

BRITTEN MUSIC COURSE PERFORMS WORLD PREMIERE

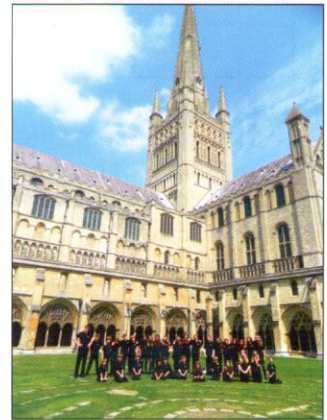
Gresham's International Britten Music Course finished on a high note when the 34 young musicians who attended the course, performed the world premiere of Patrick Hawes' Eventide in Norwich Cathedral on 12th July.

The piece, which was a community project jointly commissioned by Gresham's and Sheringham & Cromer Choral Society, also employed the forces of the world-renowned English Chamber Orchestra and acclaimed soprano Elin Manahan Thomas. Conducted by Director of Music at Gresham's Prep School, Nathan Waring and with an audience of over 700 people, the children rose to the occasion brilliantly. In addition, they performed a number of pieces including George Butterworth's Six Songs from Shropshire Lad with Tom Appleton (Monteverdi Choir and Gresham's Director of Music Outreach). Eventide was written to commemorate the nurse Edith Cavell, who helped more than 200 allied soldiers to escape German-occupied Belgium in WW1 and who is buried in Norwich Cathedral.

The EDP called the concert an 'impressively ambitious and moving tribute' which has seen planning and fundraising for the last two years, attracting major grants from the Arts Council England, Norfolk Big Society Fund, Norfolk County Council, The John Jarrold Trust, and the Gresham's Foundation among others.



Also performed at the concert were two pieces by the late English composer Geoffrey Burgon, for organ, solo



trumpet and choir. The trumpet performance was provided by 15-year-old Gresham's student George Jefford who performed from the organ loft so to give a magical and distant feel to the solo.

Eventide will receive its North Norfolk premiere on 8th November in St Peter's Church, Sheringham, when Gresham's will once again provide the children semi-chorus for Sheringham and Cromer Choral Society. Norfolk soprano Rosamund Walton will join the English Chamber Orchestra and the performance will be conducted by Nathan Waring.

Tickets are on sale from Sheringham Little Theatre (01263 822347).

The 2015 International Britten Music Course is already in advanced planning stages and it is hoped to continue to attract talented young musicians from across the UK and overseas.

For further information about the course visit www.greshams.com


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