

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.

No. 7.

OCTOBER, 1929.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE SCHOOL.

Since the formal opening of the College on July 3rd a good deal of progress has been made ; many visitors have been to the College, and a certain number of students have taken short courses—some of them from overseas. One of our students, Mr. Stanley Bulley, left us in July to take up the important duties of Director of the Music at the new Cathedral at Victoria, British Columbia (having been sent to the College by the Cathedral authorities for a preliminary period of training).

The three Scholarships have now been awarded ; the Archbishop's Scholarship (which includes the duty of playing the organ at Lambeth Palace Chapel) to Mr. J. H. Long ; the Lady Mary Trefusis Scholarship to Mr. Francis Holmes ; the St. Nicolas Scholarship to Mr. John Raynor. All three scholars are also studying at the Royal College of Music.

In two directions the position of the School is causing great anxiety to the Council. The first is in the disappointing result of the many appeals for funds. It was hoped, for instance, that, after the opening ceremony and the eloquent appeal for support by His Grace the President to the 600 guests who were entertained, there would be a considerable addition to the number of those giving tangible expression to their goodwill. It is obvious that an institution like this cannot be self-supporting for many years, but evidently it is not sufficiently realized that *unless adequate support is forthcoming now, it cannot go on at all*. Considering the hundreds—one might say thousands—who have expressed their good will and interest in the scheme, it is surely not too much to expect that the comparatively small sum required to put the foundation on a firm basis will be secured. The affiliation of choirs continues slowly but steadily, and it seems unlikely that this source of revenue will be sufficient to insure the continuance of the School without considerable outside support. So a very earnest appeal must be made to every one of our readers to try and influence those of their acquaintance who have the means to come to our aid.

The other direction in which we are meeting with some disappointment is in the number of applications for admission as permanent students. The reason for this is, no doubt, partly that the financial outlook for professional Church organists is so poor that few young men will turn to such a career ; in fact there is a serious shortage, and we have considerable difficulty in finding suitable candidates for the numerous posts where our advice is asked. Yet if Church Music is to be maintained Choirmasters must be found ; and it is evidently necessary to look for fresh sources from which a suitable supply may be recruited. Many Churches can be and are efficiently served by those who are engaged in business during the week ; but their difficulty is to get training and experience. These can both be gained at the College, and it is felt that an important part of our work is to help such men. There must be hundreds of young men who are in business in London and are living in lodgings, who at very little additional cost, if any, could live in the delightful surroundings of the College, and, while carrying on their regular work, could acquire just the practical experience and training that would fit them not only to augment their income with a certain amount of "pocket money," but to give valuable service to the Church in a direction where it is greatly needed. May we then ask our readers to put any such young men with whom they are acquainted in touch with us ?

COLLEGE OF ST. NICOLAS.

Arrangements for Winter Term, 1929.

LECTURES, Etc.

Mondays	5.0 p.m.	"Plain-song, theoretical and practical." Miss J. M. Forbes Close.
	*9.0 p.m.	Practice Class for public speaking and reading. The Warden.

Tuesdays	5.0 p.m.	“ The Musical requirements of the Prayer Book.” Rev. G. H. Salter (Chaplain).
Wednesdays	9.0 p.m.	“ Practical requirements of the parish Church organist.” Mr. Harvey Grace.
Thursdays	5.0 p.m.	“ History of Church Music.” The Warden.
Saturdays	*11.0 a.m.	Junior Singing Class, Bickley Hall School.
	*11.30 a.m.	Senior Singing Class, Bickley Hall School.

*Non-resident students can be admitted to these classes by special arrangement only. All the other lectures are open to non-resident as well as resident students.

SERVICES IN THE COLLEGE CHAPEL.

The “ rota ” is planned to exemplify different types of services and their musical treatment. (A) signifies Anglican music ; (P.S.) Plain song.

Mondays	7.30 a.m.	Prime (New Prayer Book) (A)
	7.0 p.m.	Evensong (P.S.)
Tuesdays	7.30 a.m.	Matins (P.S.)
	7.0 p.m.	Evensong (A) (Village Church type)
Wednesdays	7.30 a.m.	Matins (A) (Village Church type)
		No Choral Evensong
	10.0 p.m.	Compline (New Prayer Book)
Thursdays	7.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (alternately (A) and (P.S.))
	7.0 p.m.	Evensong (A) (Cathedral type)
Fridays	7.30 a.m.	Prime and Litany (P.S.)
	7.0 p.m.	Evensong (P.S.)
Saturdays	7.30 a.m.	Matins (A) (Town Church type)
	7.0 p.m.	Evensong (A) (Town Church type)

SUNDAYS AT ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON :

	10.30 a.m.	Matins
	11.0 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.0 p.m.	Evensong

Members of the public are admitted to all services, and students are admitted to choir-practices, one hour before each weekday Evensong.

On rare occasions when the Choir is singing elsewhere the above arrangements have to be altered.

For further particulars and scale of fees apply to the Secretary, at the College.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — GUILD OF ST. NICOLAS.

The Annual General Meeting of the School of English Church Music will be held on Tuesday, December 10th, at St. Sepulchre's Church, Holborn Viaduct.

On the same day it is proposed to inaugurate the Guild of St. Nicolas, in accordance with the proposals outlined in the last number of the Quarterly News-Sheet. The suggested programme is as follows :—

3 p.m. Meeting of representatives of affiliated choirs and others who wish to belong to the Guild. The purpose of the Guild will be explained, members will be enrolled, a representative to serve on the Council of the S.E.C.M. will be elected, and the Guild Office will be sung for the first time.

After this there will be an opportunity for discussing details of organization and the various ways in which the School can help affiliated choirs.

5 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the School of English Church Music.

8 p.m. United Service sung by members of affiliated choirs at which His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, President of the School, has consented to preach.

With regard to the Guild of St. Nicolas: its main purpose is to form a spiritual and material link between those who, while trying to further the aims of the School, are at present working in comparative isolation. The details of the scheme remain to be settled, and at this stage it is only possible to say that membership will be open (without any additional subscription) to all members of affiliated choirs and members and associates of the School of English Church Music, and will not be open to anyone else.

Full particulars, together with the formal notice of the Annual General Meeting, will be circulated in due course to all concerned.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC.

However many Summer Schools the College of St. Nicolas may see in years to come it is safe to say that none will be more successful nor more greatly appreciated than the one held there recently, from August 12th to 15th. The elastic hospitality of the Warden and his staff (to whose ultimate ruling even musicians must bow) resulted in 57 persons all told, students, lecturers, etc. sharing in the good comradeship indoors and out, and in the beauty of the gardens and of the weather.

The ten boys of the College Choir had had their holiday postponed in order to assist ; and were, indeed, the backbone of the musical portion of the services. Their tone-quality and "grasp" were shewn to great advantage both in polyphonic music and in plain-chant.

This last subject fell very fortunately under the direction of Captain Burgess, who shepherded many confirmed Anglicans along unfamiliar paths of psalmody, and indeed of the Ordinary of the Mass, with considerable success.

Chanting in general received much attention. The Parish Psalter was used when the Psalms were sung to Anglican chants ; and its principles were expounded by Dr. Nicholson. The maximum flexibility of an Anglican single chant is attained when its notes are treated as one unbroken phrase ; and many short verses of the Psalms gain greatly in intelligibility when sung in this way. Antiphonal chanting might perhaps have received more attention with advantage. Not only does it abolish a certain breathless persistence ; but the rendering actually gains in beauty through the quick responses of side to side, or of voice to voice.

Besides the opening address from Dr. Nicholson, lectures were given by Mr. Harvey Grace on Congregational Practices, and Music for Small Organs ; by Captain Burgess on Plainsong ; by Dr. Coleman on Music in Village Churches ; and by Mr. Hylton Stewart on Music for the Communion Office, and on the Oxford Psalter.

Of almost equal value with these were the daily practices, in which all present were asked to share. On the last morning the St. Nicolas College Choir alone sang Charles Wood's beautiful Communion Service in the Phrygian Mode ; and, by special request, Dr. Nicholson's *Tantum ergo*.

The hymns at all the services were chosen with great care, and from a variety of sources. Many of us went away with our repertory enlarged and enriched.

The evenings were devoted to discussion, either of a given subject, or of such questions as the students might ask ; and it was extremely interesting for those who had attended similar Schools in past years to note how the "terrain" had changed : the incidence of reform having shifted to an entirely new quarter.

When Summer Schools of this nature are held yearly in every diocese we may feel that Church music is becoming once more the handmaid of, instead of the hindrance to, true Christianity.

TOUR OF THE ST. NICOLAS CHORISTERS.

During the first part of their summer holidays the ten choristers (otherwise known as the 16th Bromley Troop of Boy Scouts), with their Master accompanied by the Warden, visited various Churches affiliated to the School in the West of England, mainly in the Dioceses of Bristol and Salisbury. Arrangements for the tour were made by the respective local representatives, Col. Hek and the Rev. M. F. Alderson. The boys and their Scoutmaster were quartered in schoolrooms or other suitable buildings and carried their own camping equipment, but were provided with hospitality by the parishes visited ; during the day-time they usually practised Scout-work, or made expeditions, and in the evenings they sang services at different Churches, the Warden giving instructions, playing the organ and explaining the objects and ideals of the School. The Churches visited were as follows : in the neighbourhood of Bristol, St. John's Bedminster ; St. Anne's, Brislington ; Rodbourn, near Malmesbury ; Holy Nativity, Knowle ; St. Mary's, Leigh Woods ; St. Edmund's, Horfield ; Prestbury, near Cheltenham (three services) ; in the Salisbury Diocese, Sturminster Newton ; Marnhull ; Wimborne Minster (two services) ; Bemerton ; St. Paul's, Salisbury ; Shaftesbury ; Gillingham.

The boys left the College on July 31st and returned on August 11th, in time for the Summer School of the Church Music Society. During this period they sang no less than eighteen services, and gave practical proof that it is possible to do something for affiliated choirs even at a distance from the centre. It is hoped that similar "Chorister-Scout" tours may be arranged in different parts of the country in the future, for the effort seems to have been greatly appreciated and to have been of practical help to the Churches visited. The music was of course necessarily simple and arranged so far as possible to suit the needs of the various Churches, but a special effort was everywhere made to exemplify the true principles of chanting, both plain-song and Anglican, and wherever possible the Service was preceded by a congregational rehearsal.

NOTES ON SERVICE MUSIC.

The following notes are written by the members of the Committee appointed by the Church Music Society. Suitability to choirs of differing types is indicated where possible by the use of initials: **L** (large urban choirs), **S** (small urban choirs), **V** (village choirs).

Christmas.

THE OXFORD BOOK OF CAROLS. Published by the Oxford University Press. Words edited by Percy Dearmer. Music edited by R. Vaughan Williams and Martin Shaw. Music edition, complete, 6/- net. Complete words edition, 4/- net, also cheap edition of words, cloth 1/6 net, paper 1/- net. There are over 200 carols in this book, many of which can be obtained separately with the music. Besides being a practical book for Church, concert and home use, it is also intended for the general student of carols, for whom a full preface and historical notes are provided. In addition to old carols of many nations, there are many new carols which have been specially written and composed for the book. Among the authors are Laurence Binyon, G. K. Chesterton, Walter de la Mare, Eleanor Farjeon, Rose Fyleman, Robert Graves, Selwyn Image, A. A. Milne and A. H. Fox-Strangways, and among the composers Rutland Boughton, Harry Farjeon, Armstrong Gibbs, Holst, Ireland, R. O. Morris, S. H. Nicholson, Geoffrey Shaw, and the editors.

Reference should be made to Q.N.S. No. 3 for other suggestions for Christmas music.

New Year and Epiphany. December 28th and January 1st.

For December 28th (Holy Innocents Day). "These are they," Goss. Novello, 2d. Twenty-three bars of four slow beats in a bar for S.A.T.B.—preferably unaccompanied. A very beautiful little anthem, not difficult, but requiring great powers of holding on notes for a long time smoothly; real "sostenuto cantabile." Also suitable for other Saints' days.

V.

For January 1st. New Year. "Almighty God who hast me brought." Edited by West. By Thomas Ford. Novello, 2d. Time, 1½ minutes. Soprano: F to F; Alto: low A to B flat; Tenor: F to F; Bass: low G to B flat by middle C. A solemn and beautiful little anthem for New Year's morning, though equally suitable for any morning.

Christmas or Epiphany.

L.

"THE BLESSED BIRTH." An unaccompanied Carol for Christmas or Epiphany. Words by Wither. Music by Walford Davies. Novello, 2d. Time, about 3½ minutes. Set as a hymn in three verses. Requires refined singing and expression. Soprano: D to E flat (nine notes); Alto: B flat to C (nine notes); Tenor: F to F (eight notes); Bass: low F to D (thirteen notes).

Services.

EVENING CANTICLES (Plain Song and Mediaeval Music Society) 1/-. A beautifully printed and clearly arranged setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to the Eight Tones, including the solemn forms. The Old Notation is used, but the method of fitting the words is easily understood. No accompaniment is provided.

MORNING AND EVENING CANTICLES.

L.

ALAN GRAY. Te Deum, 9d.; Benedictus, 6d.; Jubilate, 6d.; Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, 9d. Morning in F; Evening in B flat. Stainer & Bell. Difficult but not beyond a good parish church choir. All voices occasionally divide, only for a phrase here and there. At the end of the Nunc Dimittis Gloria, sopranos divide into three for the Amen. Soprano solo and solo quartet in the Magnificat, where the solo is used as a descant above a four-part chorus. One phrase in the Nunc Dimittis is given to solo voices S.S.A.T. Compass of voice parts is a little greater than usual, Alto lowest note is G below the treble stave. There is a free organ accompaniment, which is relatively about as difficult as the voice parts, it requires a three manual organ, but it can be played with a certain amount of adjustment and loss of colour, on a two manual organ.

E. T. COOK. Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. In G. Faith Press, 2d. This service is for unaccompanied voices. Alternate verses sung by solo voice or full decani and chorus. No definite direction is given by the composer, whether the solo voice is to be sung by soprano or tenor, the choice can therefore be made by the choirmaster. It is intended to be sung in a free style according to the natural accentuation of the words, and this form makes an interesting variant from the usual type of service. Compass of voice parts is within the average, lowest note for the Alto, B below treble stave. Very occasionally S. T. and B. divide for a single note or a bar. The greatest difficulty in the performance of this service will be to obtain a good ensemble with an easy natural flow of the rhythm; the voice parts in themselves are not at all difficult.

S.

"MAGNIFICAT AND NUNC DIMITTIS in C." A. S. Warrell. Oxford University Press. 4d. This is an easy setting for choir and congregation. Mostly written in unison, with occasional simple four-part harmony, and two verses for choir alone singing in four parts unaccompanied. No parts divide, and the compass of all voices is small. Lowest note for Alto is B below the treble stave. The organ accompaniment is simple.

ORGAN PRELUDES.

A BOOK OF PRELUDES AND VERSETS for Organ, by Dr. Charles W. Pearce. Clowes & Sons, 2/-. It often happens that hymns are not long enough for the purpose for which they are required; this is commonly the case in Processions and hymns sung during the offertory. Dr. Pearce, in this collection, supplies a need by providing a series of admirably constructed Preludes and Interludes, specially designed for Processions, for twelve well-known hymns for Church Festivals. They consist in the main of contrapuntal treatment of different phrases of the tune; they are not difficult, and will be very useful where the organist is not too eager to improvise on every possible occasion. He may also use them as models of style for his own prepared improvisations.

A series of two sets of picture postcards of the College are available and can be obtained from the Warden, price 1/2 post free, each set of six.

Requests for back numbers of the Quarterly News Sheet are often received and readers will be glad to know that they can obtain these, price 2d. each, on application to the Secretary, at the College.