

SCHOLA

Cantorum of Oxford

Patrons: John Mark Ainsley, Lord Armstrong, Dame Liz Forgan,
Laszlo Heltay, Dame Emma Kirkby, Andrew Parrott, Roderick Williams

Conductor: James Burton

Steven Grahl Appointed Conductor of Schola Cantorum of Oxford

Daniel Mahoney Appointed Conducting Fellow of Schola Cantorum of Oxford

22 May 2017

Schola Cantorum of Oxford is delighted to announce the appointment of Steven Grahl as Conductor from the 2017-18 season. The appointment comes ahead of James Burton's last concert as conductor scheduled for June 10. Schola are delighted to announce a second appointment, that of Daniel Mahoney to Conducting Fellow. The Conducting Fellowship is a newly created post to develop a promising young conductor, and Daniel is the first person to receive the fellowship.

Steven Grahl has been Director of Peterborough Cathedral since September 2014 but is no stranger to Oxford having studied there, been a member of the Oxford University Faculty of Music, and worked at New College, Oxford for seven years. Steven's performances have been described as "*truly inspired*" and Schola Cantorum is looking forward to an exciting first season with him

Richard Savage, Trustee of Schola Cantorum of Oxford and chair of the appointment panel commented:

"I am delighted to be able to welcome Steven and Daniel to the Schola family. Steven is a visionary and exciting musician who I know will bring a lot to Schola Cantorum. I am delighted to have been able to appoint Daniel Mahoney to Schola's first ever Conducting Fellowship, he is a talented young conductor, and it is a pleasure to be able to support his career at such an early stage. We look forward to hearing Schola perform under both of them in the near future"

Steven Grahl commented: "I am absolutely delighted to be appointed Conductor of Schola. I have long admired the energy, enterprise and

musical standing of the choir, and the opportunity direct this group is a dream come true! It will be a pleasure to work alongside the new Conducting Fellow Daniel Mahoney, and the singers, officers, trustees and patrons. I am looking forward to continuing James Burton's excellent work, and shaping a vibrant and exciting artistic future for the choir."

Daniel Mahoney is completing an MA in Choral Conducting at the University of Birmingham under Simon Halsey and Simon Carrington. He has been described as an "exceptional performer" and Schola Cantorum will be his first appointment in the UK. There is a neat symmetry to Daniel's appointment, he has come to the UK having sung in the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, a group which James Burton is leaving Schola to Conduct.

Daniel Mahoney commented: "I am deeply honored that Schola Cantorum of Oxford has appointed me as their first Conducting Fellow. This opportunity is one for which I am extremely grateful, and I look forward to the privilege of conducting this outstanding choir and working alongside new music director, Steven Grahl."

Steven and Daniel's appointments follow James Burton who leaves, after 15 years in charge of Schola to take up his new post as Choral Director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

STEVEN GRAHL

Steven Grahl is a sought-after conductor and keyboard player. He took up the position of Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral in September 2014, where he is responsible for directing the Cathedral Choir, and is custodian of the recently re-pitched Hill Organ. Prior to this, he spent seven years as Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford, accompanying the chapel choir in services, concerts, broadcasts, webcasts and recordings. In conjunction with this post, he held the position of Organist & Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church, London from 2001-2014. Steven was appointed Principal Conductor of the Guildford Chamber Choir in 2006, and has worked with numerous ensembles, including *New London Chamber Choir*, *The English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble*, *Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Instruments of Time and Truth*, and *Prime Brass*. He is Musical Director of Peterborough Choral Society.

A prize-winning graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, and the Royal Academy of Music, Steven gained the top prizes in the FRCO examination, and is also a holder of the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medallion. In 2010, Steven was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM), an award offered to past students of the Academy who have distinguished themselves in the music profession and made a significant contribution to it in their particular field. As a former member of the Oxford University Faculty of Music, Steven has twice held stipendiary lectureships in music at New College and is in demand as an organ and conducting

tutor. He served for two years as Chairman of the Association of Assistant Cathedral Organists, and is currently a Junior Fellow in Choral Direction at Birmingham Conservatoire. Steven was an interpretation finalist in the International Organ Competitions at St Albans (UK) in 2011, and in Dudelange (Luxembourg) in 2013, and will be President of the Incorporated Association of Organists from July 2017.

DANIEL MAHONEY

Daniel Mahoney, a conducting student of Simon Halsey and Simon Carrington at the University of Birmingham where he works with a wide variety of ensembles ranging from student choirs and community choirs to youth choruses and the CBSO Chorus. He will be conducting the UK student premiere of Jonathan Dove's *The Enchanted Pig* at the Barber Institute of Fine Art in June 2017. He is originally from Boston, MA where he recently completed a master's of music in conducting at The Boston Conservatory. In addition to serving as assistant conductor for the choral ensembles and operas in Boston, Daniel was assistant conductor of the Newburyport Choral Society and music director at the Congregational Church of Weston from 2014-2016. In early 2016, he conducted Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings* and *Les Illuminations* alongside world premieres with The Janvs Project chamber orchestra. He has been a fellow at Yale University's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and conducting fellow as Chorus America's national conference. With Berkshire Choral International, Daniel has helped to prepare masterpieces from the choral-orchestral canon as a staff conductor and apprentice in the United States and the Republic of Ireland. In August 2016, Daniel conducted in world premiere of David Lang's *the public domain* in New York City's Mostly Mozart Festival. He has sung in large symphony choruses, including Boston Symphony Orchestra's Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the CBSO Chorus, in addition to small professional chamber choirs including Canto Armonico and Boston's acclaimed Renaissance Men. He has also performed at Trinity Wall Street in New York in their *Compline by Candlelight* series as well as in the *Bach at One* series with Boston University's Marsh Chapel Choir. Prior to pursuing graduate studies, Daniel was the choral director at Cohasset High School and Medway Middle School. In addition to a master's in conducting, he also holds a Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Ithaca College.

SCHOLA CANTORUM OF OXFORD

Schola Cantorum of Oxford is one of the longest established and most widely known chamber choirs in the UK. Founded by conductor László Heltay in 1960 as Collegium Musicum Oxoniense, Schola Cantorum has worked with many highly respected musicians, including former patrons Sir Michael Tippett and Yehudi Menuhin, as well as Leonard Bernstein, Gustav Leonhardt, John Nelson, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Mark Elder, and Sir Neville Marriner.

Schola Cantorum comprises around thirty singers, most of whom are students at Oxford University. Studying a broad variety of subjects across the Humanities and Sciences, the choir's members rehearse during term, and regularly perform in Oxford and elsewhere. The choir has developed a noteworthy international reputation, having given concerts in recent years in Argentina, China, France, Italy, Israel, Malta, Mexico and Spain. In September 2014 the choir visited the USA for the first time since 1989, touring through New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia.

Schola Cantorum has enjoyed a long history of recordings. In 2008, the choir recorded music by American composer Randall Thompson on the Hyperion label,

and in January 2010 added a recording of works by the Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara. The choir has frequently appeared on UK and international radio and television, and has featured in several of John Bridcut's BBC films, including *Delius: Composer, Lover, Enigma*; *The Passions of Vaughan Williams*, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the composer's death; *Elgar: The man behind the mask*; *The Prince and the Composer*, a documentary on Hubert Parry presented by HRH the Prince of Wales; and *Britten's Endgame*, a film to commemorate the centenary of the composer's birth, broadcast in November 2013. In 2015 Schola Cantorum released a new CD, *Oculi Omnium*. Recorded in the spectacular acoustic of Merton College Chapel, Oxford, the CD is a 'celebration of England's choral tradition' and features pieces by Howells, Stanford, and the choir's current conductor James Burton.

In addition to their regular series of concerts in Oxford, recent highlights have included performances at the Dorchester Festival and in Beaulieu Abbey; the opening concert of the Fifth Masevaux International Festival of the Organ, performing with Thierry Escaich, a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* as part of the St Denis Festival broadcast on France Télévisions in 2011, and Berlioz' *Roméo et Juliette* broadcast on Radio 3 from the Royal Festival Hall in February 2012, and performed at La Theatre Champs-Élysées with Sir Mark Elder. In January 2013 the choir performed Haydn's *Creation* at the Royal Festival Hall with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Adam Fischer, and also gave a concert of Bach's *Magnificat*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Zadok the Priest* in St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, Malta. For the choir's 55th anniversary concert in May 2015, the current choir was joined once more by the OAE, distinguished soloists including the choir's patron Roderick Williams, and 150 former members to perform Brahms's *Song of Destiny* and Mozart's *C Minor Mass*.

For further information, graphics or press tickets, please contact:

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Steven Grahl



Daniel Mahoney