

# School of English Church Music

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## 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 FESTIVAL.

What happened at the Albert Hall on June 27th is known to all who were present (a very large number), all who listened to the music by wireless, who obtained a copy of the Service Book or read the description of its contents in the last number of the NEWS SHEET. It is not necessary therefore to describe the occasion but only to record a success which exceeded all expectation. The fine musical result was due to the well-disciplined co-operation of all concerned. Especially here we would congratulate the choirmasters on their highly efficient preparation of their singers which made their co-operation effective.

Thanks are due first to the *Daily Mail* whose "far sighted generosity," to quote the Bishop of Winchester's phrase, made this Festival possible. All the arrangements for transport of the choirs and their accommodation for the night worked perfectly. Each singer was supplied with a ticket which gave him full directions for entering the hall, robing and processing. It included a coupon for tea after rehearsal, and another for hotel accommodation if staying the night. Even the number of the omnibus which was to take him from the hall to the hotel in Bloomsbury was shown on this ticket. Everything had been thought of, and this example of organisation will be invaluable when the School of English Church Music undertakes unchaperoned the responsibility of a similar Festival.

Next, the School must thank the Bishop of Winchester, whose address was a practical inspiration to all who heard it. He showed the splendid ideal to be aimed at in Church music, and stirred his hearers to realize that everyone may do something to attain it, whether with their gift of voice, or their gift of money. Would that the gift could be all voice and no money! But that is impossible. The future of the School's work, so well begun, must depend on how many people fill up the blue forms supplied to the audience in their programmes.

The small secretarial staff of the School shouldered the burden of their share in the organisation splendidly. About 2,000 letters and circulars had to be sent out to the 182 choirs who took part. Copies of the music were distributed to each member of the choir through the correspondents (*i.e.*, about 1,300), and a further 2,400 copies were sold to affiliated choirs. The choir tickets, railway vouchers, and other forms were all dispatched in one day. It took eight people a full day's work to prepare that mail. To the local choir correspondents of the choirs who did their parts and refrained from adding unnecessary correspondence to the extra work which the Festival entailed at headquarters, a special word of thanks is due.

Dr. Nicholson would not wish here to be thanked, though most of all the Festival's success was due to him; but the School must express through the NEWS SHEET, its gratitude to Sir Walford Davies, under whose inspiring leadership the audience was "tuned in" by united hymn singing, to Dr. Ernest Bullock of Westminster Abbey, and Dr. Henry Ley of Eton, whose organ playing was an essential part of the Festival's music, to the four priests who acted as Cantors of the service, and to the Bishop of London, who amidst all the pre-occupations of the moment, found time to welcome this Congress of Singers into his Diocese with his presence and his blessing.

## CHOIRS REPRESENTED AT THE FESTIVAL

(Arranged under Dioceses).

### BATH AND WELLS.

Burnham-on-Sea, St. Peter;  
Mells, St. Andrew.

### BIRMINGHAM.

Edgbaston Parish Church;  
Edgbaston, St. James.

### BLACKBURN.

Blackpool Parish Church;  
Blackpool, St. Stephens-on-the-Cliffs; Habergham, All Saints;  
Nelson, St. Mary-the-Virgin.

### BRISTOL.

Bedminster, St. John;  
Knowle, Holy Nativity; St. Mary Redcliffe; Clifton, All Saints; Lacock, St. Cyriac;  
Rodbourne and Corston.

### CANTERBURY.

Folkestone, St. Mary and St. Eanswythe; Lyminge, St. Mary and St. Ethelburga; Rainham, St. Margaret.

### CARLISLE.

Hevershal, St. Mary; Whitehaven, St. Nicholas.

### CHELMSFORD.

Billericay, St. Mary Magdalene; Great Warley, St. Mary the Virgin; Leigh-on-Sea, St. Margaret; Prittlewell, St. Mary the Virgin; Walthamstow, St. Barnabas; West Ham Parish Church; Woodford Parish Church.

### CHESTER.

Cheadle Heath, St. Augustine.

### CHICHESTER.

Arundel, St. Nicholas; Barnham, St. Mary; Bognor, St. John; Brede, St. George; Brighton, St. Mary; Chailey (Heritage Craft School), St. Martin's Chapel; Chichester, St. Paul; Easebourne, St. Mary; Fernhurst, St. Margaret; Ferring, St. Andrew; Groombridge, St. Thomas; Heathfield, St. Richard; Horsted Keynes, St. Giles; Hove, St. Philip, Aldrington, Lewes, St. John sub Castro; Littlehampton, St. James; Woodmancote, St. Peter.

### COVENTRY.

Preston-on-Stour, St. Mary the Virgin.

### DERBY.

The Cathedral; Derby, St. Christopher; Heanor, St. Lawrence.

### DURHAM.

Stockton-on-Tees, St. Peter; Whickham, St. Mary the Virgin.

### EXETER.

Broadhembury, St. Andrew; Chittlehampton, St. Hieritha; Feniton, St. Andrew; Silverton, St. Mary.

### GLOUCESTER.

Cheltenham, St. Matthew.

### GUILDFORD.

Busbridge, St. John Baptist; Farncombe, St. John Evangelist; Frimley, St. Paul; Great Bookham, St. Nicolas; Headley, St. Mary.

### HEREFORD.

Tenbury, St. Michael's College.

### LEICESTER.

The Cathedral; Leicester, St. Peter.

### LICHFIELD.

Hanley Old Church; Myddle, St. Peter; Wombourne, St. Benedict; Womburidge, St. Mary and St. Leonard.

### LINCOLN.

Blyton, St. Martin; Bourne Abbey; Gainsborough Parish Church; Gainsborough, St. John the Divine; Spalding, St. John Baptist.

### LONDON.

Chelsea, Christ Church; Cockfosters, Christ Church; Ealing, St. Saviour; East Finchley, All Saints; East Twickenham, St. Stephen; Hamilton Terrace, St. Mark; Hampstead, St. Saviour; Hanwell, St. Mellitus; Holborn, St. Sepulchre; Hornsey, St. George; Munster Square, St. Mary Magdalene; Muswell Hill, St. James; Perivale Parish Church; Poplar, All Saints; Red Lion Square, St. John; Turnham Green, Christ Church; Westminster Abbey Special Choir.

### MANCHESTER.

Salford, St. Clement.

### NORWICH.

King's Lynn, St. Margaret; Great Yarmouth Parish Church; Lowestoft, St. Peter, Kirkley.

### OXFORD.

Abingdon, St. Helen; Brill, All Saints; Chieveley, St. Mary the Virgin; Fenny Stratford, St. Martin; Hardwicke, St. Mary; Loudwater, St. Peter; Stewkley; St. Michael; Wing, All Saints; Wolvercote, St. Peter.

### PETERBOROUGH.

Northampton, St. Paul.

### PORTSMOUTH.

Carisbrooke Parish Church, Isle of Wight; Newport Parish Church, Isle of Wight; Ryde, Isle of Wight, St. John Oatefield.

### RIPON.

Kirkby Fleetham Parish Church.

### ROCHESTER.

Beckenham, St. James; Bexley Heath, Christ Church; Bickley Hall School Chapel; Bickley St. George; Bromley, St. Mark; Chelsfield, St. Martin; Dunton Green, St. John the Divine; Hildenborough, St. John Evangelist; Northfleet, St. Botolph; St. Mary Cray, St. Mary;

Chislehurst, College of St. Nicolas.

### ST. ALBANS.

Arkley, St. Peter; Aspley Guise, St. Botolph; Bushey, St. James and St. Paul; St. Albans, St. Saviour; Turnford, St. Clement; Welwyn Garden City, St. Francis of Assisi.

### ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH.

Bramfield Parish Church; Bury St. Edmunds, St. Mary; Cavendish, St. Mary the Virgin; East Bergholt, St. Mary; Ipswich, St. Mary le Tower; Ixworth, St. Mary; Newton Green, All Saints; Risby, St. Giles.

### SALISBURY.

Baydon, St. Nicholas; Bemerton, St. John; East Stour, Christ Church; Gillingham, St. Mary; Morgan's Vale, St. Birinus; Salisbury, St. Paul; Wimborne, St. John.

### SHEFFIELD.

Goole, St. Paul; Sheffield, St. Oswald.

### SOUTHWARK.

Eltham, Holy Trinity; Rotherhithe, Christ Church; Southfields, St. Barnabas; South Beddington, St. Michael and All Angels; Tulse Hill, Holy Trinity; Wimbledon, Christ Church.

### SOUTHWELL.

Nottingham, St. Cyprian.

### TRURO.

The Cathedral; St. Ives Parish Church.

### WINCHESTER.

Boldre, St. John; Boscombe, St. John Evangelist; Bourne-mouth, St. Peter; Bramley, All Saints; Bransgore, St. Mary; Burley, St. John Baptist; Eastrop, St. Mary; Lymington, St. Thomas; Lyndhurst, St. Michael and All Angels; Mattingley Parish Church; Milton, St. Mary Magdalene; Ringwood, St. Peter and St. Paul.

### WORCESTER.

Bengeworth, St. Peter; Hales owen, St. John Baptist; Worcester, St. Mary; Wychbold, St. Mary the Virgin.

### YORK.

Bainton, St. Andrew.

### WALES.

Bangor Cathedral; Bangor, St. James; Buckley, St. Matthew; Holyhead, St. Seiriol; Llandegai, St. Tegai; Porthkerry, St. Curig; Rhosemor, St. Paul; St. Asaph Cathedral; Trevechin, St. Cadoc.

### SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, St. John Evangelist; Falkirk, Christ Church; Glasgow, St. Mary's Cathedral; Rosslyn Chapel.

### IRELAND.

Larne and Inver Parish Church; Waterford Cathedral.

## ACTIVITIES IN THE DIOCESES.

In October last, Dr. Nicholson took the College Choir to Chelmsford to sing Evensong in the Cathedral, when all the incumbents in the Diocese were invited to be present.

This beginning of the School's activities in the Chelmsford Diocese was followed up by the Secretary of the S.E.C.M., when he visited parishes in and around Chelmsford and out as far as Maldon, Dunmow and Brentwood. The authorities of the Diocese are considering proposals for the formation of a branch of the School in Chelmsford.

In addition to conducting at least ten sectional rehearsals for the Albert Hall Festival, Dr. Nicholson has conducted a few local choir gatherings and on May 19th, he addressed two keen gatherings of clergy, organists and undergraduates at the Music Schools, Cambridge. Professor E. J. Dent took the chair at one meeting, and Dr. Alan Gray at the other; Mr. Hubert Middleton of Ely Cathedral was responsible for organising the meetings.

## CONFERENCES AT ST. NICOLAS COLLEGE.

On April 22nd, Tuesday in Easter Week, the Diocesan Representatives of the School gathered together for the two-fold purpose of learning how very much alive the School is, and of discussing certain matters affecting the welfare of the School!

There were present the following: Dr. Sydney H. Nicholson (*in the Chair*), Mr. F. D. L. Penny (Representative of Affiliated Choirs on Council of School of English Church Music), Rev. W. N. and Mrs. Matthews (St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese), Rev. C. P. Banks (Canterbury), Col. The Hon. S. Pleydell Bouverie (Guildford Diocese), Dr. R. H. P. Coleman (Peterborough Diocese), Mr. Bernard Ramsey (Oxford Diocese), Mr. E. L. Street (Oxford Diocese), Rev. Stuart M. Morgan (Chichester Diocese), Mr. S. H. Baker (Chichester Diocese), Rev. M. F. Alderson (Salisbury Diocese), Rev. G. L. Michell (Worcester Diocese), Mr. F. W. Dunnill (Birmingham Diocese).

The Representatives assembled after lunch for general discussion; this continued until 4.30. The volunteers who helped the skeleton choir—the student-choirmen being away—practised with the boys at 5 o'clock and sang Service at 6 o'clock. The session was resumed at 8 o'clock. The Conference officially came to an end with the recitation of the Guild Office in the College Chapel at 10.30 p.m., but the Representatives spent the night at the College at the invitation of the Warden.

The Holy Communion (with music) was celebrated in the morning.

It was decided that subscriptions and affiliation fees should be paid on January 1st, on and from January 1st, 1931, and that any adjustments that were necessary in order to bring existing subscriptions and affiliation fees into line should be made on a quarterly basis. An advice will be sent at the beginning of the year to every body concerned.

It was agreed that the School of English Church Music should take preliminary steps towards publishing annually a composite book of Church Music. The general feeling of the Meeting was that this was probably the most useful thing the School could do for its affiliated choirs, and it was, therefore, left for the authorities to approach the Music publishers, whose willing co-operation would be necessary for the successful carrying out of the scheme.

A plan for furthering the organization of the School and its activities in the Dioceses was discussed.

## CHAPLAINCY OF ST. NICOLAS COLLEGE.

The Rev. N. de Langdale, formerly Precentor of St. Anne's, Soho, has been appointed Resident Chaplain to St. Nicolas College, and came into residence there on June 10th. The Rev. G. H. Salter continues as Honorary Chaplain, so that the new appointment is a real addition of strength to the staff. The College retains the interest of Mr. Salter in its work, it will still profit by his experienced advice and maintain the close connection with St. Sepulchre's Church. Mr. de Langdale's sphere of action lies in the daily services of the College Chapel and in the welfare of the resident students (now happily much increased in numbers), the choristers and household staff. Moreover, in him the warden has a colleague who in case of need can act as his deputy within the College.

## THE CATHEDRAL REPERTORY.

The latest publication of the Church Music Society is "A Repertoire of English Cathedral Music" (S.P.C.K. and O.U.P., Is.), compiled at the request of the annual conference of Cathedral Organists by Edmund H. Fellowes and C. Hylton Stewart. It is a list of Communion, Morning and Evening Services, together with Anthems (the last named given in two classifications, alphabetically according to composers and according to suitability for Church seasons), and is for the most part confined to works obtainable in actavo editions. It is meant to provide a standard of reference. Some popular works are excluded because the compilers consider them to be bad; others excellent in themselves, are left out presumably as not belonging properly to the Cathedral. Under Communion Services, for example, there is no mention of Merbecke or of any plainsong mass. It is a list of music in harmony by English composers of all ages.

The list should have a twofold value for those in charge of the repertory of Cathedrals and similarly constituted choirs. If they scan it for additions they will probably find in it many fine works hitherto unknown to them; they should also look to see how much of their existing repertory is left out of the list. If they fail to find mention of their favourite anthems and services there, they may well ask themselves whether they can defend their own taste against that of the compilers.

## 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).

### COMMUNION SERVICES.

#### Unison.

**MERBECKE**, with adaptations for the alternative Communion Service of 1928, including Gloria for the Scottish Liturgy. Set with organ accompaniment by J. H. Arnold. O.U.P., 10d.

**THE SCOTTISH RITE**, a short setting of the Liturgy to simple plainsong melodies, with an organ accompaniment by J. H. Arnold. O.U.P., 10d.

Both the above can be unreservedly recommended. If Merbecke is to be treated as plainsong we know of no better accompaniment than Mr. Arnold's, while the simple dignity of the melodies set to the words of the Scottish Rite are eminently suitable for any choir, large or small, and could easily be learnt (and indeed should universally be known) by the congregation.

#### Harmonized.

**HENRY COLEMAN**, Communion Service in C. (S.P.C.K., 6d.), includes Introit (Ps. 43), ninefold Kyrie, Benedictus and Agnus Dei. The Introit is set to Tone II, 1st ending and varied organ accompaniments. The Creed is an arrangement of Merbecke, and it is suggested that any plainsong Creed may be used with this service. The original parts of this service are in a simple fourpart harmony with occasional passages in five parts where the additional part (2nd treble) is optional. Both treble and tenor parts sometimes reach the high G, and as all parts lie rather high it is suggested that the service may be transposed down a tone.

**HERBERT POPPLE**. "Missa surrexit Christus." (Faith Press, 9d.). A four voiced setting founded on the tune "Christ ist erstanden" as given in "Songs of Syon," and dedicated to the editor of that collection, the Rev. G. R. Woodward. It contains "Kyrie Eleison," as well as Responses to Commandments. It is written in simple polyphony which should be within the capacity of any reasonably well-balanced choir. The alto generally lies within the octave of B, but reaches the high C at the climax of the Gloria.

The Music of the Preface and Proper Prefaces, including the Proper Prefaces of 1928. Oxford Press. In plainsong notation and without accompaniments. This is printed in clear, bold type, and should prove useful. The plainsong is that of the Sarum books, which is simpler than that of the Missale Romanum, and which is being used in an increasing number of churches.

#### A Thanksgiving Te Deum.

The chief musical feature of the service of thanksgiving, which in the presence of the King and Queen reopened the choir and dome of St. Paul's Cathedral on June 25th, was a Solemn Thanksgiving Te Deum composed by Dr. Stanley Marchant, organist of St. Pauls. It is dedicated by permission to the King, and is published by the O.U.P. (6d.). Though written for an historic occasion and given then with additional accompaniments for brass instruments, the general lay-out is that of a festal setting for choir and organ suitable for Cathedral or similar use. It is written in a concise style without repetitions of words, is remarkable for a bold phraseology involving frequent changes of time and key signatures, is free in harmonic style, but never eccentric, and its texture varies from unison passages to divisions of the voices into 6 or 7 parts. It should be a valuable addition to the repertoires of choirs with adequate means for its interpretation.

### ANTHEMS, Etc.

#### L. or S.

**TWO SHORT ANTHEMS**. Deliver us, O Lord our God, O Praise the Lord. Adrian Batten. Edited by E. H. Fellowes (Tudor Church Music). O.U.P. 4d. Simple polyphonic writing. All voices in easy range, no treble or tenor note above F. Alto part (C to A flat) could be sung by Second Trebles. Should be sung unaccompanied. Each piece takes about one minute.

#### L. or S.

**EVENING CANTATA**. Round me falls the Night. Percy W. Whitlock. O.U.P. 5d. Harmonic and simple polyphonic, with a verse for trebles. (Full). Writing straightforward and tonality easy. All voices divide very simply, except the bass which is in the last verse, in two parts. Voices all in easy range, except for some low E's in bass part, which can be omitted. About five minutes. Organ interlude and accompaniment essential, but easy.

#### S.

**ANTHEM**. King of Glory, King of Peace. Arthur S. Warrell. O.U.P. 3d. Unaccompanied, harmonic, diatonic. Any choir capable of singing hymns unaccompanied could master this. Voices divide in the last chord only. and this is optional. Some high D's in bass, G's in tenor, and treble, with an A in the last. Alto part might be sung by second trebles. About two minutes.

#### L. S. or V.

**HYMN-ANTHEM**. Jesu, grant me this I pray. Orlando Gibbons, with Faux bourdon by E. C. Bairstow. This may be sung in the following ways **N**: 1, Unaccompanied; 2, The Congregation may join in verses 1, 3 and 4; 3, The Faux bourdon may be played on the organ, the choir singing in unison in verses 2 and 3, the other verses being sung in harmony. 1 is suitable for L choirs, two trebles necessary. 3 is suitable for S or V choirs.