

St. Bartholomew's Choir

February 1999

Post Easter Trip Worcester & St. David's

During the last 10 years, the choir has visited Ripon, Hereford (twice!), Exeter, Lichfield, and Paris. This Easter, we will be spending three days at Worcester Cathedral in England, followed by a weekend at St.

David's Cathedral, which is located in the extreme south-west of Wales.

On the second half of the trip, at St. David's Cathedral, the boys will be staying on a farm - which they will no doubt enjoy!

| <u>Outbound</u> | <u>Return</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Ferry: Dublin -> Hoyhead | Pembroke -> Rosslare |
| Date: Tuesday April 6th | Monday April 12th |
| Time: 09:45 -> 13:15 | 15:00 -> 19:15 |

Organ Restoration

Malcolm Wisener presented a report on the organ to the Vestry on Wednesday 3rd of February. The report outlined the work which needs to be carried out on it - and not surprisingly, it is very substantial.

The organ was originally built in 1884. It was substantially rebuilt in 1963, when it was changed from a three manual instrument to a two manual. The manual sound boards and certain elements of the old tracker action were retained

without overhaul.

The report suggested a number of options, but essentially we are looking at a total cost somewhere in the region of £150,000.

The Vestry has appointed a "feasibility committee" to consider the financial implications of this refurbishment and to report back on which option we should take.

If anyone has any fundraising ideas for us, please pass them on - they will obviously be needed!

Doug Entertains

Doug gave the gentlemen of the choir a lovely party on Sunday January 3rd, with good measures of their favourite 'beverages'. Also, the most delicious morsels of food which you would of course expect to get on Merrion Avenue, Blackrock! Good stuff Doug - when's the next one?

St. Neville

It's no harm to occasionally single out a person for special praise - especially somebody who does so much for the choir. Neville Beresford, in his role as Honorary Treasurer combines multiple tasks with the greatest of efficiency. He looks after the finances; he is "paymaster general"; he is the liaison with the Parish Treasurer; he keeps the bank happy; he transports some of the boys around when needed; he controls the CD sales; and when the choir travel abroad, he is prepared to put effort into all that needs to be done. I know that many parents appreciate all he does. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Tim Thurston's Busy Music Life

In addition to being an important "stalwart" of our bass line, Tim busies himself with lectures and broadcasts covering the widest musical spectrums. I'm sure many of you greatly enjoyed his RTE FM3 programs, entitled "Gloria", in which he introduced his listeners to the most beautiful in the sacred choral music repertoire. These ended some weeks ago.

Starting on February 28th will be his contrasting Sunday night Jazz program, "Con Tempo" which earned high praise last year.

Tim will also be giving a series of "Music Talks" in the National Concert Hall on Saturday mornings, starting on February 27th - and

continuing on March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th - from 11:00AM to 12:30PM. He will be playing a wide range of music and he will talk about it in his usual enthusiastic way. Further details can be had from the National Concert Hall, telephone 01-4751572.

Tim has also been invited to give the first lecture in the Royal Irish Academy of Music series entitled "The Music Experience". Tim's lecture takes place from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on Tuesday 23rd of February. The other contributors to the series are John O'Connor on Keyboard, James Cavanagh on Classical Music, Ronan Guilfoyle on Jazz, Paddy

Glackin on Traditional Music, and finally Ian Fox on Opera. Details from the RIAM - Telephone 01-6764412. Incidentally, last year Tim was invited to become a governor of the RIAM.

Feedback on that "Gloria" FM3 series was apparently very positive and with FM3 Music set to go 24 hours on May 1st, maybe the program can become a regular Sunday feature with church music reflecting the church year. In talking to Tim, he suggests this could happen if enough people write directly to Seamus Crimmins at RTE Donnybrook. So start writing!

Raymond Gubbay Concerts

Following their successful performances last year, the boys were invited once again to sing in "The Glory of Christmas", a concert presented by Raymond Gubbay Ltd, on December 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

The first of the three concerts was in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, and the other two were in

the National Concert Hall.

After the concert in Belfast, the boys met up briefly with Robert Lindsay, who had to leave the choir last year when his family moved to Belfast.

The concerts were enjoyable for all, even though the jokes were the same as last year ("Oh little town of Birmingham...").

CD Sales

Following very successful sales over the Christmas season, the rate of sale has understandably slowed down. However, around 700 CDs have been sold to date, which is most creditable. While the CDs cost £11.99 in the shops, Neville Beresford will still let you have them for £10 in the church. You can also order them from him by telephone.

Go-Karting

The annual Go-Karting for the gentlemen took place on Tuesday 29th of December - followed, of course, by a delicious meal courtesy of Mrs. Barden. During the party afterwards, Alan Fletcher provided us with several intellectual ghost stories, and Des Ryan and Nick McMurry demonstrated their talents on the piano.

| <u>Who</u> | <u>Avg. Lap</u> | <u>MPH</u> | <u>Best Lap</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Richard Bannister | 28.51 | 22 | 26.97 |
| Bobby Barden | 28.52 | 23 | 25.90 |
| Ian Ellis | 29.66 | 22 | 26.72 |
| David Kerr | 28.01 | 23 | 25.28 |
| Stephen Kerr | 28.52 | 23 | 25.85 |
| Alan Latimer | 29.57 | 22 | 26.50 |
| Nick McMurry | 28.46 | 23 | 25.07 |
| Gillen Motherway | 29.05 | 22 | 26.30 |
| Doug Poynton | 29.29 | 22 | 26.07 |
| Des Ryan | 29.13 | 22 | 25.78 |

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

David Falconer's Accident

We have been deprived of our Organ Scholar since Christmas when David suffered a most unfortunate kitchen accident severing a nerve in his thumb. Fortunately he is now making a good recovery and he hopes to be able to play again in a few weeks. We are delighted to have him back now conducting and he has been able to return to his main position in Notre Dame College, Churchtown, where he teaches French and Music - as well as directing their fine choir.

Liam Lyons - 21st Birthday

On Saturday January 2nd, Liam "Exeter" Lyons had his 21st Birthday Party - at his parents home. This was attended by a few of the gentlemen. Liam brought home with him a delightful girlfriend from the Bristol area. Congratulations to Liam - and wear that scarf of yours when going down to the Exeter docks area!

St. Francis Xavier

Keeping up the tradition of the last few years, the choir sang the 7:00pm mass at St. Francis Xavier's Church in Gardiner Street on Saturday, January 23rd.

This year the main setting was Haydn's Little Organ Mass. In addition to that, we sang Bruckner's

Ave Maria and Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus.

At the conclusion of the mass, we received extremely warm applause from the congregation.

Unfortunately our friend Fr. Edmund Grace was unable to attend as he was quite ill with the 'flu.

New Anthem

As a token of appreciation for the choir singing at their wedding, Robin and Julie Heather have presented us with copies of a beautiful new anthem - "Lord let me know mine End" by Maurice Greene.

Carols & Readings

This year's concert with Alan Stanford was held on December 13th - and once again it attracted a full house. This year, the concert yielded just over £1,400 for the parish - who contributed part of the sum to the Omagh fund.

John T Gilbert Memorial Lecture

Congratulations to our cantoris tenor, Dr. Alan Fletcher, for a most amusing lecture entitled "What a Performance! Street entertainers in Medieval & Renaissance Dublin" which was given on Friday, January 22nd, in the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor was in the chair and Alan received a standing ovation.



Worcester Cathedral



St. David's Cathedral

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.

Newsletter: Richard Bannister. E-mail: richard@bannister.org.