

Blackburn Cathedral 17th January 2015
Music & More
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Singathon

The great success, musically, socially and financially, of our first SINGATHON last year meant that Singathons could easily become eagerly anticipated events in the cathedral's New Year calendars.

What's a Singathon?

It's a gathering of volunteer singers from all our cathedral choirs – and others who wish to join us – who are challenged to sing any anthem that has been requested by sponsors. And sponsors may, if they wish, conduct the singers themselves or even play the organ!

So it's three hours of great unknowns: can the choir sight-sing an anthem they don't know? Does the cathedral music library have the anthem that has been requested? What's this new conductor like?

It doesn't matter that we don't attract a large audience (although this might be addressed next year). It's just **great fun** and it's a super way to raise funds for the cathedral's music!

At the table, organizing the music and collecting the sponsorship, was choir parent, [Daren Fulwell](#). Thanks, Daren!



And so, what did they sing?



There was an atmosphere of eager anticipation when [Samuel Hudson](#) welcomed the audience as the singers were gathering.



Organ scholar [Joseph O'Berry](#) had (with assistance) brought all the music which was to be sung up the stairs from the Song School.



1. Zadok the priest– Handel, sung by nearly 40 singers.



2. Solus ad Victimam – Kenneth Leighton, chosen and accompanied by young alto [William Fielding](#).



3. Ave verum – Byrd
4. Cantique to Jean Racine – Fauré chosen and conducted by the [Rev. Dr. Mike Kirby](#).



5. O radiant dawn – James McMillan
6. Ave Verum - Elgar
7. O Jesu Christ – J S Bach
8. Ave Maria – William Parsons, conducted by [John Bertalot](#)



This was difficult, for it's unaccompanied and written in up to 6 parts. The choir sang valiantly.

9. Happy birthday to you – for 8 year-old [Darcy Tayler](#)



Three Christmas pieces:

10. O magnum mysterium – Lauridsen
11. New Year Carol – Britten
12. Tomorrow shall be my dancing day – arr. Willcocks
13. God be in my head (World premiere) - conducted by the composer – Deputy Head Chorister [Seb Roberts](#).



After much applause from us all, Samuel Hudson said that this anthem was so creatively original that it would be sung at a service!

14. Magnificat – Gray in A minor. Soloist [Rachel Fielding](#)



15. Kyrie – Messe Solennelle, Vierge. ([Shaun Turnbull](#) gave the organ its head for this, including the Vox Humana in the soft bits!)



- 16. Kyrie – Byrd 4-part Mass
- 17. Gloria – Coronation Mass, Mozart.



This was requested by Head Chorister [Oliver Fulwell](#) (left) – who sang the important solo splendidly.



18. Os Justi – Bruckner, chosen and conducted by alto scholar [Tim Braithwaite](#) who was a main organiser of this highly successful afternoon.

American Music

- 19. Sure on this shining light – Lauridsen
- 20. Sleep – Eric Whitacre (so atmospheric!)
- 21. Lux aurumque – Eric Whitacre
- 22. I was glad – David Hurd
- 23. Amazing Grace – arranged by John Bertalot when he was living in the USA.



This was splendidly accompanied by [Sam Hudson](#).

- 24. Like as the hart – Howells
- 25. Let all mortal flesh - Holst
- 26. With drooping wings (Dido) – Purcell.



This was conducted by [Shaun Turnbull](#) with [Joseph O'Berry](#) at the organ.

Dedicated singers: [Jean Duerden](#) & [Tim Braithwaite](#)



- 27. Tantum ergo – Duruflé
- 28. If ye love me – Tallis
- 29. Come my way – David Cooper...



...L-R: [Jacob Reddy](#), [Prefect Matthew Howard](#) and super solo by [Prefect Zak Tayler](#) (extreme right),



with [William Fielding](#) at the organ again.

And finally:
30. A hymn: God who created this Eden – with tune by Kittel – accompanied by organ and piano!



The press were there – taking photographs!

And the [Dean and Mrs Armstrong](#) were there, too; the Dean thanked everyone for the wholly splendid afternoon.



And the sum raised was over £600 – which will go towards financing the cathedral choir's visit to Paris this autumn.
THANK YOU ALL.

