



Canterbury Cathedral
Festival Evensong
Festival Choir Concert #1



Canterbury Cathedral
Festival Evening Concert
Festival Choir Concert #2



London's Southwark Cathedral
Festival Final Concert
Festival Choir Concert #3



Your Festival Leadership
Thomas Allery Accompanist
David Flood Conductor
Henry Leck Conductor
David Searles Organizer

The 2019 International Children's Choir Festival under the direction of Henry Leck and David Flood continued its legacy since 1997 as the premiere children's choir event with nine superb choirs participating at Canterbury and London.

It is hard to believe that another extraordinary International Children's Choir Festival at Canterbury Cathedral and London has ended. This year's choirs were phenomenal. Their vocal training, preparedness and discipline was awe inspiring. As is well known, we have concluded every festival since 1997 with "Homeland". In rehearsal, when sung through the first time, it was concert ready! Unbelievable! Placing excellent choirs like this into the splendor of Canterbury Cathedral is an artistic result of unparalleled proportion. The music making was extraordinary! As always, I was able to share the podium with the great English Choir Master, David Flood. I am always humbled by the ability of young people to create such incredible artistry! What a glorious sound! Combining their voices with this acoustic is maybe the closest one will get to heaven on this planet.

- **Henry Leck, Conductor Laureate, Indianapolis Children's Choir, Founding Festival Co-Conductor**

The 2019 Festival was one of the most successful we have held. With excellent choirs who had been very well prepared, we were able to achieve outstanding results in all the performances. In particular I was impressed with how the singers combined effortlessly and also the way in which they accepted and adopted new ideas. Thank you so much to everyone who had given so much to this very special Festival, it was a privilege to be a part of it. Congratulations to all concerned.

- **David Flood, Master of the Choristers, Canterbury Cathedral, Founding Festival Co-Conductor**

It is always a joy to see the transformation of the combined festival choir from the first rehearsal to the final concert! The choirs join their voices to create a rich and vibrant sound which comes alive in the breath-taking space of the cathedral, in a varied collection of repertoire. Individually, choirs have the chance to grow and develop in a non competitive environment in which everyone supports each other. Canterbury is a special place for young people to visit, not only for the beautiful acoustic of the cathedral and the opportunity to sing in an evensong service, but also to soak up the buzz and atmosphere of a city which has welcomed pilgrims from across the world for generations and generations.

- **Thomas Allery, Festival Accompanist, Director of Chapel Music, Worcester College, Oxford University**

The International Children's Choir Festival has been the cornerstone of our children's choir program since the year 2000. We have attended this festival seven times because our children love it and look forward to making the pilgrimage to Canterbury every three years. Singing in this festival improves our choir's sound and strengthens each chorister's confidence, and when we begin rehearsing again the next choir season, I can hear the improvement in their sound. But what is more important is that they have also gained a renewed passion for singing that is contagious. The children receive the highest level of musical training from Henry Leck and David Flood, and the beauty of the acoustic in the Canterbury and Southwark Cathedrals makes the experience even more special. The sound that the children make in those two cathedrals is so thrilling that it is hard to describe, but once a chorister or parent has experienced this they are sold! Our families are already looking forward to their next trip to Canterbury.

- **Jo Hethcox, Director of the Canterbury and St. David Choirs of St. Philip's Church, Charleston, South Carolina, USA (seventh participation)**

The International Children's Choir Festival at Canterbury Cathedral is the only destination we have ever duplicated in our travel. There are so many reasons why we chose to go again! The venue at the Cathedral is both spectacular and inspiring. When the children first walk into the quire they are in awe of the beautiful space, but completely fall in love with the sounds they make with so many other talented children in this amazing acoustic. The Evensong and Festival concerts are spectacular. The musical leadership is bar none the best in the world of children's choral music. To be led by such masters as David Flood and Henry Leck is such a great privilege. Our children grew so much in their understanding of singing and performance in only a few short days; these musicians also have so much to offer to musical directors in pursuit of professional development. The non-competitive nature of this festival allowed our girls the opportunity to meet and make friendships with so many children who share their passion for singing. And, last but not least, is the amazing attention to every detail managed by David Searles, President of Euro Arts Tours. The details of accommodations, meals, travel and touring outside of the amazing musical experience were meticulously handled. We extended our first tour into France and our second visit to other regions of England. David carefully and thoroughly met every request we had for enriching our girls' travel while we were '*across the pond*'. Our families have nothing but great things to say about the quality of their daughters' travel experience. It has been such a pleasure to be able to participate in this festival.

- **Jacquelyn Norman, co-artistic director, Junior Amabile Singers, Amabile Choirs, London, Ontario, CANADA (second participation) (OVER)**

From the outset I knew that working with Henry Leck would be a life-changing choral experience for my singers. He truly inspired us in rehearsals and our master class. I was thrilled to also meet and work with Dr. David Flood, whose gracious demeanor, lively rehearsals, and joyful conducting were motivating and meaningful. To sing in Canterbury Cathedral is momentous in itself. It was a joy to share this with the other great choirs in attendance. The touring aspect of the trip greatly enhanced our choral experience. We were incredibly well cared for and well fed. And our tour manager Rachel was such a gem! We are a blessed group of singers, happy to share this rich festival with our friends in Pittsburgh. Thanks, David, for everything you did to make a great week! Bravo!

- **Jennie Nolan, Artistic Director, South Hills Children's Choir, Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania, USA**

I want to thank you again for putting together such a wonderful festival. Our choristers thoroughly enjoyed it, and the performances were spectacular! Canterbury is such a magical place, and so comfortable for everyone to settle into. And of course, Gavin was an amazing guide! We loved how he was so good at reading his audience - perking up the choristers with Harry Potter references while at the same time engaging the adults with witty asides. We learned so much about the history of London and the background on common phrases, and of course enjoyed his gentle prodding to get the choir to where it needed to be on time.

- **Dr. Joy Hirokawa, Artistic Director, Bel Canto Children's Chorus, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA & ACDA Children's Choir Chair (second participation)**

The Kentucky Youth Chorale was delighted to return to the International Children's Choral Festival for the third time. We are awed and inspired to work with David Flood and Henry Leck in such a magnificent and historic cathedral in Canterbury and avail ourselves to their generous expertise. Singers and conductors learn much from these masters of choral literature. David Searles runs the best Choral festival we have ever attended anywhere in the world and our additional performance at Southwark Cathedral in London was sold out.

- **Julie White, Artistic Director, Kentucky Youth Chorale, USA (third participation)**

This is one of the best Children's Choir Festivals we've ever attended. Thank you for your commitment to make sure that a festival like this is offered to children's choirs from around the world. I've witnessed the passion David Searles, Henry Leck, David Flood and Tom Allery have given to this festival. It is truly admirable to see you all work together to make sure we experience a wonderful week of making wonderful memories together. What truly makes this a unique experience for us is that our choir had the chance to be conducted by two of the finest children's choir directors in the world in a very historic place. As a director, I've learned so much just by watching them handle the rehearsals and conducting their masterclasses with my choir. May you continue to bring this kind of festival to many more children from around the world. We will continue to support this festival in whatever way we can, and we hope to go back and participate again in the future.

- **Cristopher Avendaño, Artistic Director, Immaculate Heart of Mary & Precious Blood Children's Choirs, Los Angeles, California, USA**

What an inspiring experience for any singer who attends this festival. My choir has attended three times because of the outstanding directors, the setting, and the quality choirs that attend. The singers have time for deep rehearsals and performances in world class venues. After this festival experience, my singers became closer, singing better than ever. Their life changing moment came during Henry Leck's individual choir workshop. I saw quiet, reserved singers give their all in a safe environment. By the end of the workshop all of us shed tears, realizing we had transcended our own limiting expectations. Singers had opportunities to make connections with other choristers who were led by kind and supportive choir directors. This is music making at its best!

- **Beth Basham, Artistic Director, Youth Choir of Central Oregon, Bend, Oregon, USA (third participation)**

As this was our school's very first time attending, the International Children's Choir Festival has forever changed their view of choral singing. Our students, regardless of their grade level, will carry this experience for the rest of their lives. From performing in a Cathedral with miraculous acoustics, attending daily concerts by fellow choirs, learning how to sing with their whole being in individual choir workshops, to absorbing the rich history of Canterbury Cathedral. It has ignited a flame of excitement in furthering their choral education! During the first week of school, it brought me great joy to hear my students using the rehearsal language from both directors in our classroom. They cannot wait to attend this wonderful festival again in 2021.

- **Katherine Clarkson, Upper School Choir Director at Ashley Hall, Charleston, South Carolina, USA**



Junior Amabile Singers
Concert in Canterbury Cathedral



Immaculate Heart & Precious Blood Children's Choirs
Concert in Canterbury Cathedral



Kentucky Youth Chorale
Concert in Canterbury Cathedral



Youth Choir of Central Oregon
Workshop with Henry Leck



St. Philip's Canterbury Choir
Workshop with David Flood

Watch Festival Videos on YouTube under "International Children's Choir Festival 2019" and "Canterbury Festival Choir"