

Press Release

St Paul's seeks young singers from across the UK to form Diamond Choir

Friday, 16th March 2012

Children from all UK regions and nations have the chance to sing for The Queen as part of the Diamond Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving this June at St Paul's Cathedral.

All boys and girls aged 10-13, who sing regularly in a church, school or other choir, are eligible to apply to join the choir, which will see auditions take place in regional cathedrals before 40 children are chosen to come to London for the service on 5 June.

The cathedrals are: Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackburn, Brecon, Bury Saint Edmunds, Canterbury, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Gloucester, Manchester, Peterborough, Southwell, St Asaph, St Paul's, Winchester and York.

A special work, *The Call of Wisdom*, has been written for the occasion by young British composer, Will Todd, with words by Michael Hampel, Precentor of St Paul's. The Diamond Choir, conducted by St Paul's Director of Music Andrew Carwood, will perform the work alongside the Choristers of both St Paul's Cathedral and the Chapel Royal during the service.

The Reverend Canon Michael Hampel, Precentor of St Paul's said: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to sing in front of The Queen at St Paul's Cathedral in Diamond Jubilee year. It's the first Diamond Jubilee service at St Paul's since Queen Victoria's in 1897 and we want to share it with young people from every region and nation of the United Kingdom.

"Auditions will be taking place all over the country and we are grateful to our friends in other cathedrals who are hosting them. As long as children regularly sing in any local choir, they can apply to take part in this exciting project.

"We're really looking forward to hosting this unique occasion; having young singers from all over the country will make it even more special."

A dedicated website – www.diamondchoir.co.uk – is now live. It contains:

- An online application for the Diamond Choir
- A full list of audition venues and dates
- Information about the new anthem
- Terms & conditions

All initial press contact, including regional, should be made through the St Paul's Cathedral press office.

The anthem will be published through Oxford University Press ahead of 5 June so that choirs throughout the UK and Commonwealth can sing it in their own Diamond Jubilee services.

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For more information please contact Ed Holmes, Press and Communications Manager, St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8321 or email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk