

St. Bartholomew's Choir

February 1998

Recent Events

Much has happened since the November choir newsletter! Never before has the choir been so busy. A number of special events stand out:-

* Wednesday November 26th - The men's section of the choir sang at the American Embassy's Thanksgiving Day Service at St. Bartholomews in the presence of the Ambassador, Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith.

* Sunday December 7th - We had a full church for our Concert of Carols and Festive Readings as a result of which over £1300 was raised for church funds and over £400 was donated to the Samaritans. Alan Stanford once again captured the Christmas spirit in his selected readings and we are very much in his debt.

* Saturday December 13th - The boys performed again this year in the Culwick Choral Society's Christmas Concert in the National Concert Hall. Malcolm Wisener is of course the Chorus Master of the Culwick. At this concert he really needed "Roller Skates" as he flitted from the organ, to accompanying Bryan Hoey on the piano;

to conducting the boys.

* Sunday December 14th, Monday December 22nd, Tuesday December 23rd - The three Raymond Gubbay concerts gave the boys the exciting opportunity to sing in front of capacity audiences. The Waterfront Hall, Belfast was quite an adventure and the choir joined with the Orchestra of St. Cecilia, Carlow Choral Society, Philip Simms (Conductor), Crispin Steel-Perkins (Trumpet), and Peter Evans (Tenor). The boys received an especially warm welcome from an audience of over 2,000 people. The performances in the National Concert Hall were identical apart from two changes of artists - Richard Cooke (Conductor) and Arthur Davies (Tenor). The fees earned will be going towards the costs of our Paris trip. Special thanks must go to Scanveco/Saab Cars for paying for the coach to and from Belfast.

* Friday December 19th - The full choir gave a concert in the Hugh Lane Gallery for "their friends". This was a lovely building to sing in and the concert was extremely well received.

CD Recording Progress

Two out of our three CD Recording sessions have now taken place and progress is going well. We have had some very intense practices over the last few weeks but the final CD should make all the effort well worth it. It is fair to say that none of us realised exactly how much hard work was

involved in the production of a CD. There is also a problem with the odd door creaking or an airplane flying overhead which demands additional takes. With a little bit of luck the CD should hopefully be ready for release by May.

Paris, here we come!

Getting There

The choir is flying to Paris by Ryanair. One small exception to the travel arrangements is that Bobby Barden is going to drive Rosslare Cherbourg Paris carrying the music, the choir robes, and a small number of "bodies".

Accommodation

We are going to be staying at the hostel "Centre International de Sejour de Paris, Maurice Ravel" that is in the Arrondissement 12, Paris.

Cost of Trip

The choir has worked hard through its concerts and almost every member will be contributing to the air fares. We may however be close on £3,000 short, which we will have to strive to make up by early summer concerts and other events. We have once again applied to the Cultural Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs for a contribution. We have also contacted the French ambassador to see if he could help. We are hopeful that something may come out of this.

Support/Sponsorship Opportunities

We would very much welcome any sponsorship which parents or friends of the choir may be able to uncover. These could be acknowledged in all material if wished.

There are many possible opportunities, for example such matters as *sponsoring the coach between the various locations, an outing for the boys in Paris, the cost of hostel accommodation, and the cost of food and catering.* Please talk to either

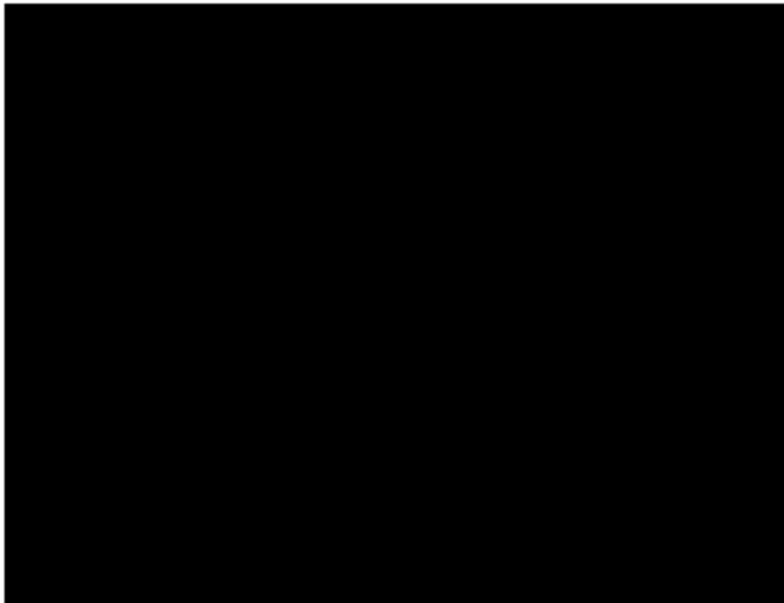
Bobby Barden or Malcolm Wisener if you can help us towards any of these costs.

Get Well Soon

Father John has taken himself back in to the Adelaide Hospital to have his medication adjusted. We wish him all the best and we are all extremely pleased that both Rhona and John are able to come with us on our trip to Paris.

A final note...

Nous ne supportons pas d'attendre le voyage; Nous sommes certain que ce sera divertissant.



La Madeleine

	<u>Outbound</u>	<u>Return</u>
Flight:	FR 024	FR 027
	Dublin -> Beauvais	Beauvais -> Dublin
Date:	Monday April 13th	Sunday April 19th
Time:	13:55	20:30

<u>Date</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wed 15th	Chartres Cathedral	5:00pm
Fri 17th	St. Georges (Anglican)	7:00pm
Sat 18th	La Madeleine	6:00pm
Sun 19th	St. Sulpice	10:30am

That Belfast Trip...

We are very fortunate indeed that the coach which carried us up to the Waterfront hall in Belfast had a video. What was surprising however was the video cassette which proved the most popular. It turned out to be, believe it or not, "The Wind in the Willows"! It was ahead of both "Mr. Bean" and "Fawlty Towers". Does that surprise you? It certainly surprised me! It is extremely nice in these days of North/South talks to be able to say that the welcome we received from everyone in the wonderful Waterfront complex was so warm! This goes for both the Concert Hall staff and the Security staff. We'd also like to mention Lyndsay Armstrong, the manager of the Dublin based St. Cecelia's Orchestra. Among his many other kindnesses, he managed to procure seating for the supporters in the best seats in the hall!

The Lord God Made Them All

A very interesting feature appeared in the "Irish Independent" on Friday February 6th under this heading. It was written by Blanaid Quilligan about her experience of St. Barthomews since her son, Kevin O'Connor, joined the choir more than eight years ago. Kevin moved into the men's section last year and his view is also included in the article. This is a lovely article covering the friendly atmosphere which St. Bartholomew's strives to be to those of all Christian traditions.

"People stop to chat, or they go for coffee after the service. The vicar will come out and shake everybody's hand. There is a nice, relaxed feeling."

(If you would like a photocopy of the article, Bobby Barden has a few!).

Go-Karting

The now annual Go-Karting for the younger gentlemen took place on Monday 28th December in Kylemore Karting, followed by a delicious dinner provided courtesy of Mrs. Barden. Here are the results:

<u>Who</u>	<u>Avg. Lap</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>Fastest Lap</u>
Richard Bannister	33.42s	24	26.23s
Bobby Barden	27.39s	29	24.36s
Ian Ellis	32.02s	25	24.84s
Brian Gageby	34.81s	23	26.73s
Robin Heather	27.08s	29	24.00s
Stephen Kerr	31.64s	25	23.93s
Liam Lyons	28.81s	27	24.55s
Gillen Motherway	38.10s	21	27.02s
Kevin O'Connor	49.09s	17	31.43s
Doug Poynton	31.20s	25	25.01s

Special thanks to Bobby Barden for once again organising this fun event.

Newsletter Layout, Production, and Design: Richard Bannister

Choirmaster: Malcolm Wisener GRSM, FTCL, ARCO, 122 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel 01-6683237
Treasurer: Neville Beresford, 1 Linden Vale, Proby Square, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Tel 01-2885693
Secretary: Bobby Barden, Forgefield, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16. Tel 01-4945671.