



CORNWALL INTERNATIONAL MALE CHORAL *festival* 2nd - 6th May 2019

“The World’s Largest Male Choral Festival”

INTRODUCTION

Male voice choirs/ensembles will again have a wonderful opportunity to gather in Cornwall, one of the most beautiful counties of England, for a unique festival of male choir concerts, other singing opportunities, workshops, competitions, socialising and sightseeing.

The male choir tradition in Cornwall has long been a significant part of its cultural life. 30 male choirs are active in the County. New boys choirs are being established here and Boys / Youth Male choirs from across the world will be particularly welcomed.

This **Ninth** International Festival will be centred on the very attractive cathedral city of Truro. However, all choirs involved in the Festival will have the opportunity of performing in other venues and tourist attractions in towns and villages across Cornwall.

The previous Festivals (the first was in 2003) were considered resounding successes. Each year the Festival has grown and 60 choirs participated in 2017. Over 2,000 singers took part in more than 60 concerts and events in 50 different venues including Truro Cathedral, The Hall for Cornwall, the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Minack Theatre. Press reports of the Festival have included phrases such as “*exceeded everyone’s expectations*”, “*a triumph*”, “*superb opportunity to develop friendships across continents*”, “*practically every concert was sold out*”.

The Festival aims to bring male choirs from the UK and across the world together to join with Cornish choirs in a spirit of musical friendship and song. In previous Festivals, choirs have come from Australia, Canada, South Africa, France, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Holland, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Switzerland, Finland, Faroe Islands, Jersey, Poland, Russia, Sweden, USA as well as from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Choirs and ensembles of all sizes, ages and traditions are invited with their supporters to join in this exciting Ninth Festival, and Cornwall looks forward to welcoming you to ‘The World’s Largest Male Choral Festival’!

Gareth Churcher
Festival Director

CORNWALL

Situated in the far south-western part of the UK, Cornwall is known for its ancient heritage, beautiful landscapes, rugged cliffs and golden sandy beaches, picturesque towns and fishing villages, magnificent public gardens (like the Lost Gardens of Heligan) and the stunning Eden Project - which houses a vast global garden within breathtaking space-age conservatories.

The National Maritime Museum in Falmouth and the Tate Gallery in St Ives are additions to Cornwall's cultural heritage. It is a wonderful place to visit and an ideal situation for an International Male Choir Festival. Truro, the County town has a superb Cathedral, elegant cobbled streets and Georgian town houses. It is set at the head of the Truro River. Truro is Cornwall's cultural, commercial and administrative centre and has excellent pedestrianised shopping. It also boasts the Royal Cornwall Museum.

TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN CORNWALL

Being in the far south west of the UK, travel to Cornwall takes time! From any of the major London airports, the fastest train journey will take nearly five hours. Coach travel from a ferry or Eurostar / Le Shuttle point of arrival (e.g. Dover or Folkestone) takes seven hours. Newquay Cornwall Airport has limited scheduled services outside the UK. However, choirs have previously chartered aircraft arriving there to participate in the Festival. Exeter, Bristol, and the London airports all have excellent European and worldwide connections. All are served by fast train services to Cornwall.

The Festival's tour operator, Melody Music, maintains up-to-date links with all relevant transport hubs and travel companies and has access to all necessary timetables and other relevant information. Much of this will also be posted on melodymusic-company.com/cimcf. Melody Music can make all travel arrangements for choirs if required and can also assist choirs in making their own travel arrangements.

Melody Music can also negotiate with local bus and coach companies on behalf of visiting choirs for transport from their accommodation to and between Festival events. Because Melody Music maintains contacts with transport companies they are in a position to obtain favourable rates.

There is no obligation for Choirs to use Melody Music for transport arrangements.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The Festival programme operates in seven main areas.

- **Prestigious International Festival Gala Concerts** involving six to eight choirs from outside Cornwall and some Cornish male choirs in shared concerts. Choirs perform their own short choice of programme individually. These evening events will take place on Thursday 2nd May at Truro Cathedral and other venues on Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th, and Monday 6th May.
- **International Male Choir Competitions** (details are elsewhere in this briefing) with a first prize in each category of £1000. Choirs chose their own programme. The competitions will be held on Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th May.
- **Regional Festival Gala Concerts**, normally involving a number of choirs, will be organised in most of the major towns across Cornwall. Choirs sing their own programme of music. All concerts have professional compères and are almost always followed by "afterglows" - a time of socialising for everyone involved.
- **Daytime Singing opportunities** are organised in the Lost Gardens of Heligan, the Eden Project, the Minack Theatre, Tate St Ives, Pendennis Castle, Trebah Gardens, Land's End and The National Maritime Museum Falmouth.

- **Festival Workshop and Symposium** will take place over the Festival period.
- **Opportunities for Sightseeing.** There will be ample time during the Festival for all visiting choirs to visit places of tourist interest throughout Cornwall.

Participating choirs can take part in any or all of the above areas. Choirs do not have to compete in the International Competitions, but it is hoped that they will – over twenty choirs have competed in each of the previous Festivals. All choirs have the opportunity to perform in at least three locations across Cornwall during the Festival, and all choirs will have the opportunity perform in Regional Gala Concerts.

Socialising is an important part of the Festival and, after almost every Regional Gala Concert, “afterglows” give the opportunity for meeting one another and developing longer-term relationships for future exchanges.

The main venues booked for the Festival include the impressive Truro Cathedral with its fine choir acoustics. Other churches, halls and theatres throughout the county will be utilised as Festival venues, together with the now famous conservation Eden Project with its unique biomes which house plant specimens from across the world and built on the site of an old Cornwall china clay pit. Other venues include the unique outdoor Minack Theatre (built high up into the Cornish cliffs overlooking the sea), the modern Tate Gallery at St. Ives, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the fabulous Pendennis Castle overlooking Falmouth and the Fal Estuary.

Choirs participating in the Festival from outside Cornwall do not have to be resident in Cornwall for all five days of the Festival. It is hoped that visiting choirs will come for at least three nights (Thursday to Sunday or Friday to Monday inclusive). Some choirs have stayed for seven nights. 6th May 2019 is a public holiday in the United Kingdom.

FESTIVAL ACCOMMODATION

It is a condition of participation that choirs stay in accommodation allocated to them by the Festival Tour Operator, Melody Music. Choirs are not permitted to book their own hotel accommodation. The major reason for this is that the Festival works with and is supported by 20 hotels across Cornwall and needs to make best use of the space available by ensuring all hotels we work with are as full as possible. The accommodation details for this festival may be found at melodymusic-company.com/cimcf.

Accommodation will be organised during September 2018 with hotels already contracted to provide accommodation for the Festival. All accommodation is at Choir cost. It will be based mainly in and around the coastal towns of Newquay and Falmouth, or Truro, and within travelling distance of Festival venues. Youth Choirs may opt for Hostel or Campsite accommodation via Melody Music.

Twin and double rooms are normally available. Single rooms may be available but are very few in number and will involve paying a supplement. Accommodation is available in two main price brackets:

1. £60 - £79 per person per night. Hotels, all with ensuite rooms. Bed & breakfast plus evening meals.
2. £80 - £95+ per person per night. Luxury hotels all with ensuite rooms. Bed & Breakfast plus evening meals.