

FUTURE CONCERTS

1st April 2006	Concert of Easter Music St Luke's Church Maidenhead
7th to 11th April 2006	Cantorum in Venice
14th October 2006	Concert All Saints' Church Marlow
June/July	To be announced
10th December 2006	Christmas Concert – St John the Baptist Church Cookham Dean
February 2007	Valentines Sumptuous Supper
7th July 2007	Summer Concert of Light Music St John the Baptist Church Cookham Dean

Website
Email

www.cantorumchoir.org.uk
info@cantorumchoir.org.uk

If you would like to advertise in the programme for the next Cantorum concert - please contact Nick Weait by email, nickweait@lineone.net



CANTORUM CHOIR

CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

SALLY STAFFORD Conductor

**St John the Baptist Church
Cookham Dean**

Sunday 11th December 2005 3pm & 8pm

The Cantorum Choir

Cantorum Choir would like to thank
St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean,
for the opportunity to perform today's concerts
and you, our audience,
for your continued support

and

The Reverend Michael Smith
Churchwardens, Lorna & John Sykes
Our conductor, Sally Stafford
Our compère, David Hazeldine
Our organist, William Falconer
Our rehearsal pianists, Gillian Salmon & William Falconer
Marianne Stork for ticket sales
Val & Jim Snapes for the interval drinks
Programme notes, Derek Beavan
Cookham Dean Post Office and Stationary Depot for ticket outlets
Programme printing, Wolsey Securities Ltd



Cantorum Choir was founded over twenty years ago by its then conductor, Jonathan Miall, who now continues his involvement in the rôle of President - based primarily in Cookham, but drawing its members from around the Thames Valley, Cantorum has established a reputation as one of the leading chamber choirs in the area – its Christmas carol concerts in Cookham Dean each year have become a village tradition.' Its Christmas Carol concerts in Cookham Dean each year have become a village tradition. Cantorum appeared in the first of the *Inspector Morse* adaptations, *The Dead of Jericho*, and was the chorus for the recording of the stage musical *Wuthering Heights*. Its diverse repertoire includes, most recently, Fauré and Rutter *Requiems*, Haydn *Creation*, Brahms *Requiem*, Mozart *Requiem*, Poulenc *Stabat Mater*, Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Elgar *The Music Makers*, Bach *Mass in B Minor* and *Magnificat*, Buxtehude *Membra Jesu Nostri*, Britten *St Nicholas* and *Cantata Misericordiam*, Handel *Dixit Dominus* and Kodaly *Missa Brevis*. The choir has undertaken several European tours, the latest to Paris. A tour to Venice is planned for 2006. Further details of the choir can be found on our website:
www.cantorumchoir.org.uk

Sally Stafford - Conductor



Sally began her musical career playing the oboe, and read Music at Royal Holloway College, where she studied conducting as part of her degree course. She has been Head of Music at Burnham Grammar School, teacher and conductor at the Wycombe Music Centre, and County Advisory Music Teacher for Buckinghamshire, during which time she wrote *Sound Activities*, a book on teaching music in primary schools.

In 1989 she was appointed Director of Music at Dame Alice Owen's School, where she conducted a full symphony orchestra, a training orchestra of 130, a chamber orchestra, jazz bands and choirs. She has conducted orchestras at the South Bank as part of the Festival of Music for Youth.

She has taken a great interest in the training and supervision of music teachers and has lectured on the PGCE, BEd and MA courses at Middlesex University. Sally has recently devoted her time to bringing up her young family, and is now beginning to resume her professional career in conducting and music education through teaching and consultancy work.

Sally has been conducting Cantorum since 1996, encouraging performances with a wide range of repertoire. Concerts have included Requiems by Mozart, Fauré and Rutter, Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music*, Elgar *The Music Makers*, Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Poulenc *Stabat Mater*, Bach *Magnificat*, Haydn *Creation*.

The Cantorum Choir

Sopranos

Helen Baker
Bridget Bentley
Jill Goode
Jean Lewis
Sheena Mullins
Valerie Snapes
Marianne Stork
Phillipa Stork

Tenors

Robert Goode
David Hazeldine
Philip Martineau
Richard Ratcliff
Malcolm Stork

Altos

Jill Burton
Jami Castell
Anne Glover
Eleanor Griffiths
Jo Rodgers
Lorna Sykes

Basses

Derek Beaven
John Buck
Arthur Giorgi
Paul Seddon
Nick Weait

For information about **CANTORUM CHOIR**
(*Forthcoming Concerts, Mailing List,*
Membership, Tickets etc.)
please contact **Nick Weait** on 01628 473867
or visit the Cantorum website
www.cantorumchoir.org.uk

PROGRAMME
(First half)

1 A Babe is Born Matthias (Choir)

This pulsing, syncopated carol will be familiar to our regular Christmas audience. It opens a theme of mystery – the mystery of the incarnation.

2 Sweetly the Bells Arr. Gundermann (Choir)

Now, three carols evoke the distinctive and ravishing sound of the Christmas bells. In Karsten Gundermann's setting of a traditional German tune, the lower voices ring the peal while the sopranos and altos describe the Nativity. *(New to our repertoire)*

3 Ding Dong Merrily on High Arr. Willcocks (Choir)

The organ mirrors the chimes in this arrangement by David Willcocks of a favourite English carol – which is actually an old French one!

4 Southern Cross Stephen Leek (Choir)

Stephen Leek was born in Australia in 1959. His astonishing piece rings with the vibrant colours and rhythms of his homeland to propose a Nativity taking place under the stars of the Southern Cross. *(New to our repertoire)*

5 Of the Father's Heart Begotten Words on sheet (Everyone)

6 There is no Rose and When Christ was Born Hillier (Choir)

We're proud and delighted to be performing two carols by Ian Hillier, written specially for Cantorum. Both pieces are modern settings of 15th Century texts. 'There is no Rose', with its unexpected harmonies and strikingly beautiful vocal effects, was premiered by us last year at St Paul's, Covent Garden. 'When Christ was Born' receives its first ever performance today. The thrilling and challenging rhythmic drive – in bars of seven, five and three beats – celebrates both the art of composition and an elemental excitement at the birth of Jesus.

7 Reading

8 While Shepherds Watched Words on sheet (Everyone)

9 Donkey Carol Rutter (Choir)

John Rutter's evocation of Mary's journey is one of Cantorum's old favourites. Five in a bar cunningly suggests both the awkward movement of the animal and the joyful expectation of its rider.

10 I Saw Three Ships Lloyd (Choir)

A madrigal-like setting of the perpetually sailing Christmas ships!

11 Deck the Hall Willcocks (Choir)

We finish the first half with a favourite, David Willcocks has sheer fun with this ever-popular Welsh carol.

INTERVAL

The interval will be for approximately 20 minutes. Drinks will be served at the rear of the church and in the vestry

PROGRAMME
(Second half)

12 Sans Day Carol Arr. Rutter (Choir)

The four carols that follow (with a reading included) all concentrate on images of Mary. Here, the strange mediaeval words attract Rutter's simple yet perfect setting.

13 I Sing of a Maiden Hadley (Choir)

Again, the words are mediaeval – and strange. This folk poem gives Mary the initiative: 'King of all kings to her son she ches (chose)'. Patrick Hadley's carol employs only the female voices to produce an otherworldly meditation on Mary's experience. (*New to our repertoire*)

14 Hymn to the Mother of God Tavener (Choir)

In 1977, John Tavener became a convert to the Russian Orthodox Church. In this short piece, the composer splits the choir into two so that the same harmonic patterns can be repeated against each other, but with a deliberate three beat time delay. This creates a shimmer that aims to capture in sound exactly the feeling and atmosphere of the ikons central to Orthodox worship.

15 Reading

16 Mary's Magnificat Carter (Choir)

Just after the birth of Jesus, Mary remembers two lines from the Magnificat. Her solo voice soars over the accompanying choir, who set the scene and tell the story. (*New to our repertoire*)

17 The Holly and the Ivy Willcocks (Choir)

The Holly and the Ivy is perhaps the quintessential English Christmas carol, seeming by its words to reach back into the mists of time. Jonathan Willcocks made this rhythmic and lively setting for his father David's 70th birthday. Not the usual tune, but what 'sweet singing in the choir'!

18 Hark the Herald Angels Sing Words on sheet (Everyone)

19 On Christmas Night Ledger (Choir)

An arrangement of the Sussex Carol – here is one of Cantorum's old and trusted friends.

20 Angel Tidings Rutter (Choir)

The prolific John Rutter has almost single-handedly reshaped English choral Christmases. This Moravian tune is typically and delightfully set by him.

21 White Christmas Berlin (Choir)

America – our last international destination tonight.

22 The Twelve Days of Christmas Rutter (Choir)

No comment needed!

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Dear Friends,

I thought I'd just bring you up to date with some of the exciting plans we have for the new year.

'A Concert of Easter Music' at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead, 1st April 2006 8.00pm will include the lovely Bruckner Motets and other favourite sacred music. We'd also like to repeat for you (in case you missed this beautiful piece or would like to hear it again) the Fauré *Requiem*, which we performed at All Saints' Church, Marlow, last October.

Tickets (£8.50 and £6.50 including interval wine or juice) will be on sale during the interval at this concert. If you'd like to come and join us on 1st April next year, we'd love to see you.

Cantorum's Tour to Venice, 7th - 11th April 2006 is one of the most exciting tours we've ever taken on. It promises to be stunning, with magnificent performance venues in - arguably - the most beautiful and romantic city in the world!

Choir (and partners) will fly out on the Friday to stay in accommodation just off St Mark's Square. During the long weekend we hope to perform three/four concerts and services, but are also looking forward to plenty of R&R enjoying the beauty and magic of Venice.

Why not take a Spring Holiday and come and hear us sing in the famous churches of this wonderful place!

At present, our performance schedule (to be finally confirmed) is as follows: -

8th April 2006 (Saturday)
Evening concert in the Basilica of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

9th April 2006 (Sunday)
6.45 pm Service in the Basilica of San Marco (St Mark's itself)

10th April 2006 (Monday of Holy Week)
Morning Recital in Palladio's waterside church of San Giorgio Maggiore

Any money we raise from this tour will be donated to charity. We're currently finding out about the 'Venice in Peril' Fund, set up in Venice itself by Lady Clarke Molyneux. We will, of course, keep you advised.

I'm absolutely delighted to let you know that we raised £760 at the 'Two Requiems' concert in October. As promised, we donated this straightaway to the DEC Pakistan Earthquake appeal fund. We'd like to thank all of you, and the members of the orchestra, too, for your exceptionally warm and moving generosity.

Most of you are aware that, apart from performing for you and enjoying ourselves in the process, Cantorum aims to raise money each year to support local charities. This year we've chosen to support the Thames Valley Hospice and the Air Ambulance, and we'll be making a donation of equal amounts to each of them in the new year. As tradition dictates, a retiring collection will be made at both of today's performances, and the amount collected will be added to that donation.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Choir to wish you all a very peaceful, happy Christmas and New Year, and to thank you all again for your continued warm and generous support - for which we are so grateful.

We very much hope you enjoy this year's 'Concert of Christmas Music'.

Kind regards

Nick Weait
Cantorum Chairman