

# Music in heroine's memory

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Budding musicians are gearing up for a moving performance in memory of Norfolk First World War heroine Edith Cavell.

The world premiere of *Eventide*, written by Patrick Hawes, will be held at Norwich Cathedral tonight at 7.30pm.

It will be performed by 120 singers, including 34 children from the International Britten Music Course at Gresham's Prep School in Holt held this week.

They will be joined by the Sheringham and Cromer Choral Society, Welsh soprano Elin Manahan Thomas and the 50-strong English Chamber Orchestra.

Mr Hawes, who has lived in the Norfolk Broads area for eight years, joined the music residential course for one day.

He said: "The concert is going to be an amazing occasion. The children sound wonderfully bright and



■ Composer Patrick Hawes at Gresham's School working with the Britten Music Course students as they sing his composition *Eventide*.

Picture: ANTONY KELLY

polished. The sound has got the innocence of youth as well as a knowingness. I get the sense *Eventide* will be the most moving piece I have written. There won't be a dry eye in the house. I am very moved that young people are taking part."

The youngsters on the residential Britten course were aged eight to 13 and came from Gresham's Prep School, All Saints' Primary School in Stibbard, St Nicholas House Preparatory School in North Walsham, Glebe House School in Hunstanton, Beeston Hall School, near Sheringham,

and Norwich School.

Other young singers came from as far as Bahrain and Venice.

The 43-minute performance of *Eventide*, which includes words written and spoken by Edith Cavell, will be sung in front of 800 people. It also incorporates the "haunting" tune of Christian hymn *Abide With Me*, spoken by the nurse the night before her execution on October 12, 1915, aged 49.

■ About 70 unreserved side aisle tickets are still available and cost £10. Call 01603 630000 to book.