



Music Department 2015-2016

St Martins Choir (9.15)

This year has been another busy and productive year for the choir. Our numbers have continued to increase both in terms of new treble recruits and adults. We have replaced old, tired robes with new ones and now the whole choir has the same style of robe, giving a real uniformity between choir, servers and clergy. My thanks to Linda and Mary for their help and support in organising this. Our musical repertoire continues to broaden including anthems by Bainton, Bullock, Finzi, Purcell, Stanford, and Tallis. The developments in diction and a uniformed choral sound are really encouraging. And I thank the choir for their commitment to productive rehearsals and their focus and concentration in all of their music making. The trebles continue through the Royal School of Church Music 'Voice for Life' medals scheme and are now embarking on their light and dark blue levels. Some of the trebles have also shown interest in playing the organ and James Kellas and I have been teaching and encouraging them in this. The Nine Lessons and Carols service was a triumph with the biggest attendance in my time here and a very high quality of music making. We also had a very busy and productive Lent and Easter, a highlight for me was the Passion on Good Friday with an excellent rendition of the Palestrina responses. We continue to recruit adults and children and if you know anybody that would like to join the choir please speak to somebody from the music department. We are also introducing the Rawsthorne Festival Eucharist setting at 9.15am which is a welcome edition to our repertoire of service music.

St Martins Singers (11.15)

This has been a great year for the 11.15 music group. Expanding our repertoire further to include 'Rumours of Angels' by Graham Kendrick for Advent and 'Mary Magdalene' by Roger Jones for Lent. The quality of ensemble and volume of singing is going from strength to strength and I look forward to continuing the development and expansion of the singing group. They give a fine lead to the congregation too. I am also very happy that the congregational singing in this service is of a very high standard and

I look forward to increasing our congregational repertoire, both with the addition of more modern and contemporary hymns to our current canon and the addition of a CJM Mass Setting, expanding the congregational singing further.

Looking Forward

Exciting times and challenges lie ahead! The new sound and lighting system will open up a wide variety of opportunities for the music department. The ability to record services to a high standard easily is an exciting prospect to help bring what we do to the wider community. The ability to produce recordings in-house will mean we can look into recording the choir and music group in the near future, this can also enrich the music department's presence on the new website and help attract new recruits from further afield and bring our music out into the community. High quality amplification will also enable the inclusion of instruments more easily into the 11.15 service, which is still an area for development. The ease of set-up this new sound system will provide will mean more time rehearsing the quality of the music instead of setting up equipment and connecting cables, which minimises rehearsal time.

Thanks

I would like to thank the Choir, and the parents of the trebles, for all their support. And to the people who help with the trebles training (which is no small task) especially Linda for the constant support and help she gives to me, Mary for looking after the robes and trebles, Barbara for organising the trebles pay and Valery for her steadfast work as music librarian.

Thanks to the St Martin's Singers for their commitment and cheerfulness and for preparing new music extremely quickly to a high standard.

Also thanks to James Kellas for his constant help and support, the quality of his organ and piano accompaniment, the virtuosity of his solo pieces and the rich variety of organ music he has played for us with over the last year.

I look forward to leading another joyful musical year at St Martins.

James Platt
Director of Music