

Cornwall International Male Choral Festival Ltd.

Presents



CORNWALL INTERNATIONAL
MALE CHORAL *festival*
27th April - 1st May 2017

TRURO – CORNWALL – UK

www.cimcf.uk

“The World’s Largest Male Choral Festival”

INTRODUCTION

Male voice choirs/ensembles will again have a wonderful opportunity to gather in Cornwall, one of the most beautiful counties of England, for a unique festival of male choir concerts, other singing opportunities, workshops, competitions, socialising and sightseeing.

The male choir tradition in Cornwall has long been a significant part of its cultural life. 30 male choirs are active in the County. New boys choirs are being established here and boys / youth Male choirs from across the world will be particularly welcomed.

This ***Eighth*** International Festival will be centred around the very attractive cathedral city of Truro. However, all choirs involved in the Festival will have the opportunity of performing in other venues and tourist attractions in towns and villages across Cornwall.

The previous Festivals (the first was in 2003) were considered resounding successes. Each year the Festival has grown and 70 choirs participated in 2015. Over 3000 singers took part in more than 60 concerts and events in 50 different venues including Truro Cathedral, The Hall for Cornwall, the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Minack Theatre. Other venues have been added for 2017. Press reports of the Festival have included phrases such as, *“exceeded everyone’s expectations”, “a triumph”, “superb opportunity to develop friendships across continents”, “practically every concert was sold out”*.

The Festival aims to bring male choirs from the UK and across the world together to join with Cornish choirs in a spirit of musical friendship and song. In previous Festivals, choirs have come from Australia, Canada, South Africa, France, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Holland, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Switzerland, Finland, Faroe Islands, Jersey, Poland, Russia, Sweden, USA as well as from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Choirs and ensembles of all sizes, ages and traditions are invited with their supporters to join in this exciting Eighth Festival and Cornwall looks forward to welcoming you to the ‘World’s largest Male Choir Festival’!

Robert T. Elliott
Festival Director

CORNWALL

Situated in the far south-western part of the UK, Cornwall is known for its ancient heritage, beautiful landscapes, rugged cliffs and golden sandy beaches, picturesque towns and fishing villages, magnificent public gardens (like the Lost Gardens of Heligan) and the stunning Eden Project - which houses a vast global garden within breathtaking space-age conservatories.

The new National Maritime Museum in Falmouth and the Tate Gallery in St. Ives are recent additions to Cornwall's cultural heritage. It is a wonderful place to visit and an ideal situation for an International Male Choir Festival. Truro, the County town has a superb Cathedral, elegant cobbled streets and Georgian town houses. It is set at the head of the Truro river. Truro is Cornwall's cultural, commercial and administrative centre and has excellent pedestrianised shopping. It also boasts the Royal Cornwall Museum. The Festival International Gala Concerts and the International Choral Competitions will be held in the well-equipped 1,000 seater Hall for Cornwall and the historic Cathedral.

TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN CORNWALL

Being in the far south west of the UK, travel to Cornwall takes time! From any of the major airports (Heathrow or Gatwick), the fastest train journey will take nearly five hours. Coach travel from a ferry or Eurostar / Le Shuttle point of arrival (e.g. Dover or Folkestone) takes seven hours.

Newquay Cornwall Airport has limited services outside the UK. However, choirs have previously chartered aircraft arriving there to participate in a previous Festival. Exeter, Heathrow, Gatwick all have excellent European and worldwide connections. All are served by fast train services to Cornwall. The Festival website maintains up to date links with all relevant transport hubs and travel companies and the Festival office has access to all necessary time table and other relevant information. Much of this will also be posted on the Festival website to assist choirs making their own travel arrangements.

The Festival Office can also negotiate with local bus and coach companies on behalf of visiting choirs. In the past, pickups at airports and long distance travel as well as just local journeys have been organised for choirs. Because the Festival Office maintains contacts with many local transport companies, rates will often be far cheaper than working with travel agents.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The Festival programme operates in seven main areas.

- **Prestigious International Festival Gala Concerts** involving six to eight choirs from outside Cornwall and some Cornish male choirs in shared concerts. Choirs perform their own short choice of programme individually. These evening events will take place on Thursday 27th April at Truro Cathedral and at the Hall for Cornwall on Saturday, 29th Sunday 30th and Monday 1st May.
- **International Male Choir Competitions** (details are elsewhere in this briefing) with a first prize in each category of £1000. Choirs chose their own programme. The competitions will be held in the Hall for Cornwall on Saturday, 29th April.
- **Regional Festival Gala Concerts**, normally involving four choirs, have been organised in most of the major towns across Cornwall including Bodmin, Bude, Falmouth, Hayle, Helston, Launceston, Newquay, Penzance, Redruth, Saltash, and Truro. Choirs sing their own programme of music. All concerts have professional compères and are almost always followed by “afterglows”- a time of socialising for everyone involved.
- **Daytime Singing opportunities** are organised in the Lost Gardens of Heligan, the Eden Project, the Minack Theatre, Tate St.Ives, Pendennis Castle, Trebah Gardens, Land’s End and The National Maritime Museum Falmouth.
- **Festival Workshop and Symposium** focusing on choir training techniques, recruitment, new male choir repertoire and Master classes on conducting technique will also be available on Sunday morning 30th April.
- **Opportunities for Sightseeing**. There will be more time during the Festival for all visiting choirs to visit places of tourist interest throughout Cornwall.

Participating choirs can take part in any or all of the above areas. Choirs do not have to compete in the International Competitions, but it is hoped that they will – over twenty choirs have competed in each of the previous Festivals. All choirs have the opportunity to perform in at least three locations across Cornwall during the Festival, and all choirs will have the opportunity perform in Regional Gala Concerts.

Socialising is an important part of the Festival and, after almost every Regional Gala Concert, “afterglows” give the opportunity for meeting one another and possibly developing longer-term relationships for future exchanges.

The main venues booked for the Festival include the impressive Truro Cathedral with its fine choir acoustics and the delightful Hall for Cornwall in Truro (a well-equipped modern, professionally-run performance complex constructed from a traditional old Cornish building in the centre of the city). Other churches, halls and theatres throughout the county will be utilised as Festival venues, together with the now famous conservation Eden Project with its unique biomes which house plant specimens from across the world and built on the site of an old Cornwall china clay pit. Other venues include the unique outdoor Minack Theatre (built high up into the Cornish cliffs overlooking the sea), the modern Tate Gallery at St. Ives, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the fabulous Pendennis Castle overlooking Falmouth and the Fal Estuary.

Choirs participating in the Festival from outside Cornwall do not have to be resident in Cornwall for all five days of the Festival. It is hoped that visiting choirs will come for at least four nights (Thursday to Sunday or Friday to Monday inclusive). Some choirs have stayed for seven nights. Monday 1st May 2017 is a public holiday in England. The closing International Gala Concert will be in the Hall for Cornwall on that night.

PROVISIONAL FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

Thursday 27th April

- Arrival of choirs / sightseeing / Individual choir rehearsals
- School Workshops and activities involving choirs from outside the UK
- International Festival Gala Concert, Truro Cathedral
- Festival Regional Gala Concerts all over Cornwall

Friday 28th April

- Daytime School Workshops and activities involving choirs from outside the UK
- Individual choir rehearsals
- 19.30 Regional Gala Concerts all over Cornwall

Saturday 29th April

- 09.30 – 16.30 International Competitions, Hall for Cornwall
- (a) Choirs under 40 voices, (b) Choirs 41 voices and over
- Afternoon Daytime singing at various locations
- 19.30 International Festival Gala Concert, Hall for Cornwall, Truro
- 19.30 Regional Gala Concerts right across Cornwall

Sunday 30th April

Morning	International Symposium and Workshops at The Hall for Cornwall	
Afternoon	Daytime singing at various locations	
19.30	Regional Gala Concerts all across Cornwall	19.30
	International Festival Gala Concert of Youth Choirs, Hall for Cornwall, Truro	

Monday 1st May (a public holiday in England)

Afternoon	Daytime singing at various locations	
19.30	Closing International Festival Gala Concert in the Hall for Cornwall, Truro	

FESTIVAL ACCOMMODATION

It is a condition of participation that choirs stay in accommodation allocated to them by the Festival Office. Choirs are not permitted to book their own hotel accommodation. The major reason for this is that the Festival works with and is supported by 20 hotels across Cornwall and needs to make best use of the space available by ensuring all hotels we work with are as full as possible.

Accommodation will be organised during September 2016 with hotels already contracted to provide accommodation for the Festival. All accommodation is at choir cost. It will be based mainly in and around the coastal towns of Newquay, Truro and Falmouth, within travelling distance of Festival venues.

Twin and double rooms are normally available. Single rooms may be available but are very few in number and will involve paying a supplement. Accommodation is available in three main price brackets:

1. £30-£49 per person per night. Holiday camp resort centres, static caravans, guest houses etc. This accommodation will largely be on a self catering or "bed and breakfast" basis.
2. £50-£69 per person per night. Hotels, all with en-suite rooms. Bed & breakfast and evening meals accommodation.
3. £70-90+ per person per night. Luxury hotels all with en-suite rooms. Bed & Breakfast and evening meals accommodation.

The Festival has limited funds to offer assistance in special cases to visiting overseas boy choirs

COMPETITION / FESTIVAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

COMPETITION Eligibility

- A choir should have been in existence for at least one calendar year prior to the International Male Voice Choral Festival (and must be able, if asked, to substantiate that), all choristers to be at least 16 years old* at the start of the Festival, and choirs consist of no less than 16 Singers**. (* applies to Adult Choir competition only / ** applies to All Choir competitions). *However, choirs smaller in number may still be considered to take part in the rest of the Festival.*
- All members of a choir, except the conductor and accompanist, must be amateurs (i.e. people who do not earn their livelihood as singers).

- No person may compete as a member of more than one choir in the same category and a choir can only compete in one category.
- The Festival reserves the right to limit the number of entries for each category, or to cancel or amend a category.
- The Festival reserves the right to alter the timetable according to the number of entries received for each category.
- Adjudicators' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any aspect of their deliberations.
- All mark and comments sheets will be made available to choirs after the Festival.
- A choir which withdraws from a category, or any part of the Festival, is not entitled to a refund of the registration fee.

Competition Repertoire

- Repertoire for the competition is at the discretion of Musical Directors. There is no set piece.
- The competition programme **must not exceed 12 minutes**. Marks will be deducted where time is not used effectively.
- Music copies, or lyric crib sheets should not be used on stage by choristers.
- The programme **must** contain at least one unaccompanied piece.
- The adjudicators will assess and allocate marks on performance quality, technical difficulty, the variety of musical styles included in the programme and range of period from which the music is selected. Choirs should consider including works by contemporary composers. Adjudicators will also take into account the success of the choir's repertoire in terms of audience appeal and how well the choir communicates with the audience.
- **THREE** copies of each item sung in competition must be forwarded to the Festival Office for use by the jury no later than *the date specified*. Photocopies will only be accepted when accompanied by the full, written authority of the copyright holder. The Festival maintains the right to retain one set of the choir's music for archive purposes.
- No changes to competition repertoire can be considered after *the date specified*.

Financial Liability

- All choirs participating in the Festival are expected to pay their own travel and accommodation costs. The Festival may assist some choirs from overseas in very exceptional circumstances.
- Cornwall International Male Choral Festival Ltd. accepts no responsibility for any expense incurred by any choir or individual chorister participating in the Festival.

Broadcasting and Recording Rights

- It is a condition of participation that choirs agree that:
 - any performance it gives during the International Male Choral Festival may be broadcast live and / or recorded for subsequent broadcast on radio and / or television without payment to the choir. All broadcasting rights to any performance at the Festival shall belong to the Festival which will be free to dispose of them as it sees fit;
 - any performance it gives during the International Male Choral Festival may, without payment, be recorded by contractors of the Festival and the Festival shall be entitled to possession of any such recording and shall further be entitled to reproduce any such recording and to sell, let for hire, offer for sale or hire, distribute or otherwise dispose of any recording or reproduction of recording of any such performance in any manner that it sees fit;
 - for copyright reasons, no sound, video, DVD or other recording of performances is made at any event other than those authorised in writing by the Festival Director.

General

- It is contrary to Law to perform music which has been reproduced illegally. Should a choir do so, the Festival accepts no responsibility for any action taken by publishers.
- The Festival accepts no legal responsibility whatsoever in respect of a choir's participation in the Festival and fringe activities.
- The closing date for receipt of entry forms and registration fees is 31st July 2016 (31st October 2016 non-UK choirs). However, such is the popularity of the Festival and competition that choirs are advised to apply as early as possible.
- The Application Form must be completed and submitted together with:
 - the Festival registration fee of £125
 - a recent colour photograph of the choir;
 - a recent (LESS THAN 2 YEARS OLD) short recording of the choir (on CD / DVD / MP3 – **not** cassette);
 - a biography (**200 words maximum**).to the Festival Office (by post or electronically) by the closing date.
- The Festival reserves the right to refuse entries and to close registration early, if the festival has reached a maximum level of entries possible.
- Participation in the International Male Voice Choral Festival implies acceptance of all the relevant rules and regulations.

Festival Office

Robert T. Elliott, Festival Director.

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FESTIVAL ENTRY AND REGISTRATION FEE

An inclusive registration and entry fee of £125 exists for participation in any aspect of the Festival. Registration and entry fees cover any concert, the International Competitions, preferential rates at Festival-organised accommodation and all associated events. All choirs are encouraged to register for the Festival as soon as possible as entries will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Only applicants enclosing all the application requirements will be considered. Choirs are largely selected on the basis of their application material. Particular attention is paid to the repertoire and quality of performance presented in the audition CD / DVD / Minidisk / MP3 file submitted with the application. The Festival Director will be happy to answer any queries choirs may have regarding any aspect of Festival participation. The closing date is **31st July 2016** (31st September 2016 for non - UK choirs). Priority will be given to UK choirs (outside Cornwall) that have not participated in a recent Festival.

INTERNATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITIONS

The International Competitions are not obligatory but choirs are encouraged to take part. Two International Choir Competitions will be held on Saturday (daytime) in the Hall for Cornwall in Truro in the categories:

1. Competition for Adult choirs/ensembles up to 16-40 voices
2. Competition for Adult choirs 41 voices and over
3. Competition for Boys and Youth Male Choirs (*Sunday Evening, as part of Concert)

Prizes

In **each** Adult category, prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 1st Prize £1000; 2nd Prize £400; 3rd Prize £200.
- Best Single piece of Music - £100

In addition, Trophies will be presented for:

- Best Overall Choir
- Best Overall Conductor
- Best UK and Cornish choirs in each category
- Best UK and Cornish Choirs Overall

- There will also be a Trophy and award for the Best Youth/Boys Choir (Sunday)

An international jury will judge each competition and provide a written adjudication for all competing choirs. The same panel will adjudicate all classes.

All prize winners are listed on the Festival's website: www.cimcf.uk.

PARTICIPATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Choirs are required to submit the Application Form and other details as set out in this leaflet.
- Electronic submission of entries is possible by emailing the Festival Director (rob.elliott@cimcf.uk) and electronic transfer of the relevant registration fee.
- All applicants will be notified if their entry has been accepted as soon as possible.