

PRESS RELEASE



Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir launches search for singers

The Three Choirs Festival is looking for keen singers aged 14–25 to join its 2016 TCF Youth Choir and spend a week rehearsing in Gloucester for two festival performances in Gloucester Cathedral.

The full choir of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses will have its own cathedral concert on the morning of Friday 29 July, performing Rossini's sparkling *Petite Messe solennelle*, a thrilling work with a unique sound world created by the accompaniment of two pianos and a harmonium. Sopranos and altos will also have the opportunity to join the Three Choirs Festival Chorus and Philharmonia Orchestra for the final concert of the festival, a performance of Mahler's immense Symphony No 8, known as the 'Symphony of a Thousand', on 30 July.

Rehearsals take place in Gloucester Academy of Music, directed by Geraint Bowen (who will conduct the Rossini), Adrian Partington (who will conduct the Mahler) and Nia Llewelyn Jones, Singing Development Leader of Gloucester Cathedral. There are no formal auditions and the rehearsal week is non-residential.

More information can be found on the Youth Choir page of the Three Choirs Festival website. Singers interested in applying to take part should email youthchoir@3choirs.org to request an application form.

Full programme details for Gloucester Three Choirs Festival can also be found on the festival website. Booking is open now via the Ticket Office: 01452 768928. Online booking is also available now.

www.3CHOIRS.ORG

www.twitter.com/3choirs

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More information and a selection of high-resolution images from:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The **Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir** for 14 to 25-year-olds from Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire was formed in 2010, when over 40 singers took part in the first concert in Tewkesbury Abbey. Our aim is to provide members with an opportunity to participate in one of the most prestigious music festivals in the world and to work with some great conductors and musicians. The choir was awarded the Cultural Olympiad's 'Inspire' mark in 2010 and 2012 to denote an outstanding project that contributed to the lasting legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games. Repertoire performed has included Requiems by Duruflé, Fauré and Bob Chilcott; works by Paul Mealer, Joseph Phibbs and Benjamin Britten; Beethoven's Mass in C; and the premiere of *Centuries of Meditation* by Dobrinka Tabakova. We encourage members to build on their Three Choirs Festival experience and join their local choral society.
2. **The Three Choirs Festival** has its origins at the end of the 17th century in visits by the lay clerks of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester to one another's cathedrals for joint services and informal singing. More formal annual 'music meetings' can be traced back to around 1715 and have continued ever since, interrupted only by the two world wars, making this the oldest continuously running classical music festival in the world. The event rotates between the three cathedral cities on a three-year cycle. The next festival takes place in Gloucester 23 – 30 July 2016 and is the 289th Three Choirs Festival.
3. The **artistic director** of each festival is the director of music of the city's cathedral, currently Adrian Partington (Gloucester), Geraint Bowen (Hereford) and Peter Nardone (Worcester). They work with the chief executive of the Three Choirs Festival Association, an operations director in each city and local voluntary committees to plan and deliver the festival programmes.
4. **The Three Choirs Festival Chorus** is largely drawn from auditioned members of the choral societies of Worcester, Gloucester and Hereford, with the largest contingent each year coming from the host city. Amateur choral singers have been taking part in the festival since the middle of the 19th century to augment the cathedral choirs of boy trebles and male altos, tenors and basses.
5. The **Philharmonia Orchestra** has been resident at the Three Choirs Festival for the past six years. More information about the residency:
http://www.philharmonia.co.uk/concerts/residencies/three_choirs_festival