

A royal audience for local choir

Masterworks Chorale, a local choir based in Leeds, have just returned from their 5th international tour. However, there were some surprise guests in the audience.

The theme for the international tour is to take the music of a composer back “home”. This year the music was from Josef Rheinberger, a lesser known composer whose works include some challenging and elaborate organ compositions as well as sacred music for mixed choirs. The destination was Vaduz, Liechtenstein his birth place and our performances were to be in Vaduz Cathedral. The present-day cathedral (*pictured above*) is next to Rheinberger’s family home and stands near to where the original church was, where he played the organ as a young boy.



The first performance on Saturday evening, we were very pleased to welcome a representative from the Rheinberger Association, who after the concert then introduced Rheinberger’s great great granddaughter to musical director Tim Knight. They complimented us on our splendid performance.

The following day the choir sang the Rheinberger’s Missa St. Crucis for the Sunday Mass in the presence of royalty the crowned Prince and Princess of Liechtenstein. This was another unexpected surprise and a first for the choir to perform in front of royalty.

The final surprise of the trip was the very generous donation of over £500 that the church gave us to, gathered from the collection after the two performances. From which we have purchased the music for next year’s tour to Prague, and we will be donating the remaining amount to a local charity.

All in all, a very enjoyable tour, full of surprises as we look forward to our 2018 season. This will include 10th March travelling to Richmond, North Yorkshire; 23rd June Haxby, near York; September concerts 8th in Ripponden to celebrate 150 years of the St Bartholomew’s Church, followed by a week later on the 15th in Pudsey Church; November international tour to Prague with the year ending as special guests of Leeds Male Voice Choir in their Festival of Remembrance. Visit our new website address www.masterworkschorale.org.uk for more details.



The choir arrive in Vaduz, standing around the statue of Rheinberger and in the background, is his family home.