

Blackburn Cathedral:
Saturday 4th January 2014

Music & More online Supplement No. 37 Scintillating Singathon

Photographer
Alex Barnes was
photographed
taking a
photograph
from the Nave
scaffolding of the
choir below!



38 stalwart singers, one Organist and one Director of Music, made joyful music for three delightful hours in our cathedral one Saturday afternoon in January.

They had gathered to sing music which had been sponsored by members of our congregation, and also by many of the singers themselves, in aid of the cathedral appeal.

And some folk not only sponsored their favourite anthems, but a few also sponsored themselves to conduct our fine singers!

It was a terrific success, not only because the choir sang so very well (so well, in fact, that your peripatetic reporter wondered why our choirs needed to rehearse at all!) and because they were so skilfully accompanied by Assistant Director of Music, **Shaun Turnbull**, but also because those creative three hours were MC'd and conducted with such relaxed good humour and flair by our Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**.

Our organ scholar-librarian, **Karen Au**, had laboured particularly hard by carrying endless boxes of anthems from the Song School library in the crypt and up the steps to the Nave, so that she could give out copies to the singers when Samuel announced what the next anthem was to be. She was ably assisted by choral scholars and other strong choristers!

Standing at the receipt of custom to make sure that everything ran smoothly, was choir parent and chair of the Music Appeal working group, **Daren Fulwell**, seen here with organist **Shaun Turnbull** and **Karen Au**.



Karen Au
wrestling with music copies!



*Special thanks to choral scholar **Philip Almond** who had spent considerable time and energy in helping to organise this highly successful event.*

Samuel Hudson conducted most of the anthems – for he knew how to get the best from his singers.



But there were some exceptions, for one of our young choristers, **Sebastian Roberts**, had composed a Mass, and so he conducted its first performance...



...which earned him well-deserved applause from audience and choir! '**Sebastian**' is a good name for a composer!

Our assistant curate, **Dr. Mike Kirby** (who is a medical lecturer at Liverpool University) also volunteered to conduct.



And as Mike is not only a distinguished medical doctor but has also founded and conducts a choir in Manchester, he quite clearly knew what he was doing!

And what was the music the choir sang?

- 1 Let all the world – Vaughan Williams
- 2 How great thou art (hymn)
- 3 The Secret of Christ – Richard Shephard
- 4 If ye love me – Tallis
- 5 I was glad – Parry
- 6 O radiant dawn – James MacMillan
- 7 **Sebastian Roberts** (chorister) conducted his own Mass
- 8 In Paradisum – Fauré, conducted by **Mike Kirby**
- 9 Messiah – Amen, conducted by **Chris Davies**



- 10 Ubi Caritas – Duruflé
- 11 The Silver Swan – Gibbons
- 12 The cloud capp'd towers – Vaughan Williams
- 13 Lay a garland – Robert Lucas de Pearsall
- 14 Amazing Grace – arranged and conducted by **JB**



15 Thou wilt keep him – S. S. Wesley

16 *Kyrie* – Vierge Messe Solennelle, conducted by Head Chorister **William Fielding**



17 How lovely – Brahms

18 Nunc Dimittis, Dyson in F, conducted by **Nic Walker**.



19 Tomorrow shall be my dancing day – John Rutter

20 O magnum mysterium – Morten Lauridsen



Young singers on Cantoris

- 21 Here, O my Lord – Percy Whitlock, conducted by JB
- 22 Mozart: Requiem Mass: Dies Irae, & Confutatis
- 23 Jesu, Joy – J. S. Bach
- 24 O Sacred Head (hymn)
- 25 And I saw a new heaven – Edgar Bainton



Young singers on Decani

- 26 Benedictus – Langlais, with a loud top C at the end
- 27 Magnificat – Jackson in G
- 28 Go down, Moses – Michael Tippett
- 29 Vast Ocean of Light – Jonathan Dove
- 30 Star Carol – John Rutter

It was a most happy and successful afternoon. Over £1,500 was raised for the music Appeal!