



AUDITION PACK SUMMER 2017

TENOR

WELCOME

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in joining the Cantus Ensemble. I have put together this pack to give you a little more information about the choir and the audition process, as well as what lies in store for us in our seventh season.

CHOIR ТНЕ

Founded by myself in 2011, The Cantus Ensemble is one of London's leading chamber choirs. Drawing its membership largely from ex-choral scholars and music graduates of all ages, the choir performs a wide array of vocal music, ranging from 16th century polyphony to world premieres of new music by leading contemporary composers. In 2015 we performed the Durufle Requiem with orchestra, in April 2016 we performed three of Bach's motets with period continuo, as well as Strauss' infamous 23-part Deutsche Motette, a piece which stretches the very fabric of what is possible for a choir. Last season we performed one of the hardest pieces in the repertoire, Poulenc's Figure *Humaine* and in April we put on a fully immersive stage performance of Joby Talbot's incredible Path of Miracles.



Since its inception, the choir has performed throughout London, including numerous services at Westminster Abbey, and we have toured to Rome, Vienna, Budapest, Barcelona, Ljubljana and, most recently, Lisbon. The choir is also fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with our home church and rehearsal venue, St Gabriel's, Pimlico, where we regularly sing choral Evensong and provide the music for other major feast day services throughout the year.

We are fortunate to have a nucleus of wonderful singers in Cantus that I want to add to this year for our exciting 2017-18 season. In October we will perform alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in a live performance of Star Wars. In November we will perform Mozart's Requiem with orchestra and soloists, alongside the incredible To The Hands, by contemporary Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Caroline Shaw. Our Christmas concert, always a complete sell out, will feature Britten's A Ceremony of Carols for full choir and harp, and Conrad Susa's little know Carols & Lullabies, for choir, harp, marimba and guitar.

The New Year will see a performance of Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir alongside works by Pierre Villette and Francis Poulenc, before a tour to a European city in May and an exciting Summer concert in July.

Cantus is made up of 38 singers (10 sopranos, 8 altos, 8 tenors and 10 basses) and 6 deputies, all united by a desire to perform choral music to the highest possible standard, and to have fun along the way. If you are an excellent musician, an enthusiastic and dedicated singer, and are looking for a group with a fantastic social life, then Cantus is the choir for you.



As featured on

CLASSIC M

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REPERTOIRE

I strive to put together engaging programmes of music, both for choir and audience, using music from a variety of genres and eras. Major works that we've performed include but are not limited to:

Britten A Ceremony of Carols, Hymn to St Cecilia, AMDG, Five Flower Songs Dyson Hierusalem Maw One foot in Eden still I stand MacMillan Seven last words from the cross O'Regan Triptych Tippett Five negro spirituals Stanford Magnificat for Double Choir Howells Take him earth for cherishing, Preces & Responses, Requiem Whitacre Leonardo dreams of his flying machine, The stolen child, Alleluia, Three flower songs Martin Mass for Double Choir Rachmaninov All Night Vigil Poulenc Mass in G, Quatre motets pour le temps de Noel, Chansons Francaises, Figure Humaine Vierne Messe Sollenelle Penderecki Song of Cherubim Ligeti Nacht und morgen Hogan Spirituals Allegri *Miserere* Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem Villette Inviolata, Attende Domine Bernstein Chichester Psalms Janacek Otcenas Paus O Magnum Mysterium Kodaly Missa Brevis Tavener Butterfly Dreams, Song for Athene, Hymn to the Mother of God Mealor Now sleeps the crimson petal Durufle *Requiem* Parry Songs of Farewell Bach Motets Strauss Deutsche Motette Pizzetti Requiem Talbot Path of Miracles Part Nunc Dimittis, Which was the son of...

I would warmly encourage you so go to the 'listen' page on our website, or to visit our Soundcloud page to hear what we sound like live in concert, unedited, to give you an idea for the sound of the ensemble. The live recordings of our Durufle Requiem concert are something I am particularly proud of.



THE SOCIAL SIDE

One of the choir's defining features is its social atmosphere - evident in an extensive and varied social calendar. Aside from going to the pub after rehearsals there are regular social events ranging from winetasting to karting, and comedy club nights to day trips. Once a term there is a Saturday rehearsal (usually around lunchtime) which is followed by a major social and the 'Cantus Challenge'. Past Saturday socials have included a Six Nations rugby day, the Cantus Olympics, and so on. It is my firm belief that a warm and vibrant social side contributes to an extremely healthy exchange of musical ideas in rehearsals, and it is a key factor in the dynamic sound that we produce in concerts and services. We're a close knit group of friends and incredibly welcoming to new members - in Cantus you're guaranteed to make new friends for life!

REHEARSALS & SERVICES

The choir rehearses every Tuesday in term time from 19:15 until 21:00 in St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico. We also provide the music for roughly five services a term at St Gabriel's, I value commitment and excellent attendance incredibly highly when auditioning new members, as rehearsal attendance is the single biggest key contributor to an outstanding musical performance. Similarly, members are obliged to attend two services a term at St Gabriel's which in turn heavily offsets our rehearsal venue costs. Services are always of an very high standard musically and are followed by refreshments (usually lots of prosecco!) and a pub quiz.

DEPUTIES

Each year, places will be offered to three sopranos, two altos, two tenors, and three basses as deps for the 2017/18 season. Deps take full part in the social side of the choir, attend the first three rehearsals of each term, and sing in the Christmas concert. They then fill in on a termly basis for members who can't make a concert, so will usually get to do at least one extra concert a season. Deps are also invited on tour.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members of the choir pay \pounds 40 in the first term and \pounds 30 thereafter to cover the cost of music and venue hire, although this cost is kept as low as possible. This is substantially less than other choirs. Members of the choir are offered many paid opportunities throughout the year which often offset or even outweigh this cost

AUDITIONS

The auditions will consist of:

- A prepared piece to be sung within a quartet
- A prepared solo to be sung unaccompanied
- Sight-reading to be sung within a quartet, a simple and a more challenging excerpt
- Scales to asses range
- Simple aural tests

I will confirm your audition date and time with you via email but this pack contains all the music that you will need to learn.

If I can answer any more questions in the meantime then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With my very best wishes, Dominic Brennan - *Director, The Cantus Ensemble*











2017/2018 CALENDAR

Below is the full calendar for the 2017/18 season. Cantus rehearse every Tuesday in term time and the four main concerts, and Star Wars concert at the Royal Albert Hall, are noted in bold. Members take part in one compulsory service at St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico, a term and then choose a second service from three optional dates.

Candidates must notify at or before their audition of dates or events that they know they would not be able to attend, should they be offered a place in Cantus.

Saturday 5 August - Audition day 1 Saturday 2 September - Audition day 2 Sunday 3 September - Audition day 3 Tuesday 5 September - Audition day 4

Tuesday 12 September - First rehearsal followed by welcome drinks Sunday Oct 1 (Patronal Festival) - Full, compulsory evensong Saturday 14 October - Saturday rehearsal & social *Sunday 15 October - Optional evensong* **Sunday 29 October - Star Wars with RPO at the Royal Albert Hall**

Thursday 2 November - All Souls Mass - optional

Saturday II November- ConcertEsenvaldsNorthern LightsShawTo the HandsMozartRequiemSunday 26 November - Optional evensongSaturday 9 December- Christmas ConcertBrittenA Ceremony of CarolsSusaCarols & Lullabies: Christmas in the SouthwestA selection of audience and close-harmony carols, old and new

Tuesday 9 January - First rehearsal back

Sunday 21 January- Full, compulsory evensong Sunday 28 January - Optional evensong Sunday 18 February - Optional evensong Saturday 24 February - Saturday rehearsal & 6 Nations Day (Ireland v Wales, Scotland v England) Sunday 25 February - Optional evensong Saturday 10 or 24 March – Concert (to be confirmed imminently) Martin Mass for Double Choir Villette O quam amabilis, Jesu dulcis memoria, Panis Angelicus

Poulenc *Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence* Tuesday 17 April - Rehearsals start again

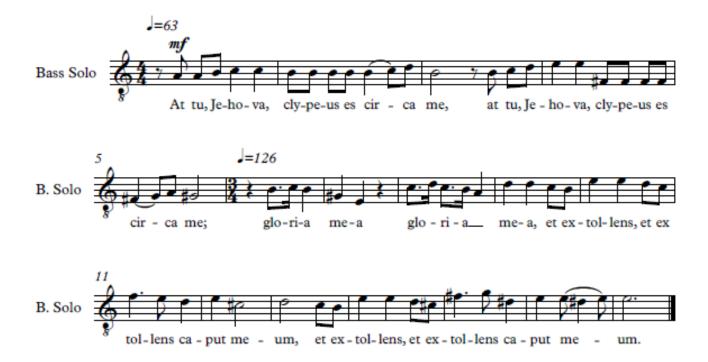
Sunday 6 May - Optional evensong Sunday 20 May - Optional evensong Tour dates TBC Sunday 10 June - Optional evensong Saturday 16 June - Saturday rehearsal – Cantus Olympics Sunday 24 June - Full, compulsory final evensong Followed by BBQ Saturday 7 July* - Summer Concert Saturday 14 July - AGM/Ball





The Cantus Ensemble Prepared Solo - Tenor

An excerpt from Jehova, quam multi sunt hostest mei by Henry Purcell



PREPARED PIECE Please prepare the first verse and the amen

à Mademoiselle Monique RICHARDET

ADORO TE

Chœur à 4 voix mixtes

Durée : 3' env.

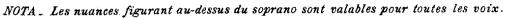
E.

Pierre VILLETTE.

OUVRAGE PROTÉGÉ PHOTOCOPIE INTERDITE Même partielle (Loi du 11 Mars 1957) constituerait contrelaçon

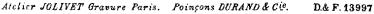
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