

Blackburn Cathedral, 23 January 2016

MUSIC & More

online Supplement 2016 No. 1

SINGATHON

Some thirty singers from our cathedral choirs gathered for three hours in Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday afternoon, 23rd January – full of excitement at what lay before them – for they were about to be challenged to sing nearly 30 anthems (some of which they had never seen before) which had been sponsored by members of our congregation, members of our choirs and even by some of our young (and not so young) resident composers!

For this was a musical marathon which would raise money for our cathedral's adventurous music programme.

Much careful preparation had gone into this event to ensure its success:



Here's choir parent **Daren Fulwell** sorting out the sponsorship forms, with his elder son, **Oliver** behind, talking to Judge **Jeremy Duerden** – both of whom were about to sing with the assembled chorus.

Our organ scholar, Dr **Ed Jones**, (below L) was our energetic librarian – he had to carry up to the Nave many heavy boxes of anthems from the Song School in the crypt, hand them out to singers, collect them after use, and then take them all back downstairs afterwards!



Next to him is Choir Virger, **Joe Kennedy** (who is a former chorister) who arranged all the chairs for the singers beforehand – and 'de-arranged' them afterwards!

The Master of Ceremonies was **Samuel Hudson**, our Director of Music, and the organist was **Shaun Turnbull**, assisted by **Ed Jones**. There was a lot of sight-reading for everyone that afternoon – and they did it not only courageously but also very well!



And so we began.

The first anthem was everyone's favourite: Parry's **I was glad!** which got us off to a good start!



Other anthems followed in quick succession:

- 2 *Make me a channel of your peace* arr. by Paul Leddington-Wright
- 3 *Ave Verum Corpus* – Mozart
- 4 *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day* - John Gardner
(Shaun Turnbull played the piano for this)



5 *O be joyful in the Lord* – John Bertalot



JB asked if he may conduct this. Yes! But as it was new to everybody and rather fast, JB asked Sam to play the vocal parts on the piano to help the singers whilst Shaun played the rippling organ part. It worked pretty well!

- 6 *O magnum mysterium* – Victoria
- 7 *Cantique de Jean Racine* – Fauré
- 8 *O magnum mysterium* – Messiaen



The Revd Dr Mike Kirby conducted Brahms' *How lovely*.

Dr Kirby is our cathedral Assistant Curate who has an impressive array of letters after his name, for he is also a full-time Lecturer in medicine at Liverpool University..

- 9 *How Lovely* – Brahms
- 10 *Locus Iste* – Bruckner



- 11 *Christus Vincit* – Martin Baker
- 12 *My Lord has come* – Will Todd (b.1970)

Todd's work is included in the choir's new CD

Our head chorister, Seb Roberts, is also a talented composer.

He conducted three of his compositions that afternoon!

- 13 *Kyrie & Sanctus* – Seb Roberts

- 14 *Greater Love* – John Ireland

- 15 *Tomorrow shall be* – arr Willcocks

- 16 *Sanctus* – Widor



Choral Scholar Niki Zohdi conducted his own composition very well!

- 17 *Twilight* – Niki Zohdi
- 18 *Zadok* – Handel

The interval came just at the right time – for everyone had been working so hard, not only singing, but also in handing out music and collecting it afterwards.

There were ten more anthems to be sung in the second half:

- 19 *Panis Angelicus* – Franck
- 20 *I was glad* – Bertalot (in the style of William Mathias!)
- 21 *And I saw* – Stanford
- 22 *Ah! Sunflower* – Ed Jones our talented organ scholar.
- 23 *Miserere* – Allegri with Leo Fulwell singing the top Cs.



Solo choir:
L-R: Alizon Elliott
Niki Zohdi,
Seb Roberts
Leo Fulwell and
Vaughn Richardson



24 *Sing a new song* –
by head chorister Seb
Roberts.

The cathedral choir sang Seb's setting of *God be in my head* at the 10.30 Eucharist on February 7th.

We shall look forward to singing more of Seb's compositions.



Everyone tried hard!
Darcy Tayler (L)
shared music with
Prefect Elizabeth Fielding

- 25 *My soul* – Parry



Choral Scholar Joe Reed (second from left, back row) chose an unfamiliar work by Purcell – which was demanding!

- 26 *Funeral Sentences* – Purcell
- 27 *O magnum mysterium* – Lauridsen
- and finally:
- 28 *Of the father's heart (Hymn)*

It was a delightful afternoon, notable for a strong treble line. Our thanks to all who took part, both singing and organising. Over £350 was donated to the cathedral's music programme! **THANK YOU!**

