



28 June 2006

Cathedral Choir receives major financial boost in its quest to survive.

Truro Cathedral Choir has been awarded a £30,000 grant from the *Friends of Cathedral Music*, to help safeguard the development of choral scholarships at the cathedral.

At their recent AGM held at Durham Cathedral, *Friends of Cathedral Music* (FCM) announced details of recipient choirs who will receive a share of the record-breaking £1¼ million made available to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the organisation. The FCM was founded in 1956 by Ronald Sibthorp, then at Truro Cathedral, and aims to support church and cathedral choirs in need. Their Chairman, Professor Peter Toyne said, "Since our formation, we have now given £1¼ million to the choirs of Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedrals, large parish churches, and colleges in the UK and abroad. This is the level of giving which we must try and sustain if we are to ensure that Britain's rich heritage of choral music, admired the world over, is to be enjoyed by future generations". Robert Sharpe, Musical Director at the cathedral, was delighted with this piece of good news, "I am absolutely thrilled that we have received one of the top grants this year, it has been a difficult year financially and this is a real boost to everyone associated with the choir and the cathedral. The money will be used to set up a Choral Scholarship fund, which will sponsor a student, usually in their gap year, to further their musical education and musical careers."

The choral scholars join the lay vicars, who are permanent employees, for a gap year either immediately before or immediately after university or college.

Together, they make up the 12 adult singers of the choir, 4 counter-tenors, 4 tenors and 4 basses. The soprano part is sung by the 18 boy choristers who are all pupils at Polwhele House School, and the cathedral is hoping to attract sponsorship of individual boy choristers as well in the future.

You can hear the Cathedral Choir in concert on Wednesday 12th July at 7.30pm, tickets £10 on the door.

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