



Members of the Capriol Singers pictured with musical director John Emery (centre).

Capriol Singers step into spring

The Capriol Singers performed the first of their spring concerts at St. Nicholas' Church, Blundellsands, recently.

It is about 15 years since the choir was formed and it is now under the musical direction of Mr. John Emery. Saturday's recital included music by Vaughan Williams, Sweelinck, Stravinsky, Seiber and Victoria.

Baritone soloist was Gerald Brown, president of the Capriol Society. Appearing with the choir were accompanist Cynthia Owen and organist David Williams. The two-hour concert was supported by the Merseyside Arts Association.

The Capriol Singers' next production will be at Holy Trinity Church, Southport, on Saturday, April 26, when they will perform the same programme.

The Capriol Singers are —
Sopranos: Margaret Blott, Margaret Brown, Anne Cotsworth, Joan du Cros, Jean Drake, Jennifer Edwards, Ann Paver, Rosalie Philpott, Barbara Prince, Carolyn Slatter, Christine Wood.

Altos: Blanche Arch, Judith Ball, Margaret Coekayne, Lesley Eno, Rosemary Gordon, Ursula Gribble, Kathleen Mason, Susan McMorran, Barbara Nuttall, Pauline Riley.

Tenors: Ian Banks, Paul Crossey, Philip Daniels, Peter Paton, Dennis Pratt, David Thomas, Alan Thompson.

Basses: John Bowen, Stuart Brennan, Andrew Crispus-

Merseyside Arts Press Release

Bluecoat Concert
Hall

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THE CAPRIOL'S COMMISSIONS

The Capriol Singers, an adult mixed voice chamber choir of 35 singers, based in Crosby, will be celebrating their 21st anniversary, which falls in 1982, with a special concert in June. Anxious to mark the occasion with something noteworthy, they have decided to commission three composers to write a piece for the concert. At a meeting on 28 October, Merseyside Arts Trust dispensed £750 in fees to John Emery, Gerald Brown and Wilfred Mellers.

Wilfred Mellers, is Professor of Music at York University and a well known composer of a considerable corpus of music in most media, though with a leaning towards music with literary or theatrical associations, most recently, "A Dream of the Green Man", a masque for church performance. He has also published on a wide range of musical subjects, including "Twilight of the Gods; the Beatles in Retrospect."

Gerald Brown, the choir's founder and first conductor is setting three poems by Robert Herrick to music. John Emery, the choir's present conductor, has taken animals as the subject matter for his piece, drawing on sources as diverse as e.e. cummings, Philip Larkin and the Book of Proverbs.

Songs of success

31 May 1984
C. Herald.



The Capriol Singers, who draw their membership from a wide area over South West Lancashire, have again achieved success at two recent music festivals — in Morecambe and Chester.

The singers had a most enjoyable day in Morecambe, meeting and competing against other choirs from as far away as Scotland and Eire in the 80th Morecambe Music Festival. They were awarded first place in the Challenge Shield Class for mixed voice choirs, and were delighted to achieve second and third places in two other classes.

The singers continued their

success at Chester festival where they took second place in the Madrigal Class — missing first place by just one point.

The choir will be taking part in the Rufford Revelry at Rufford Hall during the weekend of June 16/17, while on June 30 members will be giving a concert of music for a summer evening in Ainsdale High School as part of the Garden Festival Fringe '84 season.

Members of the Capriol Singers Choir are pictured with their latest trophy — the Challenge Shield — which they won at the recent Morecambe Music Festival.

Code NA



The Capriol Singers celebrated their Silver Jubilee with a performance of Bach's B Minor Mass on Saturday evening in St. Faith's Church, Crosby.

It might have seemed an ambitious project, but the Singers, under the baton of conductor John Emery, and with the Merseyside Youth Orchestra, made it the perfect choice to mark twenty five years of music making.

"Most uplifting" said one member of the audience at the end of the evening and that just about sums it up. There was a crisp discipline from the singers and a fresh, lively attack from the young musicians and, over all, the feeling that this was what Bach ought to sound like.

The singers were augmented by a few members of other local

choirs and the orchestra was scaled down a little. In the pleasing acoustics of St. Faith's, this gave a balance that is sometimes missing from professional performances in far greater places.

The soloists were Crosby's Anne Crew (soprano), Barbara Dix (mezzo soprano), Roger Topping (tenor) and Andrew Slater (bass) and

Julie Ann Carr played St. Faith's splendid organ magnificently.

The conductor's own programme note called the music "remarkable and moving." The performance he drew from singers, soloists and orchestra was just that. Here's to the Capriol Singers' next twenty five years.

HG



The Capriol Singers give a recital of Christmas music at Rufford Old Hall during their twenty fifth season.

A fundraising album of Christmas music

THE Capriol Singers of Crosby have provided the choral work for a Christmas album for Jospice.

Providing an instrumental accompaniment to the recording sessions were the Manchester Camerata.

Soloists were Crosby's own Rosa Mannion (soprano), together with Angela Hickey (contralto), Stuart Kale (tenor) and Richard Robson (bass). "An Extravaganza of Hymns and Carols for Christmas," a double album on LP records and tapes, marks the first time

the Capriol Singers have recorded an album in 20 years.

The Christmas album will be available from November 1, initially by post only (please write to Jospice International, Ince Road, Thornton, L23

4UE). The price for the album in both formats is £9.99.

Jospice Director Francis O'Leary, who organised the recording session, has planned it for the charity's 25th anniversary this year. He hopes to make the album available through the shops nationally.

Freelance ex-BBC engineer Ian Parr put his technical expertise to good use on the album recorded at St Mary's College, Crosby. The conductor was Mr John Emery.

Royal College of Music student Ken Hesketh had a major part in the production, arranging and orchestrating the music, as well as writing the original composition "The Christmas Tree Carol."

Many of those taking part, including the choir and conductor, gave their services for free. The Capriol Singers had been rehearsing for three months for their major contributions.

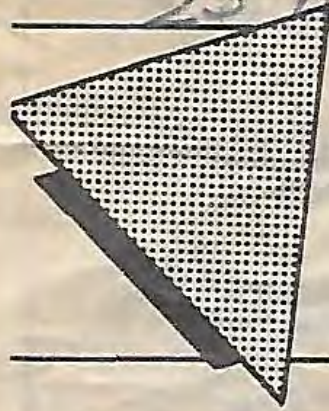


English National Opera singers Angela Hickey (left) and Rosa Mannion pose for a photograph with Jospice Director Father Francis O'Leary during Sunday's recording session. Code JMD



The orchestra and singers.

25 MAY 1989 (CROSBY HERALD)



Spotlight

With Debbie
Atkinson

Disaster prompts new composition

THE Hillsborough disaster prompted the composition of "In Memoriam" by the Musical Director of the Capriol Singers, John Emery.

This new work will be included during the Concert of Modern English Music when the Capriol Singers perform on June 10 in the Bluecoat Concert Hall, Liverpool.

The work, for reader, choir and piano, is intended as a commemoration of those who lost their lives at Sheffield.

It consists two movements: choral settings of "Requiem Aeternam" from the Requiem Mass and the Nunc Dimittis,

the latter accompanied by the singing of the Nunc Dimittis. Other movements are in the process of being composed.

The completed movements are to be sung by the Capriol Singers.

Chairman of the singers, Mrs Ros Philpott commented: "The past few years have been unprecedented in the number of public tragedies — Piper Alpha, Lockerbie and Clapham, to cite the most recent before Sheffield — and "In Memoriam" is dedicated to the families of those who lost their lives at Sheffield and in other tragedies, large and small."