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THE CANTUS ENSEMBLE



AUDITION PACK
SUMMER 2017

ALTO

WELCOME

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in joining the Cantus Ensemble. I have put together this pack to give you a little more information about the choir and the audition process, as well as what lies in store for us in our seventh season.

THE CHOIR

Founded by myself in 2011, The Cantus Ensemble is one of London's leading chamber choirs. Drawing its membership largely from ex-choral scholars and music graduates of all ages, the choir performs a wide array of vocal music, ranging from 16th century polyphony to world premieres of new music by leading contemporary composers. In 2015 we performed the Durufle Requiem with orchestra, in April 2016 we performed three of Bach's motets with period continuo, as well as Strauss' infamous 23-part *Deutsche Motette*, a piece which stretches the very fabric of what is possible for a choir. Last season we performed one of the hardest pieces in the repertoire, Poulenc's *Figure Humaine* and in April we put on a fully immersive stage performance of Joby Talbot's incredible *Path of Miracles*.

Since its inception, the choir has performed throughout London, including numerous services at Westminster Abbey, and we have toured to Rome, Vienna, Budapest, Barcelona, Ljubljana and, most recently, Lisbon. The choir is also fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with our home church and rehearsal venue, St Gabriel's, Pimlico, where we regularly sing choral Evensong and provide the music for other major feast day services throughout the year.

We are fortunate to have a nucleus of wonderful singers in Cantus that I want to add to this year for our exciting 2017-18 season. In October we will perform alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in a live performance of *Star Wars*. In November we will perform Mozart's *Requiem* with orchestra and soloists, alongside the incredible *To The Hands*, by contemporary Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Caroline Shaw. Our Christmas concert, always a complete sell out, will feature Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* for full choir and harp, and Conrad Susa's little know *Carols & Lullabies*, for choir, harp, marimba and guitar.

The New Year will see a performance of Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir alongside works by Pierre Villette and Francis Poulenc, before a tour to a European city in May and an exciting Summer concert in July.

Cantus is made up of 38 singers (10 sopranos, 8 altos, 8 tenors and 10 basses) and 6 deputies, all united by a desire to perform choral music to the highest possible standard, and to have fun along the way. If you are an excellent musician, an enthusiastic and dedicated singer, and are looking for a group with a fantastic social life, then Cantus is the choir for you.



As featured on

BBC
RADIO



CLASSIC *fm*



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FINANCIAL NEWS

REPERTOIRE

I strive to put together engaging programmes of music, both for choir and audience, using music from a variety of genres and eras. Major works that we've performed include but are not limited to:

Britten *A Ceremony of Carols, Hymn to St Cecilia, AMDG, Five Flower Songs*

Dyson *Hierusalem*

Maw *One foot in Eden still I stand*

MacMillan *Seven last words from the cross*

O'Regan *Triptych*

Tippett *Five negro spirituals*

Stanford *Magnificat for Double Choir*

Howells *Take him earth for cherishing, Preces & Responses, Requiem*

Whitacre *Leonardo dreams of his flying machine, The stolen child, Alleluia, Three flower songs*

Martin *Mass for Double Choir*

Rachmaninov *All Night Vigil*

Poulenc *Mass in G, Quatre motets pour le temps de Noel, Chansons Francaises, Figure Humaine*

Vierne *Messe Sollenelle*

Penderecki *Song of Cherubim*

Ligeti *Nacht und morgen*

Hogan *Spirituals*

Allegrì *Miserere*

Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

Villette *Inviolata, Attende Domine*

Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*

Janacek *Otcenas*

Paus *O Magnum Mysterium*

Kodaly *Missa Brevis*

Tavener *Butterfly Dreams, Song for Athene, Hymn to the Mother of God*

Mealor *Now sleeps the crimson petal*

Durufle *Requiem*

Parry *Songs of Farewell*

Bach *Motets*

Strauss *Deutsche Motette*

Pizzetti *Requiem*

Talbot *Path of Miracles*

Part *Nunc Dimittis, Which was the son of...*

I would warmly encourage you so go to the 'listen' page on our website, or to visit our Soundcloud page to hear what we sound like live in concert, unedited, to give you an idea for the sound of the ensemble. The live recordings of our Durufle Requiem concert are something I am particularly proud of.



THE SOCIAL SIDE

One of the choir's defining features is its social atmosphere - evident in an extensive and varied social calendar. Aside from going to the pub after rehearsals there are regular social events ranging from wine-tasting to karting, and comedy club nights to day trips. Once a term there is a Saturday rehearsal (usually around lunchtime) which is followed by a major social and the 'Cantus Challenge'. Past Saturday socials have included a Six Nations rugby day, the Cantus Olympics, and so on. It is my firm belief that a warm and vibrant social side contributes to an extremely healthy exchange of musical ideas in rehearsals, and it is a key factor in the dynamic sound that we produce in concerts and services. We're a close knit group of friends and incredibly welcoming to new members - in Cantus you're guaranteed to make new friends for life!



REHEARSALS & SERVICES

The choir rehearses every Tuesday in term time from 19:15 until 21:00 in St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico. We also provide the music for roughly five services a term at St Gabriel's, **I value commitment and excellent attendance incredibly highly** when auditioning new members, as rehearsal attendance is the single biggest key contributor to an outstanding musical performance. Similarly, members are obliged to attend two services a term at St Gabriel's which in turn heavily offsets our rehearsal venue costs. Services are always of a very high standard musically and are followed by refreshments (usually lots of prosecco!) and a pub quiz.



DEPUTIES

Each year, places will be offered to three sopranos, two altos, two tenors, and three basses as depts for the 2017/18 season. Depts take full part in the social side of the choir, attend the first three rehearsals of each term, and sing in the Christmas concert. They then fill in on a termly basis for members who can't make a concert, so will usually get to do at least one extra concert a season. Depts are also invited on tour.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members of the choir pay £40 in the first term and £30 thereafter to cover the cost of music and venue hire, although this cost is kept as low as possible. This is substantially less than other choirs. Members of the choir are offered many paid opportunities throughout the year which often offset or even outweigh this cost

AUDITIONS

The auditions will consist of:

- A prepared piece to be sung within a quartet
- A prepared solo to be sung unaccompanied
- Sight-reading to be sung within a quartet, a simple and a more challenging excerpt
- Scales to assess range
- Simple aural tests

I will confirm your audition date and time with you via email but this pack contains all the music that you will need to learn.

If I can answer any more questions in the meantime then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With my very best wishes,
Dominic Brennan - *Director, The Cantus Ensemble*



2017 / 2018 CALENDAR

Below is the full calendar for the 2017/18 season. Cantus rehearse every Tuesday in term time and the four main concerts, and Star Wars concert at the Royal Albert Hall, are noted in bold. Members take part in one compulsory service at St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico, a term and then choose a second service from three optional dates.

Candidates must notify at or before their audition of dates or events that they know they would not be able to attend, should they be offered a place in Cantus.

Saturday 5 August - Audition day 1
Saturday 2 September - Audition day 2
Sunday 3 September - Audition day 3
Tuesday 5 September - Audition day 4

Tuesday 12 September - First rehearsal followed by welcome drinks
Sunday Oct 1 (Patronal Festival) - Full, compulsory evensong
Saturday 14 October - Saturday rehearsal & social
Sunday 15 October - Optional evensong
Sunday 29 October - Star Wars with RPO at the Royal Albert Hall
Thursday 2 November - All Souls Mass - optional

Saturday 11 November- Concert

Esenvalds *Northern Lights*
Shaw *To the Hands*
Mozart *Requiem*

Sunday 26 November - Optional evensong

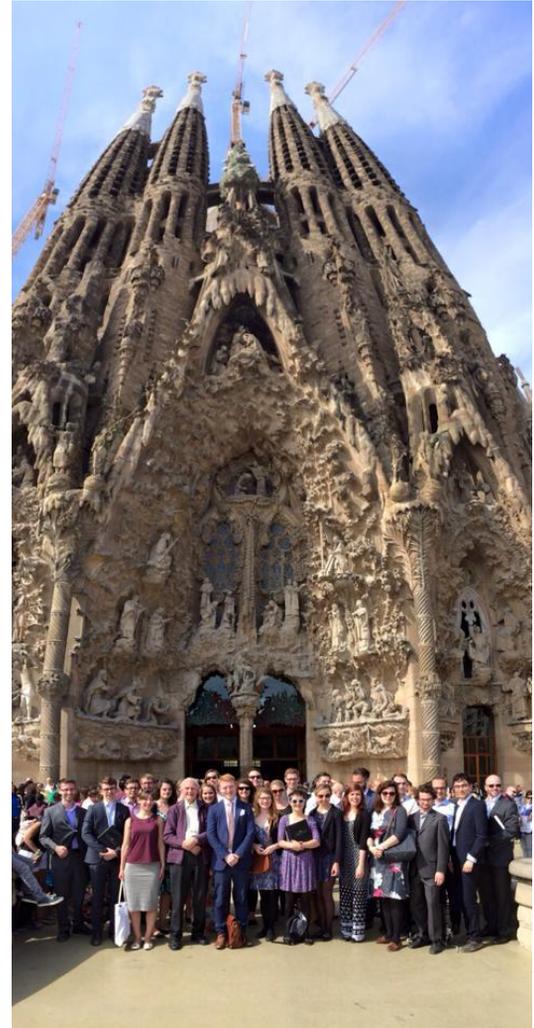
Saturday 9 December- Christmas Concert

Britten *A Ceremony of Carols*
Susa *Carols & Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*
A selection of audience and close-harmony carols, old and new

Tuesday 9 January - First rehearsal back
Sunday 21 January- Full, compulsory evensong
Sunday 28 January - Optional evensong
Sunday 18 February - Optional evensong
Saturday 24 February - Saturday rehearsal & 6 Nations Day
(Ireland v Wales, Scotland v England)
Sunday 25 February - Optional evensong
Saturday 10 or 24 March – Concert (to be confirmed imminently)

Martin *Mass for Double Choir*
Villette *O quam amabilis, Jesu dulcis memoria, Panis Angelicus*
Poulenc *Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence*

Tuesday 17 April - Rehearsals start again
Sunday 6 May - Optional evensong
Sunday 20 May - Optional evensong
Tour dates TBC
Sunday 10 June - Optional evensong
Saturday 16 June - Saturday rehearsal – Cantus Olympics
Sunday 24 June - Full, compulsory final evensong
Followed by BBQ
Saturday 7 July* - Summer Concert
Saturday 14 July - AGM/Ball



STAGE PHOTOGRAPHER
ANDREAS GRIGORI
www.andreasgrigori.com

The Cantus Ensemble

Prepared solo - Alto

Excerpt from Movement II of *Triptych* by Tarik O'Regan

$\text{♩} = 76$ *p*

Alto

Calm fell. From heav'n dis-tilled a cle-men-cy

6

A.

There was peace - on - earth, and si-lence in the sky.

PREPARED PIECE

Please prepare the first verse and the amen

à Mademoiselle Monique RICHARDET

ADORO TE

Chœur à 4 voix mixtes

OUVRAGE PROTÉGÉ
PHOTOCOPIE INTERDITE
Même partielle
(Loi du 11 Mars 1957)
constituerait contrefaçon
(Code Pénal, Art. 425)

Durée : 3' env.

Pierre VILLETTE

Août 1960

Andante (♩ = 60)

SOPRANI
ALTI
TÉNORS
BASSES

A - dó - ro te de - vá - te, Lá - - tens
Jé - su quem ve - la - tum Nunc - - as -

A - dó - ro te de - vá - te, Lá - - tens
Jé - su quem ve - la - tum Nunc - - as -

A - dó - ro te de - vá - te, Lá - - tens
Jé - su quem ve - la - tum Nunc - - as -

A - dó - ro te de - vá - te, Lá - - tens
Jé - su quem ve - la - tum Nunc - - as -

Dé - i - tas Quæ sub his fi - gú - - ris Ve - - re
- pi - ci - o O - ro fi - at il - - lud Quod - - tam

Dé - i - tas Quæ sub his fi - gú - - ris Ve - - re
- pi - ci - o O - ro fi - at il - - lud Quod - - tam

Dé - i - tas Quæ sub his fi - gú - - ris Ve - - re
- pi - ci - o O - ro fi - at il - - lud Quod - - tam

Dé - i - tas Quæ sub his fi - gú - - ris Ve - - re
- pi - ci - o O - ro fi - at il - - lud Quod - - tam

NOTA - Les nuances figurant au-dessus du soprano sont valables pour toutes les voix.

p

lá - ti - tas Ti - bi se - cor mé - um tó - tum
sí - ti - o Ut te - re - ve - lá - ta cér - nens

lá - ti - tas Ti - bi se - cor mé - um tó - tum
sí - ti - o Ut te - re - ve - lá - ta cér - nens

lá - ti - tas Ti - bi se - cor mé - um tó - tum
sí - ti - o Ut te - re - ve - lá - ta cér - nens

lá - ti - tas *p* Ti - bi se - cor mé - um tó - tum
sí - ti - o Ut te - re - ve - lá - ta cér - nens

f *rall.* *ff* *pp* *a T^o* *f*

súb - ji - cit Qui - a - te con - tém - plans Tó - tum
fá - ci - e Vi - su - sim be - á - tus tú - ae

súb - ji - cit Qui - a - te con - tém - plans Tó - tum
fá - ci - e Vi - su - sim be - á - tus tú - ae

súb - ji - cit Qui - a - te con - tém - plans Tó - tum
fá - ci - e Vi - su - sim be - á - tus tú - ae

súb - ji - cit Qui - a - te con - tém - plans Tó - tum
fá - ci - e Vi - su - sim be - á - tus tú - ae

Pr finir très rall. *perdendosi* *p*

— dé - fi - cit. A - men.
— gló - ri - æ. A - men.

dé - fi - cit. *mf* A - men.
gló - ri - æ. *mf* A - men.

dé - fi - cit. *mf* A - men.
gló - ri - æ. *mf* A - men.

dé - fi - cit. *mf* A - men.
gló - ri - æ. *mf* A - men.