



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 2014 International Children's Choir Festival at Canterbury Cathedral and London conducted by Henry Leck and David Flood continues its long tradition of choral excellence with seven choirs from China, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

- ◆ Now, with only the rich memory of what was recently such an incredible festival, I am still hearing the sounds of wonderful voices in ancient, resonant acoustics. This festival was a true success again! Working with David Flood, Tom Allery and the well prepared children's choirs from New Zealand, China, Canada and America was a true joy. The quality of their musicianship, discipline and artistry was superb. It is such a joy to be part of this very well run and musically rewarding festival. In the midst of the majesty of Canterbury Cathedral, their singing was complete therapy for the musical souls of all involved. I would encourage any choir to consider this life changing experience. Thanks again David Searles for your impeccable vision of excellence!
- **Henry Leck, Founder/Artistic Director, Indianapolis Children's Choir, Festival Co-Conductor since 1997**
- ◆ All the choirs who took part in the Festival showed very impressive motivation and energy. The concerts and the Evensong were magnificently sung and the sound that the choirs produced was strong and impressive. Although numbers were a little lower than the previous year, the achievement was just as high. It was a real delight to see you all grow and share so well together. It was a great festival.
- **Dr. David Flood, Organist/Master of the Choristers, Canterbury Cathedral, Festival Co-Conductor since 1997**
- ◆ Thanks for all your efforts that have made this festival such a memorable experience! We know that you have dedicated enormous energy and time to taking care of the many details and for that we are most grateful. Our participation was a glorious experience because of the inspiring leadership of conductors David Flood and Henry Leck. We thank David Searles for his organizational skill. Our incredible Tour Manager, Gavin Webb, educated, guided, teased and entertained us. My choristers will return to Calgary with many cherished memories of their time in England and the wonderful privilege of sharing our gift of music in so many historic and special venues.
- **Catherine Glaser-Climie, Artistic Director, Cantaré Children's Choir, Calgary, Canada**
- ◆ I must compliment you on your fine organizational skills in putting together such a wonderful Festival for our singers. It is evident that your many years of planning this festival and resourceful handling all of the subtle nuances that come up are a wonderful attribute. As the Administrative Director helping to organize this trip for our group, I so appreciated all of the supporting documents and recommendations that you provided us while planning this trip. I was so very impressed with your warm communications, timely responses, willingness to answer questions at anytime, and handling every little detail The festival seem to run so smoothly. You should feel very proud of your hard work and all that you, Henry and David have accomplished. I would highly recommend this festival to any other children's choirs. As a mother of two of the singers I cannot tell you how fortunate I feel that my girls were a part of this global festival. Watching my girls not only combine voices with other young singers from around the world, but also enjoy the free time of playing games on the grass in the shadow of the magnificent cathedral was such a personal joy. Additionally, I had no idea how emotionally overwhelming it would be to hear the children sing the historic Evensong in Canterbury. It was as if angels were singing directly to me and lifting our spirits to the heavens. I've never had such a moment and don't think I will again. What an honor that my daughters were a part of that beautiful moment. This trip will be such a warm memory for our family for the rest of our lives. Special thanks to Henry, David, and Tom for their outstanding work with the singers. I'm certain that all of the singers from our choir learned so much and I know that they will eagerly look forward to their next season of choir with CCCC. The music education they received will no doubt inspire them to share their joy of singing with their fellow singers. And special thanks to you for assigning Sevi to be our Tour Guide. She was outstanding, very personable and knowledgeable, and we were all very sad to say goodbye to her in the end. Although the other guides must have been great as well, I am certain the we had the best one!! Again, thanks SO MUCH for allowing us to be a part of this amazing adventure!!!
- **Erin McCall, Administrative Manager & Parent, Central Coast Children's Choir, San Luis Obispo, California, USA**
- ◆ The ongoing success of the International Children's Choir Festival is due to David Searles' having keenly discerned the connection that is nurtured among the Cathedral, the singers, and their directors over the course of the week. The vastness of the Cathedral embodies an ancient concept: that the highest and broadest effort of human beings is entirely encompassed by God's greatness. Not only this, but the sacred space itself actually invites those engaged with it to give the best that they have to give: to be fully engaged. Singers hear their voices returned to them, twice-blessed--a transformation seldom experienced in daily life. The surrender to the music that singers choose to make reflects their trust in the ancient benevolence of this sacred place, so that not only are their voices blessed, but so is their engagement. That's the glow you see when they're "in the moment". Seeing their faces is as moving as hearing their voices! David Searles, David Flood, and Henry Leck accept only the finest effort and only the finest offering. That's the singers' experience of the International Children's Choir Festival!
- **Bill Owens, Artistic Director, The Honor Choir, Bastrop, Texas, USA**

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- ◆ As a composer, there are few experiences more profound than hearing one of your compositions performed beautifully by skilled musicians in the kind of space for which it was intended. That's exactly what happened on July 23rd, 2014. The well-prepared singers, Tom Allery's superb organ playing and Henry Leck's masterful conducting could not have had a more fitting venue than the acoustic and historic marvel of Canterbury Cathedral. Many thanks to all the performers as well as David Flood and David Searles for making this extraordinary experience possible.
 - **Peter Robb, composer of *Missa Brevis No. 1***
- ◆ Thank you once again for an inspirational Canterbury Choir Festival. Canterbury Cathedral and the town are so beautiful- it was wonderful just to be in such beautiful historical surroundings enjoying the fantastic weather and hospitality. Our girls fully appreciated and loved the repertoire chosen for the festival. They really enjoyed both directors Henry Leck and David Flood who were both musically outstanding, inspirational, caring, and entertaining! It was also great professional development for me as choir director. The wonderful music-making and camaraderie all the choirs shared makes this festival very special and memorable. I know that our girls are keeping in touch with a number of new friends they have made from the other choirs. Our girls will be talking about this festival for some time yet!
 - **Ella Hanify, Artistic Director, Seraphim Choir, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand**
- ◆ All we can say is "Wow!" regarding the entire week. Watching our children develop friendships both in their own choir and in those from across the globe was fun to watch. We absolutely loved hearing the children sing both at rehearsals and during the concerts. Many of the songs moved us deeply. It was quite telling that no one seemed to want the concerts to come to a close. We thank you on behalf of all the parents as we're sure all were as pleased as we were. What a wonderful opportunity and blessing this experience was for all of us!
 - **Anna & Matthew Talarico, Parents, Central Coast Children's Choir, San Luis Obispo, California, USA**
- ◆ Our voyage to Canterbury and the International Children's Choir Festival became for us more of a pilgrimage than a trip or tour. The preparation of the fine repertoire was one step on our pilgrimage: It focused our program through the months leading into Summer, elevating our abilities and promoting excellence. Our efforts, combined with the artistic and technical leadership of Drs. David Flood and Henry Leck – two truly remarkable choral musicians—and the breathtaking venues in Canterbury and London, returned my choristers as changed young people. They sang throughout the journey home. They now understand choral singing and discipline in ways that cannot be fostered in a local program—they needed to come to Canterbury! This change surely makes them pilgrims and not tourists. Euro Arts made this voyage nearly effortless, with top rate accommodation, ease at mealtimes, a superb coach, and a truly great tour manager. David, you were a dream to work with and I wish you all the best as you continue to enrich young lives through your program! You do an amazing job, and with great aplomb. Congratulations!
 - **Charles Hogan, Director, St. Mary's Choir School, High Point, North Carolina, USA**
- ◆ I must thank you for all your hard work and for the smooth way all the practical arrangements went. I found working with you so easy and I appreciated the way you kept in touch throughout the whole long organizational process. The planning and logistics are immense for such an undertaking but everything from our pick up in London to the final check-out after the last concert went smoothly. Our guide Diane was excellent and there wasn't a question she could not answer. The facilities at Christ Church University were excellent. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved. We wish you every success with future festivals and will be ensuring New Zealand choirs know of this event.
 - **Anne Olsen, Tour Coordinator, Seraphim Choir, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand**
- ◆ This was the first major tour that our organization has undertaken. Right from the beginning David Searles was extremely professional. He was even able to come by Worcester, MA on his way to his Vermont summer home and give a presentation to our prospective travelers. The tour itself was very well organized, both in terms of the music and the itinerary. Our guide was also excellent and went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure our experience was memorable. Our singers came away with memories that will last a lifetime. I highly recommend this festival to organizations considering a European tour.
 - **Philip Montgomery, Interim Director, Worcester Children's Choir, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA**
- ◆ The festival exceeded my expectations. I knew the music would be glorious and to sing in the amazing cathedrals with the organ was stunning. The opportunity for my students to work with Henry Leck and David Flood was a great learning opportunity. I often have students selected to sing in honor choirs to work with such eminent directors, but for my CHOIR to get the opportunity bumps up their level of musicianship, and raises the expectation in future musical endeavors for ALL of them. The bonus was watching the involvement of the parents and their response to the musical process and sharing in the cultural adventure. They loved being a part of all of it. And, I was affirmed by the response of the kids to the challenging and fulfilling rehearsals, and the joy they received by meeting kids from other countries (especially the outdoor games they played with all their new friends). Our tour guide and bus driver were wonderful. The entire experience lived up to the print copy provided, and then some! I'm already missing being there and being together.
 - **Beth Klemm, Artistic Director, Central Coast Children's Choir, San Luis Obispo, California, USA**



Central Coast Children's Choir, California
Workshop with David Flood



The Honor Choir, Texas
Workshop with Henry Leck



Shanghai Radio Children's Choir
Workshop with Henry Leck



Seraphim Choir, Wellington, New Zealand
Canterbury Cathedral Concert



Cantaré Children's Choir, Calgary, Canada
Canterbury Cathedral Concert

Watch Festival Videos on YouTube under "International Children's Choir Festival - 2014" and "Canterbury Festival Choir"