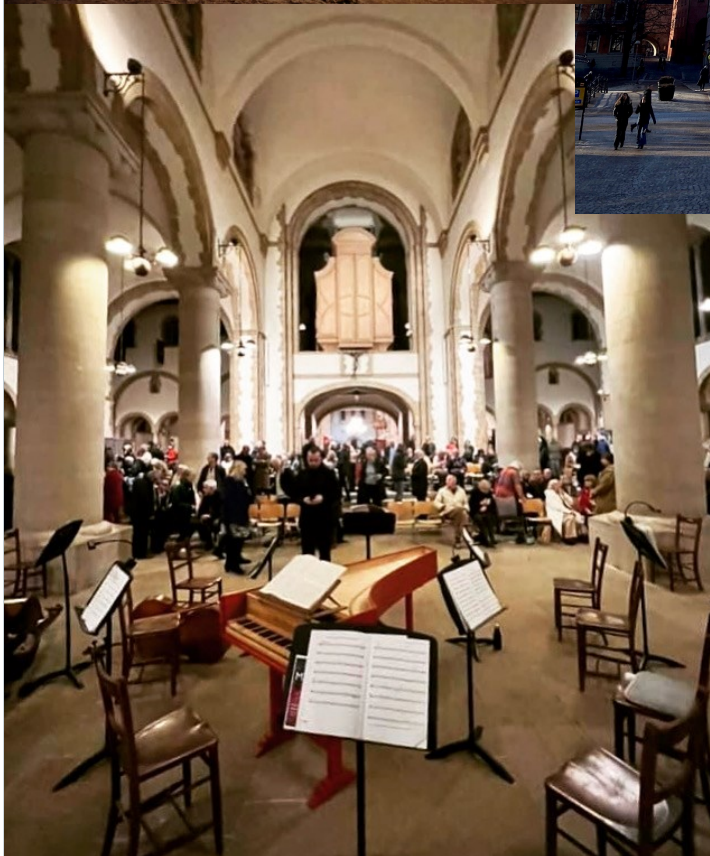


Cathedral Music News

EASTER 2023



Saturday 25
March, 7.30pm

PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

HANDEL'S Messiah

Handel's spectacular and moving choral masterpiece,
sung by the Portsmouth Cathedral Choirs with Capelle
Baroque, directed by David Price.

Tickets from £18-£25, book at
portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

Visit High Street,
Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HH
Call 023 9282 3300

PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

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Round-up



Christmas seems a distant memory as Holy Week and Easter are now upon us. However we recall the successes of our Advent and Christmas programme which culminated in the **largest ever attendance** at our Christmas Eve Carol Service and a wonderful celebration of Midnight Mass and Christmas morning. We marked **Epiphany and Candlemas**

and before we knew it, an early morning start for Heathrow Terminal 5 and our tour to Sweden.....

Sweden

It felt good to embark on our first **international tour** since 2019 and our sixteen oldest boy choristers and our back row headed for the snowy scapes of northern Sweden and a return to **Stockholm** and **Uppsala**, ten years after our last visit.



Our first full day saw us heading from our accommodation in

Uppsala to **Sofia Church** in Stockholm. After a morning rehearsal, the boys enjoyed a visit across the water to the Vasa Museum to see the Swedish version of our Mary Rose—a truly stunning museum. Then after lunch we took ourselves back to Sofia Church for a concert to a packed house.

On Sunday morning we sang for the 'High Mass' at **Uppsala Cathedral**, the vast northern 'Westminster Abbey of Sweden'. As ever, it was a joy and a privilege to share in worship and communion with our **Lutheran brethren**.

In the afternoon, we had the opportunity to sing Evensong in the small but delightful **Eriks Church**. Our boys also had the chance to meet some Uppsala Cathedral choristers who will be making their **own tour of England** (including Portsmouth) later this year.



Handel's Messiah

Our 2023 performance of this iconic work was a **sell-out**. Our Cathedral Choir term concluded last week with a performance of Handel's Messiah alongside a superb array of former Portsmouth singers – **Solomon, Ed** and **James** singing the alto, tenor and bass solos lines. Our skilful baroque orchestra was led by Julia, a founder member of **Red Priest**, the

iconic instrumental ensemble which pioneers delivery of early music to new audiences with imagination and colour.



Our Soprano and Treble solos came from amongst our own choristers. **Sky, Daniel, Clara** and **Noah** delighted us with expert and confident renditions of solo arias sung with **poise, professionalism and panache**. It is one thing as a cathedral chorister to sing in the relative comfort of the ranks of the choir and protective embrace of the choirstalls, but quite another to stand in front of a large audience, having to hold a tricky solo line against a set of unusual instruments rather than the organ, but our

youngsters seemed to take it in their stride. Out of the 65 Cathedral Choir on the stage, **55 were under the age of 19** – what a wonderful opportunity for so many young people to experience one of the most iconic choral works ever written and to experience with orchestral instruments as Handel intended with the characteristic incisive string sound, the crisp 'natural' trumpets, edgy woodwind, and distinctive drums. These young people will hold this music in the fabric of their psyche for the rest of their lives.

Tour to Antwerp, Belgium

Our **next tour** this time for the Girls, just before Christmas will be to Belgium when we plan to sing in **Antwerp Cathedral** and **St Charles Borromeo Church** as well as the Anglican Church in Antwerp.



PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

People



We were delighted to make a number of promotions in the choirs.

Congratulations to **Max, Edward, Daniel, Theo, Thomas and Edward** as well as **Eleanor, Lu-Li, Anna, Francesca, Pippa, Sydney, Dawn, Libby and Chi-Yee**



Canon Kathryn

We were sorry to hear the announcement that our Canon Chancellor will be leaving next term; however, her appointment as **Archdeacon of The Meon** means we will continue to see her in the cathedral on numerous occasions. We thank her for her sterling work with Cathedral Safeguarding thereby helping to make sure our choirs continue to be a **safe and supportive space** to all.

Visiting Choirs.....

We look forward to welcoming three excellent choirs to sing with us in coming months. In April, we shall be joined by the choir of **Bath Abbey** who will sing for us for a weekend. Then at the end of the year we shall welcome The **Berkshire Youth Choir** in October and **Uppsala Cathedral Choir** in November—a return match from our recent tour to Sweden.

Join our choirs!

We are recruiting to all our choirs at the moment. Places are available for **boys (Yrs 3-5), girls (Yrs 5 -12)** and also for our Gap Year Scheme for 2023/24. Please email for details or see our website.

David Price *Organist and Master of the Choristers*
music@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk
www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/joinourchoir



Find out more at
portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/join-the-choir

Sing Joyfully

We have recently launched a campaign to secure the **future of our music programme** at Portsmouth Cathedral.



Thank you to many people who have already donated to this fund—we are immensely grateful

You can find out more details about *Sing Joyfully* on our website. Please support us if you can to continue our work for the next 25 years and beyond