

For *Once a Chorister* 2018

**Cathedral Choir Report 2018
(Events from 2018)**

Founded in 1881, ChristChurch Cathedral Choir exists to be the voice of the Cathedral. Through the rhythm of Sunday worship along with daily Evensong, the choir consistently offers up sung and spoken intercessions on behalf of our city and diocese in six weekly choral services during term time.

In October 2018 we bid farewell to Assistant Organist Harry Meehan as he returned to Ireland to take up medical studies. Harry made a very positive mark on Christchurch in the two years that he was here and is sorely missed. Chris Lynch has been appointed as his successor, and comes to us from Portland Cathedral USA where he was assistant organist.

In September and October 2018, the Choristers had a very successful tour to Australia and Japan. In Australia, the Choristers sang concerts and services St Andrew's Cathedral and St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. In Japan, the Choristers had engagements in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kyoto. The audiences in Japan were extremely receptive and kind. At the end of the trip, the Choristers enjoyed two days at Disneyland Tokyo as a reward for all their fine work.

Following the tour, the Choristers recorded a CD of repertoire from their international tour. Titled "O Praise the Lord of Heaven," The CD contains sacred as well as secular works for treble voices. The CD is available through the Cathedral shop (e-mail admin@christchurchcathedral.co.nz).

In November we hosted our annual "Old Choristers Evensong" where we invited all former members of the Cathedral Choir and Godley Wakefield Choral Scholars to join together in singing a festal service. Over a dozen ex choristers and former choir members joined the Cathedral Choir for the service, singing Stanford in B-flat and a new anthem, "The Great Silence" by Samuel Bordoli, which honours former Cathedral choristers from around the world who lost their lives in World War I. The next reunion Evensong will be 10 November 2019.

The month of December saw all the usual carol recitals, including singing in Christchurch Hospital, Burwood Hospital, Ballantynes Department Store, Cathedral Square, and the Bridge of Remembrance, as well as in the Transitional Cathedral.

On Christmas Day 2018 we said farewell to our Year 8 leavers Edmund Davis, Angus Gifford, Yong Sun, and Andrew Welsh. I look forward to following their bright futures.

There are so many people who contribute to the daily life of the choir in many ways. I should like to thank Humphrey Rolleston and the Choir Education Trust for providing funding for choir scholarships. The academic, musical, and sport opportunities afforded to our choristers through their education at The Cathedral Grammar School are among the finest options any student can have. Our choristers excel in many aspects of cathedral, school, and civic life. From participating in sport,

community theatre, and singing in the Cathedral, our Cathedral Choristers are the front-runners of leadership in the Canterbury region.

Thank you to the Cathedral Choir Society and Tim Andrews, President, for its support through funding and providing opportunities for the Choristers. The Choir Society is an important link to keep in touch with former choristers and I greatly appreciate their work.

Thank you to Lennox Willett, Paul Brown, and the Cathedral Singers for taking the Sunday services while the Cathedral Choir is on holiday between terms. This most valuable ministry allows the Cathedral's Sunday service schedule to continue without interruption throughout the academic year. At the close of Term One 2018, Lennox retired as the director of the Singers after ten years in the post and after about fifty years of being directly associated with Cathedral music. Thank you to Lennox for your faithful service to the Cathedral and we wish you well in retirement and welcome your discerning ear in the congregation. Ms Jillian Kerr, Cathedral Precentrix, has been appointed the next Director of Music for the Cathedral Singers, a post she took up mid-2018.

Thank you to Dean Lawrence Kimberly, the Cathedral staff, the Cathedral Chapter, and all who assist in helping the Cathedral Choir to run smoothly year after year.

*Dr John Linker
Director of Music
ChristChurch Transitional Cathedral*