

Press Release

London musician triumphs in choral composition competition

Thursday, 5th July 2012

The organist of a London church, just a short distance from St Paul's, has won the Cathedral's composition competition.

John Eady, organist at St Magnus the Martyr, next to London Bridge, has triumphed in the *New Music for St Paul's* competition with his anthem *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, written for the Feast of Pentecost.

The work, inspired by plainsong, impressed judges who found it beautifully crafted and full of imagination. Andrew Carwood, the Cathedral's Director of Music said: "It is so good to discover a young composer who understands how voices work in the building and who has written a piece which is rewarding to sing, challenging to perform but so well constructed that it is a joy to rehearse."

As a prize, John received £1,000 and heard his piece performed by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral at the Pentecost Procession on Sunday 27 May.

This year the judging panel included one of Britain's most famous composers, John Rutter, and three finalists had their works performed by the St Paul's Cathedral Consort at a special recital performance, before the winner was chosen.

Supported by the Boltini Trust through the [St Paul's Cathedral Foundation](#), the biennial *New Music for St Paul's* is open to composers under the age of 40. Entrants have to submit a setting based a feast in the Church's calendar which is specified in advance. The next competition will be announced in the coming months.

The Christian Church is a significant patron of the arts and much new music is being commissioned regularly by cathedrals and parish churches around the country.

ENDS

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

John Eady

John Eady was born in 1976 and received much of his early musical training at the Yehudi Menuhin School and as a music scholar at Charterhouse. After studying music at King's College London and the Royal Academy of Music he studied cello for three years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Stefan Popov. In 2002 he started to learn the organ with Anne Marsden Thomas at the St Giles International Organ School and in 2006 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He is currently a freelance cellist and organist, manages his string quartet named Four Strings Attached and is also an instrumental teacher at Eastbourne College and Battle Abbey School. Since 2008 he has been organist at St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge.

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

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