is with Rufus Frowde and the choristers, the second is with Will Fielding (our organ scholar) and the probationers/pre-probationers. We would like to thank them both for their time and commitment towards making this happen and ensuring the boys' voices continue to be exercised.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Lockdown has enabled and required the Chapel and Choral Foundation to use social media more effectively, and to reach a wider congregation and donor base. Services recorded from the past few months can be found online at:

www.chapelroyalhamptoncourt.org.uk/worship
www.facebook.com/ChapelRoyal/videos and on YouTube.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank Fr. Anthony for all the work he has done during this difficult time. Whilst Chapel staff James and Sophie are furloughed, he has faced the challenges single handed, ensuring that worship has continued in the Chapel and maintaining regular contact with congregation and supporters.

CHORISTER OPEN DAY

Sadly the open day planned for September has had to be postponed. It will be rescheduled to a time when it is safe to hold an event of this nature again.

DONATE & SUPPORT

Help to support the choir and keep the music alive by donating via **JustGiving** or **Virgin moneygiving** – see our website for details.



LEAVING A LEGACY TO KEEP THE MUSIC ALIVE

These last few months have for many of us provided a focus on what we believe to be important in our lives and what we hope will continue into the future. The music at the Chapel is high on the list for those of us who love it. Our supporters responded to our previous legacy campaign so positively and we are so grateful for the benefit legacies have provided. If you are amongst those updating your arrangements, please do consider supporting the future of the music in this way.

To help launch this new legacy campaign, two of our Choral Foundation Trustees met recently with Karen Grimm of local law firm Morrisons Solicitors who writes:

WE'LL MEET AGAIN...

I have been honoured to be involved with the legacy campaign for the Choral Foundation since it began, and it was good to catch up and find out what a difference legacy gifts have made during that time. More than ever, legacies are a powerful and cost efficient way to be remembered in this beautiful Chapel Royal and to be forever part of this unique musical heritage. I explained that I had seen a marked increase in enquiries relating to Will making during these worrying times and perhaps an increased awareness of how important it is to get your affairs in order. Hopefully this awareness makes it easier for us all to be more open about this sensitive topic. (Please see the attached letter for a few points that you might like to consider. This is also available by emailing Louise Cole: choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk).

There are of course many and other considerations to take into account when reviewing or making your Will and it is always best to seek professional advice to ensure that your wishes take proper effect. If you would like to find out more about leaving a legacy and how your legacy can be recognised or celebrated please contact us.

Karen is a senior associate solicitor at Morrisons Solicitors specialising in this area. She can be contacted on 01276 401689 or email: karen.grimm@morrlaw.com



*Karen Grimm
Senior Associate Solicitor
Morrisons Solicitors*

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.

Please note: Sunday Choral Services are currently suspended until further notice. Sunday Holy Communion is at 9am.



THE CHORAL FOUNDATION