



THE CHOIR OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Registered Charity No: 1090286

Patron: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

Conductor: Howard Williams

FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER January 2009

WELCOME



Welcome to the first of our Friends' Newsletters. First of all, many thanks to you, our Friends, who are supporting us and helping us to realise our ambitions. Your

financial support is already helping us to plan ahead with greater confidence and to help us become THE choir of the 21st century.

Our name implies not that we perform music of the 21st century, but that we are aiming to set the standard for the way music should be performed in the 21st century. That means we seek interesting and varied repertoire (from all eras) that encompasses the very challenging and the undiscovered, while not forgetting the traditional and mainstream. Overall, a varied and well-balanced diet and a good resolution for the New Year!

Under my predecessor, Paul Renney's guidance, we have some great achievements to celebrate and many expressions of critical acclaim to be proud of. As we start a new era for CC21, I would like to thank you for your enduring enthusiasm for the choir and invite you to read on to hear about other exciting developments we have ahead of us.

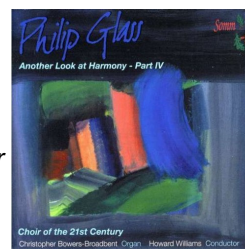
Martin Johnson, Chairman



CC21 performing at Grosvenor Chapel (photo: Ray Soper, Nov 08)

Reviews

CC21's recording of Glass's *Another Look at Harmony, Part IV* received some exceptional reviews:



"...the cumulative power of the ending is overwhelming and you just don't ever want it to stop...wonderfully engaging" *All Music Guide*.

Music Web International called the recording "a triumph" while *QOBUS* called it "one of the best recordings in the discography".

To order a copy of the CD email friends@cc21.org.uk

A note from Howard

2008 produced two real landmarks for CC21 – the release of the Philip Glass CD *Another Look at Harmony, Part IV*, with its many impressive reviews, and our *Signposts to the 21st Century* concert, which I feel defined what we are all about as a choir,

This year is set to provide more excitement, starting on 21 March with *To Poland and Bach Again* - a wonderful opportunity to hear a cross-section of Polish choral music from three centuries. Following our all-Hungarian programme in November, it promotes a still sharper focus on "new Europe" and notably how little we know of its older music (programme overleaf).



CC21 commissions World Première

The première later this year of Edward Cowie's *Summer* - CC21's first commission - is the first stage of a major project which will result in his *Four Seasons*. The prospect of the entire work coming to fruition in 2011 is already exercising our planning brains, and the imminent launch signals what I believe will be a very important addition to the a cappella choral repertoire. I hope you will be able to come to support and enjoy it!

Howard Williams, Conductor

Musical Chairs

After eight years, **Paul Renney** has decided to stand down as Chairman. Paul is a founder-member of the choir and has been instrumental in making CC21 what it is today - one of London's leading chamber choirs.

During Paul's Chairmanship, CC21 gave some truly memorable concerts, including Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the English Chamber Orchestra at Cadogan Hall in 2007. Paul worked tirelessly to make the concert happen and it was a huge success.

We're delighted that **Martin Johnson** has agreed to take on the role of Chairman. We are sad to lose Paul from the Committee but we are pleased that he will still be very much involved as a member of CC21's distinguished tenor section.

Friends really do make a difference

Thank you

Many thanks again to all our Friends, without whose help we would not be able to plan such exciting and interesting concerts, commission new works or make groundbreaking recordings.

Through membership subscriptions, attendance at our concerts and by spreading the word about CC21, our Friends help the choir go from strength to strength.

The Friends of CC21 will play a key part in funding some of the exciting projects we have lined up for the future. Why not tell your friends about us and ask them to join the Friends' scheme?

If you hear only one choir this year, make it the Choir of the 21st Century

Membership makes a fantastic gift!

Friends' membership makes a wonderful birthday or anniversary present and has some great benefits, including:

- An exclusive Friends' Newsletter
- Complimentary interval or post-concert drink at concert receptions
- Acknowledgement in concert programmes
- Opportunities to meet the conductor and choir
- Information about forthcoming CC21 events
- Support of one concert or new commission per season (Benefactors)
- And much more!

More about CC21's commission



CC21 has commissioned composer **Edward Cowie** (pictured) to write two motets for a cappella choir as part of a larger work entitled *Four Seasons*, a co-

commission with the Oxford chamber choir Commotio.

Edward Cowie studied with Alexander Goehr, was the BBC Singers' first Composer in

Association (2002-06) and was shortlisted for the 2007 BBC Radio 3 Listeners' Award. His music is innovative and approachable, and *Four Seasons* is written with amateur choirs in mind so that future performances will be possible for many other choirs.

CC21 will give the world première of the first motet, entitled *Summer*, later in the year and further details will be sent to Friends shortly.

For more information on Edward Cowie's music, take a look at: www.edward-cowie.com

Help us find the funds

CC21's commission will receive widespread publicity and media coverage and we will be giving special recognition to the Benefactor Friends who will be supporting the commission.

We are seeking funding of £3,000 for two motets, of which £1,000 has already been awarded by the RVW (Ralph Vaughan Williams) Trust.

If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting the commission, do let us know!

Can you help?

CC21 is managed and administered entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers. We are looking for help and assistance in the following areas:

- Design and printing
- Website development
- Email marketing
- Sponsorship and corporate fundraising
- Concert administration
- Ticket and programme sales at concert venues

We'd like to hear from you

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in getting involved in CC21's development, please contact CC21's Chairman, Martin Johnson, on 020 8785 4537, email friends@cc21.org.uk, or speak to a choir member to register your interest. We'd also like to hear from you with any ideas or comments on the Friends' scheme.

Saturday 21 March at 7.30 pm

Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair, London W1

Choir of the 21st Century

Howard Williams conductor

Bartosz Jacubcsak organ

To Poland and Bach Again

Zieleński: Magnificat à 12

Noskowski: Veni Creator

A Panufnik: Song to the Virgin Mary

Penderecki: Stabat Mater

JS Bach: Jesu meine Freude

Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door

Please come and support us and do bring a friend!