



Edington Music Festival Association Newsletter

Spring 2019

Edington Festival 2019 takes place from 18 to 25 August

Treasurer's Report for the year 2017–2018

THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 May 2017 to 30 April 2018 has been another solid year for the Edington Music Festival Association. We started the year with £109,876 in the bank and finished the year with funds of £101,571. We are about breaking even when the outstanding gift aid claim is factored in. Although our funds to hand are very healthy the year-by-year position of the Association being break even, is not quite as healthy as the bank account balances might indicate.

We currently have 170 members which is a little lower than previous years so subscriptions are a little down. If you have not already done so we would be very grateful if you could make these payments as soon as possible.

The full collection plate continues to come to EMFA so that we can claim gift aid on the loose change under the HMRC Small Donations Scheme. We have refined and simplified the way we provide grants to the EMFS for the running of the Festival. This ensures that we make full use of the gift aid open to us. EMFA currently provides a grant of £15,500 a year to cover the running costs of the festival.

The collection plate income this year was slightly down on last year at £11,308 compared with £12,271 in 2017. Income has still not yet returned to what it was before Organ project. This is beginning to be of concern as the collection plate income, by itself, is not covering the Festival running costs which have increased over recent years.

The Association no longer benefits from high interest rates and even our special high interest accounts provide little additional income. Also we now incur bank charges on some of our accounts. We will review our bank accounts in the forthcoming year.

Postage costs continue to increase and we would urge any members who wish to do so, to let us have their email address so they can receive the newsletter by email.

During the financial year 2017-2018 grants were made for:

- £15,500 grant for the 2017 Festival
- £1,250 grant for 2017 Festival commissions
- £4,765—50% of the cost of the new chairs in the church
- £1,382—50% of the costs of the refurbishment of the chancel organ

The association maintains a reserves policy as recommended by the Charity Commission and this has been maintained at £10,000. These funds are maintained in a separate CAF/Scottish Widows account.

We are very grateful that Nesta Raisey, one of our devoted supporters over many years, remembered EMFA in her will and left us a substantial legacy.

We have been taking some time to investigate how we best use this generous gift and hope soon to agree an investment that will provide regular income to support a sponsorship scheme for young musicians. We would like to encourage everyone to consider EMFA in your wills.

Once again I, and all of the EMFA trustees, would like to thank all donors for their generous contributions to the Association and the Organ Project.

JUSTIN LOWE
Treasurer

Reflections from new Schola members

THIS WAS THE FIRST YEAR I'd been invited to Edington Festival, and I really enjoyed being a part of it. I spent the first five days singing in the Schola, and then moved to the Nave Choir for the remainder of the week.

Singing in the Schola was like nothing I'd ever done before—usually plainsong isn't given much rehearsal time, so it was nice to spend lots of time just focused on the chant. Going in early for Matins and staying late for Compline meant the week had a good rhythm of daily worship, and there is something very satisfying about doing (apparently) straightforward music well.

Outside the singing, it was clear that everyone was there to have a nice time, and the social side of the Festival was really good too. The Duke at Bratton put on lots of hospitality for us, even bringing in a pool table for the tournament. Overall, the week was so much fun, and I met some wonderful people whom I hope to see again next year!

ALI DONAGUE
Schola & Nave 2018

THE EDINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL is an extraordinary anthropological exercise. Some would think it impossible, others unthinkable, and some pure madness, to import such an otherwise disparate group into one small place to work towards a common goal and purpose. An observer from another planet may be forgiven for using it as an example for the authorisation of humankind's extinction. And yet, the process and product of the week is one that visibly changes, energises, and restores people.

It has been a real privilege to be welcomed so genuinely and openly. The goodwill and real warmth I've been shown this week has been particularly restorative because my day-to-day job involves a lot of time alone and limits my ability to spend time with friends. After studying music at university, my glittering teaching career of three months was interrupted by the opportunity to pay tribute to my time at Oxford by working for them, to encourage young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to the university. I am responsible for working with the schools in Merseyside, North Wales, the Isle of Man, Enfield and Waltham Forest. I therefore travel broadly, limiting the opportunities I have to make music regularly. The musical friendships that I built through choral dabbling at university now only rarely cross paths with my daily life.

The Edington Music Festival has enabled me to re-engage with practical music-making of the highest order and to spend time with some of my very best friends from that time. The week has been the longest time I've spent constantly in people's company for

quite some time—I have relished meeting new people, which I hope will grow into strong friendships over the next few months and years. My first festival has therefore been extremely special.

When I arrived back home I felt as though I were teetering on the edge of a cliff. Some may say that it was simply the effect of interminable neume-reading in the belfry; that we build for ourselves our own crosses. Perhaps that is partly so. But I'd also like to think that I've left some of myself there in Edington and that I'll be reunited with it at the same time and in the same place, next year.

DANIEL PUGH-BEVAN
Schola 2018

News from Edington Arts

THE FIFTH CHORAL WORKSHOP takes place on Saturday 18 May with Paul Brough working on four wonderful motets—Parsons' *Ave Maria, I was glad and Thou knowest Lord* by Henry Purcell and Bruckner's *Ave Maria*. Non-singers are warmly invited to come for tea, then stay on to listen to the final session when we shall be aspiring to the peak of perfection. We have commissioned a new set of copies of the Parsons and we will be donating them to the festival music library.

On Saturday 22 June the young award-winning choir SANSARA, will be bringing one of the programmes from their 'Music of the Spires' series, based on music from Oxford University's libraries. Music includes pieces by Fayrfax, Tallis, and Sheppard, and a previous festival commission by Marco Galvani, now part of their repertoire. This will be a lovely concert, and it would be good to see as many EMFA friends as possible.

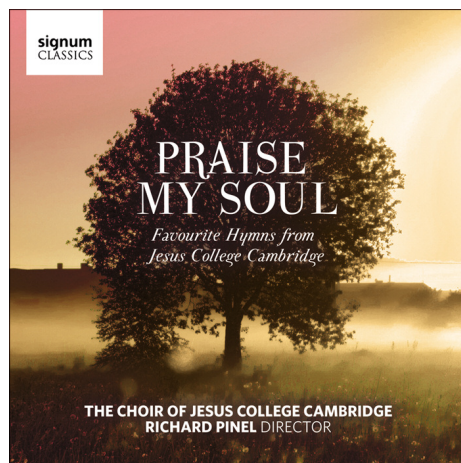
For further information on both events please ring or email Sue Lowery on sue@edingtonarts.org, 01380 871549, or visit www.edingtonarts.org

ANNE CURTIS

New Appointment for Peter Roberts, Edington Festival Administrator

WE ARE DELIGHTED to be able to announce that Peter has been appointed Headmaster of Westminster Abbey Choir School and will take up the post in September 2019. He is currently Assessment Co-ordinator at St George's School Windsor Castle. He will succeed Jonathan Milton, who is retiring this summer after 17 years as Headmaster. Westminster Abbey Choir School educates the thirty boys who sing in the Abbey Choir.

Referring to his appointment Peter said that 'it is humbling to have been selected to work alongside and lead the Choristers and Staff of Westminster Abbey Choir School. As former chorister parents, Emily and I are acutely aware of the needs of young musicians working at the highest levels of church music and look forward to maintaining and building upon the successful, warm and happy atmosphere so ably fostered during the past two decades by Jonathan Milton, James O'Donnell and their colleagues. Over the same period, we have been fortunate to work with many choristers from Westminster Abbey as part of the Edington Festival and have always been taken by their kindness and professionalism. The prospect of joining the Abbey community and getting to know the boys, parents and staff is thrilling indeed'.



CD Offer

OUR CD OFFER this issue presents the latest release from Jesus College Cambridge under the direction of Richard Pinel. It is entitled 'Praise my Soul' and comprises a selection of hymns.

Discs are £11 each including UK p&p. If you would like to order, please send a cheque payable to Jesus College Cambridge to Ms Alice Kane, Choir Administrator, Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL quoting reference EMFA.

Please

- Don't forget to pay your EMFA subscription for 2019 (and 2018 if appropriate) If you currently pay by cheque and would prefer to pay by Standing Order please contact us. The minimum subscription is now £15.
- Let us know of any changes to your address, telephone number or email.
- Let us know if your circumstances have changed and you are no longer eligible to claim gift aid.
- May we ask for your email address if we don't already have it. This will enable us to reduce our postage costs and it will only be used to contact you for Festival related items including the newsletter

If you have any queries please contact Sue on 01380 871549 or by email to sue.lowery@edingtonfestival.org or write to her at the address below.