

# Halifax Minster Friends of the Music

President: Mr P Tordoff

Issue 3

December

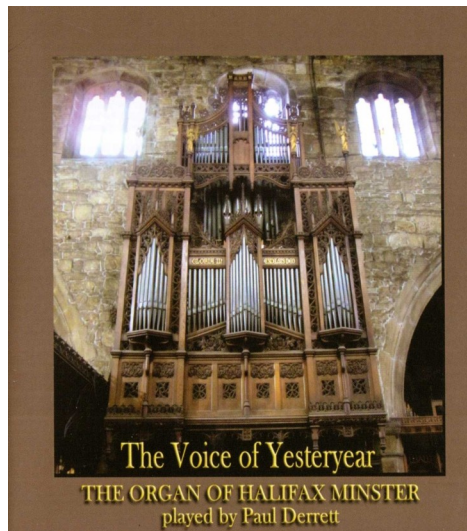
## Welcome

### Message from Prof. Baker, Chairman of the Friends of the Music

As of January 2013, I am taking over from Philip Tordoff the active leadership of the Friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Philip for all his work over the years in developing this association. Philip has become the first President of the Friends. A small committee – reporting to the Minster Council – has been set up. The Friends will organise:

- The weekly organ recitals and regular celebrity organ recitals
- Other concerts and recitals within the Minster
- Fund raising for and promotion of the organ and choir
- Recruitment of new Friends
- Friends' events
- A database of members and performers
- Publicity relating to music at the minster, including an online presence

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## Minster Organ Recording

We are delighted to announce the release of the first commercial recording of the minster organ, played by Paul Derrett.

Having heard it I can confirm it is very fine indeed. The CDs are available in the minster shop, and part of the profits from sales go to the minster; so do not delay!



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Two celebrity organ recitals (both starting at 7.30pm) have been booked to take place during the Halifax Festival. On 6 July, Ian Tracey, Organist of Liverpool Cathedral will be the recitalist, while on 13 July Darius Battiwalla will make a return visit to the Minster. We are hoping that his performance will include improvising to silent film.

As is well known, the Harrison organ requires a full restoration in the near future, and the Minster has been given a 1770/1860 Snetzler/Hill organ which will be very useful for both services and concerts, and in the work of the Halifax Organ Academy. This will require considerable fundraising and the Friends' contribution will be vital in ensuring that we secure this rich piece of our heritage.

We will be looking for two members of the Friends to join the organising committee in the New Year. Subscription rates remain unchanged for 2013 and renewal information will shortly be dispatched. We strongly encourage members to gift aid their subscriptions and any other donations that they care to make.

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## Choir Recruitment

**The Minster Choir** sings every week during term time. We require some sight-reading ability or a keen desire to learn, and a suitable vocal quality to fit in with our repertoire.

**The Chamber Choir** sings at a number of services and concerts throughout the year, with rehearsals scheduled accordingly. A good level of sight-reading and vocal proficiency is required, along with a suitable vocal quality to fit in with our repertoire.

**The Voluntary Choir** is invited to sing a few times each year, and individual members may also be invited to augment the Minster and Chamber choirs on other occasions. We require an ability to follow a chosen voice part effectively, either by ear or by sight-reading.

To Apply, for further information, or to speak informally with the Director of Music please contact the minster office.

## Organ Scholar

Jordan Meakin (pictured below) writes:

“It seems almost an age since I first set foot in Halifax on a very wet March day. However, luck must have been on my side as I managed to overcome my nerves enough to be offered the job.

Having graduated with First Class Honours in the summer, I was no stranger to hard work, but nothing could have prepared me for the quantity of learning I have experienced so far!

The people I have encountered both in the Minster and in Mytholmroyd have been so generous with their time and kindness. It feels like I have always been a part of this community.

(continued right)



(continued from left)

I have already given my first recital in the Minster, and taken part in some high profile events. I look forward to continuing to assist Chris Brown in developing the music department.”

## Chorister's Cup

The annual chorister award went this year to Oliver Binns, pictured below with Director of Music Christopher Brown (left) and Organist Emeritus Philip Tordoff (right).

A former treble of the minster choir Oliver now sings Bass and has made tremendous progress with his singing, and now regularly takes solo parts at the minster.

Also this year Head Choristers Josh Barber and Ella Binns have achieved their Bishop's award.

Hannah and Alex Wilkinson have succeeded in attaining the Dean's Award.

