

# Music & More online Supplement No. 81

## Choristers' Concert

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

We now have more choristers than ever before – for **Samuel Hudson** has attracted 6 girl probationers and 13 (*thirteen!*) boy probationers who are currently undergoing training for full membership of our choirs.

Sam arranged a special concert to be given by our girls and boys – who not only sang to us – including the probationers – but who also played a wide range of instrumental pieces. *Read on!*

And there was a large audience of proud parents and faithful supporters who clapped loud and long. They were wreathed in smiles at the achievements of our young people.



The first item was Stanford's *Song of Wisdom*, which gave the singers many opportunities for soaring high notes. They were accompanied on the organ by Assistant Director of Music, **Shaun Turnbull** assisted by our distinguished organ scholar, **Dr Ed Jones**.

Then came the first set of solos:



**Charlotte Gornall** sang Vaughan Williams' *'The Call'* with great confidence.



**Aimee Calway** played her piano piece from memory.

**Harrison Chick** played his French Horn in perfect time to an orchestral tape.

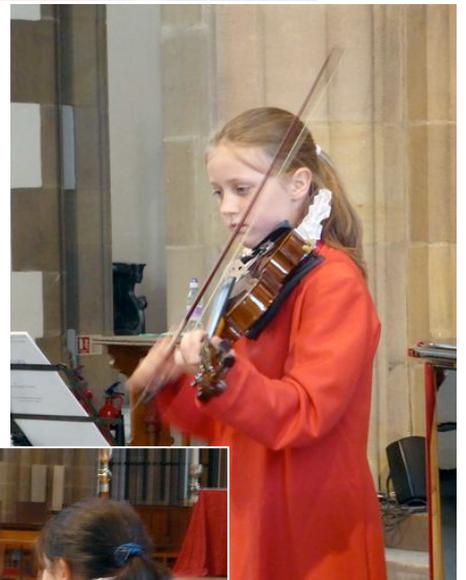


Our acting Dean, **Bishop Philip North** who had welcomed us that evening, listened intently to all the music, with **Eric & Elaine Barnes** - parents of Virger **Alex** – sitting alongside.



**Libby Broomhead** then played her viola – with impeccable intonation. Well done!

She was followed by **Poppy Felipes**, who played *Serenade Espagnole*. Poppy's two brothers are choir prefects.



Violinist **Sophie Fellows** played with excellent intonation.



And then **Louie Hindle** played an extract from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* from memory. (The music was there 'just in case'.)



Then the choirs sang again – and this time they were joined by our 19 probationers. Was it easy music? No it wasn't – it was from Britten's *Friday Afternoons*.



It was an especial joy to see **Karel Wilson** (below centre) singing with such concentration, for he is the son of our late lamented and very dear choir colleague, **Phil Wilson**.



Phil was a chorister under T. L. Duerden in the early 1960s, and was a long-time highly respected and greatly loved choirman who died only 18 months ago.

Prefect **Elizabeth Fielding** sang with great confidence a solo item from Britten's *Friday Afternoons* – 'Ee-Oh'.

(Elizabeth had recently represented Blackburn Cathedral's choirs by singing in a concert in St Paul's Cathedral.

The 60 UK Cathedrals were invited to send one chorister each for this concert.)

The combined voices again made a great sound.



The large audience listened with rapt concentration.



Then it was time for more solos:

**Karel Wilson** demonstrated his talent by playing from memory with impeccable accuracy – ending with crossed hands!



Then **William Keeling** sang *Little Boats* with calm confidence.



**Olivia Grady** sang *The water is wide* so confidently.



And **Phoebe Hawks** played *The Londonderry Air* on her violin – again her intonation was spot on!



Followed by choir Prefect **Clara Slater** who played her alto saxophone with sure accuracy.



Then a *tour de force* when head chorister **Seb Roberts** played Grieg's *Wedding Day*. This had fistfuls of chords and brilliant arpeggios, all of which Seb handled with great confidence, which earned him a well-deserved ovation,

Then a slight pause whilst **Isabelle Pugh's** father brought her harp into the centre Nave. (That's what dads are for!)



What a great sound - what a great sight!





The final item was Matthew Owens' arrangement of *Lord of the Dance* which everyone sang with panache, verve and unbounded enthusiasm – including our newest probationers.

And afterwards, many of us stayed to chat – with refreshment provided by choir parent **Daren Fulwell**, and former choir parent, **Louise Hicks**.



Heartiest congratulations to all, and especially **Samuel Hudson** and his colleagues who made this concert possible.



**THANK YOU, ALL!**

