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THE CHOIR OF NEW COLLEGE OXFORD
Robert Quinney, Director

The Choir of New College, Oxford is one of the most celebrated and acclaimed choral groups of the UK. When William of Wykeham founded his 'New' College in 1379, a choral foundation was at its heart, and daily chapel services have been a central part of college life ever since. The Choir comprises sixteen boy choristers and fourteen adult clerks; the latter a mixture of professional singers and undergraduate members of the College. The pattern set by New College Choir in the 1380s was later adopted by other foundations, and may be seen as the prototype for all choirs of its kind. The boy choristers benefit not only from the matchless education provided by daily contact with superb music, or the satisfaction of performing at a professional level, but also from generous bursaries at New College School.

Beyond Oxford, New College Choir is often heard in concert around the world, on broadcasts and on recordings. A wide range of music is represented in its discography; it was the first choral foundation to establish its own recording label, Novum, and has also recorded for CRD, Decca, Erato and Hyperion. The choir has released a number of CDs since Robert Quinney's arrival as director. In summer 2016 *John Blow: Symphony Anthems* was Editor's Choice for the September issue of *Gramophone*, and shortlisted for an award in the early music category. In 2017 the choir released two CDs, *The Gate of Heaven: Favourite Anthems from New College*, including works by Matthew Martin and Rhian Samuel; and *Like as the Hart*, settings of Psalm 42, to accompany the novel *The Templar's Garden* by Catherine Clover.

ROBERT QUINNEY

Robert Quinney is Organist of New College, Oxford. In addition to the daily direction of New College's world-famous choir, his work comprises teaching, lecturing, and examining, as a Tutorial Fellow of the college and an Associate Professor at the University Faculty of Music. He also maintains a parallel career as a solo organist, and he is a prolific recording artist: his discs of organ music by J.S. Bach, Elgar, Dupré, Wagner and Brahms – and several CDs with the Choir of Westminster Abbey and The Sixteen – have been widely acclaimed. A noted Bach specialist, in February 2017 Robert Quinney performed Bach's major organ works at London's South Bank.

Robert Quinney read music at King's College, Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar. After four years as Assistant Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, he became Sub-Organist of Westminster Abbey in 2004. While at the Abbey he performed on concert tours to the United States, Australia and Russia, at several televised services – including the Marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge – and on the BBC TV documentary Westminster Abbey. In April 2013 he moved to Peterborough Cathedral where he was Director of Music for sixteen months. From 2009 to 2014 he was Director of Oundle for Organists, whose residential courses continue to attract young organists from around the world.

TIMOTHY WAKERELL
Organist

Timothy Wakerell has held the post of Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford since September 2014 where he accompanies the renowned Chapel Choir in services, broadcasts, concerts and recordings. Recent highlights have included playing for Radio Three Choral Evensong and as well as the feast of St Peter and St Paul at St Peter's Basilica in Rome in the presence of His Holiness, Pope Francis. Prior to this he was Sub-Organist of St Paul's Cathedral between 2008 and 2014, and his duties included accompanying the world-famous choir and assisting with the training of choristers. In addition he also played for many important national services which were broadcast live on television such as the Funeral of Baroness Thatcher and the Diamond Jubilee Service. He was also frequently continuo player for Handel Messiah and J.S. Bach St John Passion. Timothy performed with the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral in a four-part documentary entitled *David Starkey's Music & Monarchy* which was broadcast on BBC Television. He also gave a performance of *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns as part of the Lord Mayor's Show day celebrations.

Timothy studied organ at the Royal College of Music, London with Margaret Phillips and David Graham, graduating with distinction in both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. He won all the major prizes for organ performance and also held scholarships supported by a Ruth Dyson and Edgar Cook award and a John Lewis partnership award. In 2011 Timothy won Second Prize at the Carl Nielsen International Organ Competition in Odense, Denmark. He has continued his studies with Dame Gillian Weir and Terence Charlston.

As a solo recitalist Timothy has performed throughout the UK as well as in Germany, Switzerland and Sweden. Although he enjoys playing a wide-ranging and eclectic repertoire, he

has a special interest in the music of J.S. Bach, French Classical, French Romantic, German Romantic and Contemporary music. He regularly performed in the annual Celebrity Recital Series at St Paul's Cathedral – “Timothy Wakerell proved himself a master of the instrument and its surroundings ... [Gaston Litaize's Prélude et Danse Fuguée was] fully brought out by the technical aplomb and unerring musicianship of this excellent organist” (*The Organ*). In 2014 he also gave two recitals in St Paul's Cathedral as part of a series dedicated to the Trio Sonatas of J.S. Bach, and other recent venues have included Queen's College, Oxford, St Augustin, Paris, St George's, Hanover Square and Westminster Abbey (part of a series to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM the Queen).

Timothy has recently completed the premiere recording of the 2012 William Drake Organ in the OBE Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral. This recording features works by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Saint-Saëns and Sweelinck and is distributed by Priory Records.

Timothy is an experienced accompanist and frequently performs with choirs such as Aurora Nova, the City of Oxford Choir and Excalibur Voices. Organ teaching also is an important part of his work and he teaches organ at Westminster School.

Timothy has also held positions at Southwark Cathedral, St Pancras Parish Church and the Royal Hospital Chelsea and he has broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 several times. He also features on a recording of Fauré's *Requiem* with the Choir of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.