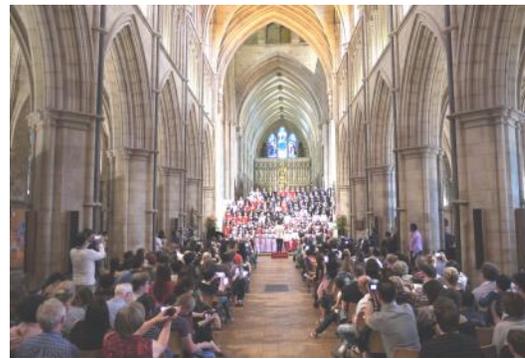




Canterbury Cathedral
Festival Evensong
Festival Choir Concert #1



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 2016 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 and the USA.

The experience of the Canterbury Festival never ceases to amaze me. The look in their eyes as young singers experience the impact of Canterbury Cathedral's acoustic and architectural beauty. The splendor of these young voices with the cathedral organ is a sound you want to retain for a lifetime. This year's festival was an exceptional thrill ! The students arrived so well prepared and so well trained. But what was most pleasurable was the amount of joy we all shared in rehearsals. Working with David Flood and Tom Allery is always an uplifting experience which seems to draw the best out of everyone present. So many tears in the audience such incredible singing so much glorious sound ! And for similar reasons, the London concert at Southwark Cathedral is always just as moving ! I am thrilled to return back to England year after year to experience such glory ! I am so grateful to David Searles, whose year-long dedication to this festival, makes it such a success.

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

The 2016 ICCF choirs formed a truly extraordinary group who responded so quickly and gelled so well. The standard and expressiveness of their performances was astonishing and it was a delight to work with them all. The hard work of the preparation was rewarded over and over again by the excitement and thrill which was so obvious during and after each performance. This week will have been a truly memorable occasion for them and I personally am delighted that so many of the thousands of singers who have sung here over the years come back as visitors and search me out to say hello. Congratulations to all those wonderful musicians!

- **David Flood, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Canterbury Cathedral, Founding Festival Co-conductor**

It was a pleasure to be part of this unique and wonderful festival this year, and a thrill to accompany such a fantastic festival choir in beautiful settings and acoustics. To see the transformation of the choir over the course of the week and to see the confidence of the members grow was truly inspiring.

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

The International Children's Choral Festival is the crème de la crème event for treble youth choirs. Founder and Director of the Festival, David Searles, is professional and has the expertise and experience that makes this festival so unique. Conductors, David Flood and Henry Leck, were able to take our singers to new levels of performance and their individual work with both singers and directors was inspiring. Our memories of their handiwork will last a lifetime.

- **Julie White, Artistic Director of the Kentucky Youth Chorale (second participation)**

We can't say enough about how wonderful this festival was! From the moment of planning a year ahead to the actual performances in the cathedrals, every element was top-notch. Our students LOVED working with Dr. Leck and Dr. Flood, growing personally and musically as a result of their expert feedback. The singers were in awe of the remarkable surroundings and were touched to partake in such a special Evensong service in Canterbury Cathedral. We especially like that the singers have several performance opportunities during the festival instead of a single concert event. Our choristers didn't want it to end. We are planning on returning in 2019 to share this incredible festival experience with more of our singers. Thank you, David Searles!

- **Edward Rouse, Artistic Director of Los Robles Children's Choir (second participation)**

Only superlatives suffice to describe the festival experience for our children. The training received in only a few intense sessions with David Flood and Henry Leck works wonders in enriching and strengthening our choral sound. And the change is not temporary. When the children return home, everyone who hears them remarks on the transformation of their sound. The festival training continues to do its work once we return home, acting much like yeast in dough, to revitalize the entire choir, spreading to impact even those who were not at the festival. Its cumulative impact on our choir program is immeasurable. The ICCF experience has become a vital component in the ongoing success of our choir program. We return every three years as a way to offer the experience to as many of our children as possible. We have attended six festivals since 2000. In closing I must say a word about the parents who attend. It is as much a life-changing experience for them as it is for their children. No matter how wonderful you tell them it will be, they invariably come up in tears after the Evensong and concert in Canterbury, too moved to express their gratitude. Many thanks for infusing our choir once again with the life-giving, life-affirming, and life-changing experience of the ICCF!

- **Capers Cross, Organist/ Master of the Choristers, St. Peters Church, Charleston, South Carolina (sixth participation)**

Our time in Canterbury and London with the ICCF was just superlative! All the details of our stay were so smoothly orchestrated. Our tour guide was a real gem, but of course the music was magical! Nothing compares to singing in England's grand cathedrals. David Flood and Henry Leck worked wonderfully with the students and were so personable and inspiring! This was truly an experience of a lifetime for my students and their attending family members! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- **Devon Kincaid, Director, Bach Festival Youth Choir, Orlando, Florida, USA**

It was a wonderful experience and such a fabulous trip. Thank you for all your hard work arranging everything to make our tour so successful. The shadow and chorus tour guides were so amazing, too!

- **Lara Browder Administrative Manager & Parent, Children's Chorus of Collin County, Plano, Texas, USA**

With warmest thanks and gratitude! I loved being a part of the Festival!

- **Cheryl Gillaspay, Director, Master Children's Choir, Somis, CA, USA (Observer with Los Robles Children's Choir)**

This was a week that has forever changed the lives of the children and adults that were a part of it! What a well-organized, smoothly run, moving experience. Every tiniest detail was tended to with such care. The charm of Canterbury and London are without rival, and the leisure times to explore the cities were an added bonus. The experiences of Windsor Castle, Tower of London, and seeing "The Lion King" just further enhanced our time there. But it was the music....the glorious music..... carefully chosen and prepared to perfection - that filled our hearts and minds and will be forever held in our memories! Surely there is no more wondrous place to sing than a cathedral such as Canterbury and Southwark. The entire experience of the Festival was such a gift! Thank you, David Searles, Henry Leck, David Flood, Tom Allery, and all the others who made it so.

- **Janie Oliver, Director, Children's Chorus of Collin County, Plano, Texas USA**

The best trip we have ever done!

- **Vivian Cook, Parent, Bach Festival Youth Choir, Orlando, Florida, USA**



Kentucky Youth Chorale
Concert in Canterbury Cathedral



Diocesan Junior Choir, Hong Kong, CHINA
Concert in Canterbury Cathedral



Children's Chorus of Collin County, Texas
Concert in Canterbury Cathedral



Pacific Mennonite Children's Choir, CANADA
Workshop with David Flood



Bach Festival Youth Choir, Orlando
Workshop with Henry Leck

Watch Festival Videos on YouTube under "International Children's Choir Festival - 2016" and "Canterbury Festival Choir"