



Press release – November 2016

Whitehall Choir looks for a new Music Director to replace Paul Spicer

After 17 years at the helm, Paul Spicer will be leaving the choir in July 2017, and we are therefore seeking a new musical director. This is a great opportunity for an enthusiastic and engaging professional to work with a willing and committed group of singers and our accompanist, Ian Tindale, on the next chapter in the choir's history. Further information, including the audition and selection process, is available on the Choir's website – www.whitehallchoir.org – or from the Chairman, Jonathan Williams at chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk

Paul commented, 'It has been a great privilege to work with the Whitehall Choir for many years and I am very proud of our achievements. But with the focus of my career now almost entirely in Birmingham and the Midlands, and with a number of fresh young conductors coming up, I believe the time is now right to allow new talent to lead the choir in its future development.'

About the Whitehall Choir

The Whitehall Choir is one of the leading amateur auditioned choirs in London, performing with professional soloists and orchestras in St John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall, and many London churches. The choir has recorded three CDs and has undertaken successful European tours, including most recently to Vienna in May 2016.

The Choir promotes at least four concerts each year and rehearses each Tuesday evening at St Peter's, Eaton Square SW1. Annual programmes have been hugely varied, with each season having one or two major works from the baroque and classical repertoire, and choral music across the centuries including a wide variety of English music - Paul's specialism - from Byrd to Elgar, Parry to MacMillan, and by Paul himself. Notable successes include an exploration over recent years of Handel's great Sacred Dramas including Athalia, Saul, Samson, Jephtha, Judas Maccabaeus, Alexander's Feast and Israel in Egypt, with Joshua to come in November 2017.

Paul has prepared and conducted many major works both in concert and in Come & Sing events, such as Bach's B minor Mass, Magnificat, Christmas Oratorio, St. John and St Mark's Passions; Monteverdi's Vespers, Mozart's Requiem, his great C minor Mass both as he left it and in Robert Levin's extraordinary completion, Haydn's late Masses and CPE Bach's Magnificat; Dvorak's Stabat Mater, Bruckner's E minor Mass, Brahms's Requiem and Rossini's Petite Messe Solonelle.

More modern works have included Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, Dyson's The Blacksmiths, Leighton's Columba Mea, Paul's own The Deciduous Cross, Langlais's Messe Solonelle and Kodaly's Laudes Organi.

Paul is currently rehearsing the Choir to perform Mozart's C minor Mass and Richard Blackford's Mirror of Perfection with the Brandenburg Sinfonia at St John's Smith Square on 22nd November, with Christmas music at St Peter's, Eaton Square on 13th December, the Spring concert at St Margaret's Westminster including Duruflé's Requiem on 6th April 2017, and the Summer concert at St Peter's on 6th July to follow.