



Girl Choristers at Truro School to enrich Cathedral tradition



Pictured: The Very Reverend Roger Bush, Dean of Truro, shakes hands with Andrew Gordon-Brown, Headmaster of Truro School, sealing the new partnership to introduce girl choristers to sing in the cathedral choir. *Picture by James Ram.*

Truro, Cornwall, August 5, 2014: The Chapter of Truro Cathedral is pleased to announce a new partnership with Truro School which will see the introduction of girl choristers, aged 13 to 18, to sing in the cathedral choir from September 2015.

The cathedral has had a choir in the traditional form of boys and men since it first opened its doors in 1887. The twenty new girl choristers will sing services in parallel with the current team of boy choristers, aged 8 to 13, who will continue to be educated at Polwhele House School.

The Very Reverend Roger Bush, Dean of Truro, said ‘The cathedral’s governing Chapter has had a desire for many years now to have girl choristers as well as our highly successful boy choristers, joined by our dedicated team of professional gentlemen who sing the lower parts. We are convinced that Truro School will be the right place to nurture the kind of world class excellence Polwhele House has nurtured so successfully in our boy choristers.’

The new girl choristers will receive 25% scholarships at Truro School, as well as additional means-tested bursaries. As with the boy choristers, the aim is that selection will be solely on musical and academic potential, not financial background.

Commenting on the partnership, Truro School’s headmaster Andrew Gordon-Brown said: “With our shared commitment to musical excellence, this partnership between Truro School and Truro Cathedral is wonderful news indeed. We already have one of the biggest and busiest music departments in the south-west, and we are delighted with the introduction of a new chorister programme for girls that gives us new opportunities to build on this further.”

Recruitment for the new choir will begin in the Autumn. Full details are available on the school website www.truroschool.com.

ENDS

For further information or an interview, contact:

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Notes to Editors:

About Truro Cathedral

Traditional worship has been at the heart of Truro Cathedral since it was consecrated in 1887. Beyond that core purpose, it has served the community in which it stands in a range of ways, often pioneering innovative and imaginative schemes that sit with its spiritual ethos. Recent examples include the ice rink, a Jubilee dinner in the Nave, theatre productions on the Cathedral Green and a singing outreach programme that involved more than one hundred primary schools and became the basis of a major government initiative rolled out across England. It is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Truro (which includes Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and two parishes in Devon) and the seat of the Bishop of Truro.

About Truro Cathedral Choir

Truro Cathedral has supported a choir of boys and men since it was consecrated in 1887. There are currently eighteen boy choristers and twelve gentlemen who perform at six sung services each week during term time as well as at the major services around Christmas and Easter. They also undertake regular concerts, broadcasts, webcasts, foreign tours and CD recordings.

The boys are educated at Polwhele House School where they receive scholarships from the cathedral. Six of the gentlemen are Lay Vicars who live and work in Cornwall; six are Choral Scholars who come from various parts of the UK and further afield to spend their gap years singing with the choir.

In recent years the choir has appeared on BBC1, BBC2, BBC4 and ITV as well as taking part in regular live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. Recent recordings have included single-composer discs of music by Louis Vierne, Benjamin Britten and Philip Stopford. A wealth of new music has been written specially for the choir by composers such as David Bednall, David Briggs, Jonathan Carne, Paul Comeau, Paul Drayton, Graham Fitkin, Howard Goodall, Gabriel Jackson, James MacMillan, Russell Pascoe, Julian Philips, Howard Skempton and Philip Stopford.

Truro Cathedral Choir sings at the 5.30 pm services most weeks during term time on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The Sunday sung services are at 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Further details about services, concerts, choristerships and choral scholarships can be found at www.trurocathedral.org.uk.

What the critics say about Truro Cathedral Choir

Critics in the international classical music press regularly place Truro Cathedral Choir alongside the finest ensembles of its kind in the world. The following are three excerpts from recent reviews:

- *On this showing Christopher Gray's Truro Choir has little to fear in comparison with the finest cathedral choirs in the country. The singing brings enormous pleasure, as does Luke Bond's magnificent organ playing. (**International Record Review**)*

- *The Truro Cathedral Choir under the tireless direction of Christopher Gray give outstanding performances, with a satisfying equality of balance and tone between the boys and the men. Luke Bond's colourful accompaniments and Gary Cole's typically superb recording add to the listening pleasure of this truly outstanding CD. (Gramophone)*
- *What an explosion of wonderful music-making is taking place in Truro! The artistic partnership of Christopher Gray, Luke Bond and the singers is one that should be a cause for unbridled rejoicing throughout cathedral and church music circles, and beyond. (Cathedral Music Magazine)*

About Truro School

- *Truro School is Cornwall's largest coeducational HMC independent boarding and day school, with approximately 750 pupils from 11 to 18, and Truro School Prep, originally called Treliske Prep School, has 243 pupils from 3 years old to 11 years old.*
- *Truro School was founded by Cornish Methodists in 1880.*

Photography

Picture by James Ram: www.jamesram.co.uk