

BECOME A CATHEDRAL COMMISSIONER

You could join a growing band of Cathedral Commissioners and support a new piece of music to be premièred by Wells Cathedral Choir for less than £10 a month. Payments can either be made in one sum or by monthly instalments through a Standing Order.

As a Cathedral Commissioner you will:

- be invited to the main rehearsal for the première of the work, with the composer in attendance
- be a VIP guest at the première
- have your score signed by the composer at a special Commissioners' reception
- have your name printed in the score; this may include a dedication to a family member/friend
- be kept up to date with the progress of the work after its première
- directly support the work of a contemporary composer
- directly support Wells Cathedral Choir and the wider English choral tradition



Commissioners meet composer Howard Skempton

“Being a Cathedral Commissioner enables you to become part of a group that shares the unique experience of enabling a new piece of music to come into being.”

Winston McAlister, Cathedral Commissioner

FIND OUT MORE

To find out how to become a Cathedral Commissioner please do one of the following:

- visit www.cathedralcommissions.co.uk and download the application form
- email administrator@cathedralcommissions.co.uk
- write to: Dr Nicholas Hooper, Cathedral Commissions Administrator, Wells Cathedral Music Office, Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2UE
- telephone the Wells Cathedral Music Office on 01749 832204



Commissioners listen in as a composer discusses his music with Wells Cathedral Choir before it is premièred

“Witnessing the creative process within a rehearsal and then attending the première of a piece of music is an incredibly rewarding experience”

Andrew Drysdale, Cathedral Commissioner

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Photograph of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies by Johanna Sheldrake

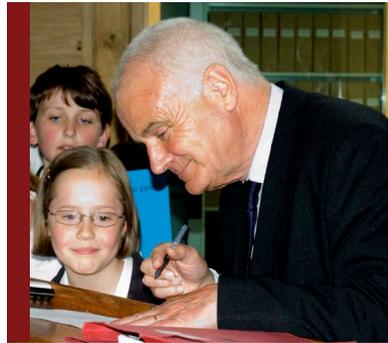
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Cathedral Commissions

President: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, CH, CBE
Artistic Director: Mr Matthew Owens
Advisory Board: Prebendary Helen Ball, OBE (Chair),
Dr Nicholas Hooper (Administrator), Mr Nigel Lloyd,
Mr Cameron Marshall, Mr Howard Skempton, Mr John Williams



INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Church must always be abreast of developments in the cultural life of the society she serves. Her spiritual involvement in all aspects of this – philosophical, scientific, and artistic – is essential to ensure that, while steadfastly maintaining the eternal

values for which she stands, she renews herself at the deepest levels, to make her meaning and relevance clear to each successive generation.

A creative relationship with the musical thought of the time not only gives new and unexpected meaning to the words of religious texts, but also involves composers in a real living society – today, for obvious reasons, of supreme importance. It is for all these reasons that the Wells Cathedral initiative to commission composers is of such value.

By being actively involved in a living Church, the composers commissioned have the opportunity to surpass themselves, irrespective of their personal belief or non-belief, and to make a contribution to our musical culture with very wide reference and resonance indeed.

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, CH, CBE
President of Cathedral Commissions

With over 200 published works, which are performed worldwide, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (pictured above meeting Wells Cathedral Choristers) is acknowledged as one of the foremost composers of our time. He has written across the widest of musical genres from symphonic works to children's musical theatre. He was appointed Master of the Queen's Music in 2004.

HELP CREATE AND SUPPORT THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE

Established in 2006, Cathedral Commissions is an exciting project run by Wells Cathedral Music Foundation to raise funds for the commissioning of new works from some of today's pre-eminent composers, and to share the thrill of commissioning with as many people as possible.



A Commissioners' reception with James MacMillan, CBE

The scheme is open to anyone and is a rewarding and enjoyable way to support living composers, the glorious English Choral tradition, and the Choir of Wells Cathedral.

Cathedral Commissions enables Wells Cathedral Choir to commission at least one new work every year from some of today's finest composers. This would otherwise not be possible and so our Commissioners provide the essential financial support for major new pieces of music to be brought into being.



Judith Bingham discusses her music with the Cathedral Choir

Since being established, Cathedral Commissions has commissioned works by the following composers: Richard Allain; Judith Bingham; Jonathan Dove; Gabriel Jackson; John Joubert; James MacMillan, CBE; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, CH, CBE; Tarik O'Regan; Howard Skempton; and Sir John Tavener.

WELLS CATHEDRAL CHOIR



Wells Cathedral Choristers with composer Jonathan Dove

Wells Cathedral Choir was hailed recently by an international jury from *Gramophone Magazine* as the greatest choir with children in the world, and the sixth greatest overall. The choir celebrated its 1100th birthday in 2009: boys first sang at Wells Cathedral in 909 and the full choral tradition dates back over 800 years. In 1994 the choral foundation at Wells was enriched by the addition of girl choristers. Today the choir consists of 18 boy choristers, 18 girl choristers, and 12 Vicars Choral (the men of the choir). The boys and girls usually sing separately with the Vicars Choral but occasionally come together for larger events and tours.

Wells Cathedral Choir broadcasts regularly on BBC Radios 2, 3 and 4, and on television. Its recent innovative recordings for Hyperion Records and Regent Records have won international praise: "wonderfully blended, and must rank as one of the top cathedral sounds" (*BBC Music Magazine*); "currently enjoying a superb top line" (*The Observer*); and has had two recent discs made *Editor's Choice* in *Gramophone Magazine* which labelled the choir "probably the finest English cathedral choir at the moment" in "world-class form".

As well as performing glorious music from the medieval period through to the twentieth century, the choir excels at performing exciting new music within the ancient Cathedral services. The commissioning of adventurous and innovative repertoire engages people in Wells Cathedral, in the wider English choral tradition, and in the concert hall.