

School of English Church Music

QUARTERLY NEWS SHEET

Edited by a Committee appointed by the CHURCH MUSIC SOCIETY and issued from the office of the SCHOOL OF ENGLISH CHURCH MUSIC, COLLEGE OF ST. NICOLAS, ELMSTEAD LANE, CHISLEHURST, KENT.

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THE FUTURE OF THE NEWS SHEET.

We are happy to announce that this NEWS SHEET will enter on a new stage of its career with its next issue on January 1st, 1931. It will be enlarged to 16 pages, be illustrated with one or two photographs, find space for a few carefully selected advertisements and, in fact, grow up from being a humble "News Sheet" into a quarterly magazine devoted to the interests of English Church Music.

This is a bold undertaking, but the School of English Church Music has in the three years of its existence achieved its position by choosing the bolder policy whenever alternatives offered. The first words of the first NEWS SHEET (April, 1928) were bold to the point of rashness. "The School is now fairly launched," they declared, though the launching had consisted of the appointment of a provisional Council and the acquisition on loan of a small office from which the Council could conduct its business. The issue of that NEWS SHEET was the first piece of educational work undertaken by the School. A few parishes had then affiliated; a few local representatives had been appointed in the dioceses. The School consisted of nothing but the nucleus of an organisation and a large fund of enthusiasm amongst a small band of people determined on the accomplishment of the full scheme which Dr. Nicholson had outlined.

A year later (April, 1929) the first article of the NEWS SHEET bore the heading "Work begins at St. Nicolas." In the interval we had heard of a place at Chislehurst and found it in a wood. The property had been acquired, gifts had been received from many quarters, the chapel had been dedicated, the choir school opened. The College of St. Nicolas was there, with Dr. Nicholson installed as Warden, with the necessary apparatus for the study and practice of Church Music, but for the moment very few students.

Another year and the hostel had filled with students, methods of education had been worked out by experience, lectures given alike to resident and visiting students, members gained and choirs affiliated in every diocese; and by April, 1930, the NEWS SHEET was discussing the music for the festival of united affiliated choirs which was brought to a successful issue in the Albert Hall on June 27th.

At every stage in this development risks had to be taken in comparison with which that now to be incurred by the enlargement of the NEWS SHEET seems trifling. Results have justified them, and we are using no mere figure of speech when we say that the venture of faith has been blessed and rewarded. It must be emphasized, however, that the financial position is still very precarious, and only the continued and increased co-operation of all who care for the Church and her music can secure the permanence of the School's work.

It is to stimulate co-operation that we now undertake the enlargement of the NEWS SHEET. Hitherto it has given news of what was going on at headquarters, and through its reviews of music compiled by the Committee appointed by the Church Music Society it has sought to help the School's affiliated members in their parochial work. It will continue to do these things still more thoroughly in its new form. But now that there are something like 500 affiliated parishes, news must not only come from headquarters to them, but from these affiliated parishes to headquarters and to each other. Every one of these parishes is a local branch of the School of English Church Music. What efforts are being made among them to advance the cause of Church Music locally? What has been their experience; what their difficulties? A difficulty shared is a difficulty halved. Let the NEWS SHEET become a means of communication between the branches, and especially a means of encouraging those who are too far distant from the College of St. Nicolas to be able to participate closely in the work carried on there. That is the object of the enlargement.

We shall ask our diocesan representatives to co-operate in collecting news from the dioceses and affiliated parishes. We look forward to publishing special signed articles by experts dealing practically with the problems of Church Music performance, and also to including correspondence from members of the School and answers to enquiries. These features, together with the series of illustrations should make **ENGLISH CHURCH MUSIC** (as the paper will in future be called) an attractive magazine. It will be distributed free, as the **NEWS SHEET** has been, to all members of the School, and to affiliated choirs under the same condition as hitherto, and will be on sale to the general public.

SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE COLLEGE OF ST. NICOLAS.

As announced in the last two issues of the **QUARTERLY NEWS SHEET**, a Summer School of choir training was held at the College of St. Nicolas during the last three days of July and Professor E. C. Bairstow, of York Minster, was the lecturer. Attendance was smaller than last year because numbers were purposely restricted, as it was thought that last year's numbers were rather too large for the somewhat intimate character of this year's lectures.

The majority of the men students were accommodated in the Hostel and the women students were, through the kindness of Mrs. Asser, of Chislehurst, and her friends, made most comfortable in private houses.

Where choir training is concerned, Dr. Bairstow has few equals, and the members of the School found his lectures extraordinarily interesting and helpful, and all went away with new ideas to work out on their own choirs.

The Warden, Dr. Nicholson, kept back the boys of the College choir and fortunately there was also a nucleus of the men of the choir. The usual chapel services were therefore sung, and it was possible to follow the ordinary College plan of exemplifying different types of services. Dr. Bairstow expressed his appreciation of the boys' singing.

It was decided to hold another Summer School next year and to devote the time to one main subject.

OPENING OF THE AUTUMN TERM.

A new educational year has begun at St. Nicolas College with the Autumn term (September 18th), and a full curriculum of lectures, classes and chapel services has been mapped out. The internal work of the College may be said now to have passed through its first experimental stage. The Warden has the constant assistance of the Resident Chaplain (the Rev. N. de Langdale) who lectures on Liturgical matters; Miss Forbes Close is responsible for the course in plainchant, and other assistants this term are Mr. S. Royle Shore (early period of history) and Mr. J. L. G. Hewitt, F.R.C.O. (practical keyboard work). The number of resident male students is materially increased, and visiting students, both men and women, are admitted to parts of the course. All details may be had on application to the Secretary. The following is a summary of the year's scheme.

These courses commence in the Autumn Term and continue throughout the year. Each complete course consists of three terms each of ten weekly lectures, and each lecture is of one hour's duration.

1. HISTORY OF ENGLISH CHURCH MUSIC.

1st term—Earliest period, with the rise of Polyphony.

2nd term—Tudor period and the Restoration.

3rd term—Eighteenth century to modern times.

Additional :—Singing music of different periods, both at Lectures and in the Chapel Services.

2. PLAINCHANT.

1st term—Elements and History.

2nd term—Teaching of Plainchant.

3rd term—Accompaniment of Plainchant.

Additional :—Special practical study of the more elaborate examples of Plainchant.

3. CHOIR TRAINING, ETC.

1st term—Technique of Choir Training, Voice Production, etc.

2nd term—Choir Management and Music of the Parish Church.

3rd term—Organ Accompaniment, etc.

Additional :—Singing Classes at Bickley Hall School. Extemporization and General Music Classes.

4. LITURGICAL STUDY.

1st term—The Psalter.

2nd term—The Prayer Book, with principles of Ceremonial.

3rd term. Hymnology.

