

# Resurrection of the "Original" International Children's Choir Festival at Canterbury Cathedral and London with co-conductors Henry Leck and David Flood is an Incredible Success!



Canterbury Evening Festival Concert



Canterbury Festival Evensong



London Festival Concert w/Virtuosi of London Orchestra



Festival Choir Rehearsals in 13th Century Chapter House



Individual Choir Concerts



Private Individual Choir Workshops



Individual Choir Concerts

After a two-year Festival hiatus, David T. Searles, founder of the Festival returned from an eight-year retirement, to re-organize the Festival along the lines of the original, well-known Festival begun in 1997. This July's Festival attracted eight top children's choirs from Australia, Canada and the United States to Canterbury Cathedral and London for three, joint Festival Choir concerts under Henry Leck and David Flood, private choir workshops with each conductor and individual choir concerts in Canterbury, London, Stratford-upon-Avon and Paris.

*Comments from the 2011 participants say it best:*

"What a week we had in England! Like me, those glorious sounds of superb singing are probably still ringing in your ears. I know I have said this before to each of you, but I would like to reiterate my deepest gratitude for your wonderful preparation and participation in this year's Canterbury Festival. Of all the festivals we have done, this was by far, one of the strongest! Your students came impeccably prepared and what joy the music making created in all of us. I saw so many "conductor tears". As a festival conductor, it is one thing to hear beautiful sounds and create beautiful music, but it is a complete added bonus to read the joy and expression on the faces of the young singers. Never once (and this is a first in twenty five years of doing this) did I have to worry about the attention, enthusiasm or work ethic of the singers. During the performances, I felt the spirit and the eyes of every singer on me. What a privilege and joy it was for me to work again with David Flood and with this incredible festival. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope your singers had an experience they can treasure for a lifetime, and I hope we can work together again sometime soon."

**- Henry Leck, Festival Conductor since 1997**

"We all had a wonderful time at the Festival! Thank you for all of the great planning to make it run so smoothly. We all loved working with David and Henry and learned so much. My choristers loved the music and the venues – and meeting all of the choristers!"

**- Kimberley Davidson, Roanoke College Children's Choir, Roanoke, VA**

"Congratulations on a fantastic festival! I hope you feel good about it. My kids, chaperones, staff, and I all had a wonderful time and we all learned a lot. Thanks so much for all your hard work!"

**- Brian Clissold, Fort Wayne Children's Choir, Fort Wayne, IN**

"Congratulations to you on a fantastic festival in England! We are so grateful to you for all of your hard work in making the tour a great experience for our kids. We enjoyed our tour manager, Jenny Mitchell, so much! Jenny really did make the tour extra special for YCCO! Again, thank you for everything David! We are already looking forward to returning to your festival in the future! The KIDS loved traveling to England and will treasure this tour for the rest of their lives! Thank you again for working so hard to make this experience so positive and wonderful for each and every kid on your tour. I'm hoping we can have a round two in 2013!!"

**- Chris Asher, Tour Manager, Youth Choir of Central Oregon, Bend, OR**

"One of the main reasons I was interested in coming to this festival was because of the choir time we will spend with David and Henry. We watched David two years ago at the cathedral and were very impressed. Also we sensed that this tour was quality and that is because of you and the care you have taken with it. We had a wonderful trip. The students enjoyed working with both conductors. We especially liked having the individual sessions with Henry and David. They are tops!"

**- Julie White, Kentucky Youth Chorale, Owensboro, KY**

"Having been involved in many choral festivals, we have found them to be a source of personal and musical growth for singers and directors alike. However, the International Children's Choir Festival exceeds others in musical excellence by providing consistently challenging and elevating repertoire expertly refined by world-class directors such as Dr. David Flood and Dr. Henry Leck. Crowning months of preparation are the glorious concerts, where young singers and professional instrumentalists create beauty and magic in some of England's most special spaces. As Artistic Director, my festival choice focuses on the quality of musical experience. However, the attention to all related travel and festival details, including a Shadow Tour for family and friends, really "sealed the deal."

**- Diane Jones, Children's Chorus of Carroll County, Westminster, MD**

"What an incredible time and enriching experience we all had! It was the best festival I have been to - I truly enjoyed every minute of music and learning!"

**- Sarona Mynhardt, White Rock Children's Choir, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada**

"This was by far the best tour we have ever taken. " **- Beth Basham, Youth Choir of Central Oregon, Bend, OR**