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The Choir of Clare College
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The Choir's collaborations with the European Union Baroque Orchestra in August 2013 enabled sell-out performances across Europe, some televised, in Brugges, Milan, Utrecht, Hagen, Damstadt and London. On return to Cambridge and during the 2013-14 academic year, the Choir has had its busiest year under my direction. In addition to the Choir's principal role of providing music for the liturgy in Chapel, the Choir has released three commercial recordings to great critical acclaim, and in touring alone concert performances have been given locally in Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds and Clare Suffolk; in some of London's finest venues: LSO St Luke's, St John's Smith Square, King's Place, Cadogan Hall, Westminster Abbey and Christ Church Spitalfields as well as St Mary's Rotherhithe and Southend-on-Sea; and overseas in Rotterdam, Luxembourg, Nantes, Malta, Gozo, and thirteen American cities: Princeton NJ, Boston MA, Concord NH, St Johnsbury VT, Cincinnati OH, Cleveland OH, Atlanta GA, Collegedale TN, Conway AR, Oklahoma City OK and Plano TX. That is a formidable achievement for the twenty-seven students that make up this year's Choir.

None of this would be possible without the tireless work of the Dean, Chapel Administrator, Choir Administrator, Director of Music, our recording label Harmonia Mundi USA, our representation by Ikon Arts Management, and the ongoing support of the Friends of Clare Music scheme. We continue to aim to raise the profile of the Choir nationally and internationally, often re-connecting with alumni of the Choir and College through our touring activities, and in turn raising the possibility of continued collaboration and support (financial or otherwise) for the College.

Music in the Chapel has offered as ever an extremely broad range of repertoire for Choir and congregations alike. In addition to the three weekly services, the Choir sang Tomàs Luis de Victoria's *Requiem* for All Souls's Day, which they later recorded for future release on the Harmonia Mundi USA label, and each term's music list has stretched from medieval plainchant to contemporary works, with much inbetween. Services have included numerous solo opportunities for individual members of the Choir, and have utilised all four of the Chapel's keyboard instruments. In the 2013 Advent Carols Services the Choir premiered *Christ is the morning star*, a new commission from former Director of Music John Rutter. In the Easter Term 2014, the Choir gave the first performance of three newly-commissioned works from leading composers Nico Muhly, Brett Dean, and from Giles Swayne, who retires as Composer-in-Residence from Clare this year after more than a decade of dedicated teaching and composing for the College's singers and instrumentalists. The Dean and Director of Music continue to work closely together to plan the liturgy, and to oversee the pastoral side of the members of the Choir.

2013-14 has enjoyed the success of the first releases on the Harmonia Mundi USA label of the Choir's major ongoing series of music for the church year. *Veni Emmanuel: Music for Advent*, which served as the programme for an seven-concert tour of the United States in December 2013, was hailed as 'exciting, magnificent, ... music to change your life' in The Times. *Stabat Mater dolorosa: Music for Passiontide*, released in 2014, was lauded for 'highly sentient, excellent performances' (BBC Music Magazine), 'consummate musicianship' (Gramophone Magazine), and 'an outstanding disc' (MusicWeb International). In addition, a live recording of the Choir's concert of Handel choral works with the European Union Baroque Orchestra was released worldwide on the Obsidian label. The recording sessions for all the Harmonia Mundi recordings were produced, engineered and edited by Honorary Fellow and former Director of Music John Rutter, to whom the Choir is much indebted.

The Michaelmas Term ended with the annual Advent Carol Services and a special performance of Bach's *Mass in B minor* in Great Hall with a one-to-a-part Baroque orchestra led by Clare alumna Margaret Faultless, under the direction of Graham Ross. All solo arias were performed by members of the Chapel Choir. The Choir reprised their performance with Aurora Orchestra under the direction of Clare alumnus Nicholas Collon, with whom they had also given two staged performances of Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* earlier in the year. A return visit to BBC Broadcasting House to sing live on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* programme enabled some advance publicity of the Choir's annual concert at St John's, Smith Square in London, which was one of the best-attended in recent years, after which Timothy and Christina Benn, former patrons of the Choir's Lay Clerkship, once again kindly hosted a drinks reception.

The College's Masterclass Series, established by the Director of Music in 2010, enabled College instrumentalists to work with The Schubert Ensemble, who joined forces with the College Choir for a special Choral Evensong in Chapel, and aspiring singers from across the University to work with internationally-renowned soprano, Joan Rodgers CBE, who presented a day of masterclasses.

Collaborations with other Cambridge choirs have this year seen the Choir sing joint services with the Chapel Choirs of Girton, Jesus, Magdalene, Corpus Christi, St John's and Trinity Colleges. The Director of Music continues to pursue an active programme of visiting schools and welcoming visiting students and choirs to observe or join the Chapel Choir for services. This year has seen visitors from Eltham College London, Norwich School, and St Paul's School from Concord NH, all singing services with the Chapel Choir. The Director of Music was invited to return to Australia to work with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in May 2014, which allowed the Chapel Choir to benefit from the guest conducting of three former Directors of Music at Clare: Mr Timothy Brown, Dr Christopher Robinson and Dr John Rutter, alongside the continued excellent work of the College's current Organ Scholars, Peter Harrison and Matthew Jorysz.

Friends of Clare Music continues to build its resources and maintain crucial continuing links with the present Choir. This year, the Friends have assisted the commissioning of new works for the Choir and masterclasses for instrumentalists. The College is particularly indebted to Clare alumnus Mr George Law, for his most generous support towards the Choir's proposed webcasting system, which, heritage application permitting, should be installed in time for the Michaelmas 2014 term to allow Chapel services to be webcast across the internet and heard around the world. The Director of Music and Choir Administrator successfully obtained a £10k grant from the Foyle Foundation to support this venture.

In summer 2014 the Choir will return to London's Spitalfields Festival, and will complete their recording sessions for Harmonia Mundi USA of works for All Saints and All Souls Day, and for Ascensiontide and Pentecost, to be released in 2015. In the long vacation they will tour once again with the European Union Baroque Orchestra, make their first visit to Malta and Gozo thanks to the generosity and invitation of Clare CRA Dr Mark Agius, and return the USA for a seven-concert tour in September.

2014/15 will see the Choir perform at Washington's Library of Congress, and across the Netherlands to promote *Lux de caelo: Music for Christmas*, the Choir's forthcoming release on the Harmonia Mundi USA label in autumn 2014. They will give performances of Verdi's *Requiem* in London's Royal Albert Hall, Brahms' *Requiem* in King's College Chapel, and Mozart's *Requiem* in King's Place, London, and broadcast a BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong live from the College Chapel in November 2014.

2014 will mark the start of what will undoubtedly be a very different support network for the Choir. The loyalty, generosity and kindness that Tony and Ruth Badger have shown to all musicians during their time at Clare is extraordinary, and unrivalled by their contemporaries in Cambridge. I owe a great deal to them both, as do all eleven generations of the Choir that they have supported. A special concert of thanks is being given by the Chapel Choir and some former members on Saturday 5 July 2014 in West Road Concert Hall, to which all are welcome.

Graham Ross
June 2014



Clare College Chapel Choir Tour Fund Account
July 2013 – June 2014

Report for Council Meeting June 2014

The Choir Touring Fund is an internal college account, which runs from 1 July to 30 June.

The balance at the beginning of the financial year was **£9,578.37**. This year the income to date is **£109,059**, derived from tours (£64,438), concerts (£27,560), broadcasts (£40), recordings (£14,878), services (£0) and overheads (£2,142). Expenses for the year currently stand at **£122,050** tours (£75,452), concerts (£23,199), broadcasts (£374), recordings (£18,669), services (£882), overheads (£3,473). This gives a current surplus of **£3,414**.

We are still awaiting fees of £23,500 minus agent commission and VAT.

Kate Littlechild
27 May 2014