

Press Release



Picture: current and former Cathedral layclerks (from left to right), David Ireson, Keith Parker, Nigel Short, Simon Filsell and Simon Colston return as members of Vox Coelestis

Musical friends return to help Cathedral Music Trust

On 7th February 2009, several current and former St Albans Cathedral Choir members are amongst a choir putting on a very special concert in the cathedral, to help it to maintain its ancient choral setup in perpetuity. The concert, in aid of the **Cathedral Music Trust**, is being sung by Vox Coelestis, a group setup by two ex-layclerks who were also choirboys together in the Midlands in the 1970s – Simon Filsell and Nigel Short. Simon still lives in St Albans, and continues to sing with chamber choirs in London, but Nigel went on to join the world-famous **Kings Singers**, and now conducts the highly-successful choral group “**Tenebrae**”, which is heard frequently on **Classic fm**.

The concert, entitled “*The Passing of the Saints*”, is centred on the saints depicted on the High Altar screen, and includes music by Tallis, Palestrina, Rachmaninov, Rutter, Tavener and contemporary American composer Eric Whitacre. However, the highlight is the **world premiere of a specially-composed work** by the choir's director, Nigel Short - “**Song for St Alban**” from words by the late 'Ver Poet', Lois Clark.

Vox Coelestis brings together top-quality singers from around the UK to perform exclusively for the benefit of charities. After several concert successes around the UK, the choir brings its unique performance style, of atmospheric lighting and using various spaces around the building, to the glorious architecture of the cathedral.

Cathedral Warden and Music Trustee, Barry Forrester said “*we are extremely grateful that these former cathedral musicians and their friends are donating their services to us for this extremely important cause. With a new composition about St Alban featuring in the programme, it promises to be a very special event*”

The concert takes place at 7.30pm in the Tower Crossing, and the limited number of tickets are likely to sell out. They are priced at £15 each and are on sale from the Cathedral Information Desk, in the Chapter House, 11 am–4 pm daily Phone: 01727 890256.

Further information and copies of the above photograph from: Simon Filsell (01727 833645)
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