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STEPHEN CLEOBURY CBE
Director of Music, Choir of King's College, Cambridge

Stephen Cleobury has for almost 30 years been associated with one of the world's most famous choirs, that of King's College, Cambridge. His work at King's has brought him into fruitful relationships with many leading orchestras and soloists, among them the Academy of Ancient Music, the Philharmonia, Britten Sinfonia and the BBC Concert Orchestra. He complements and refreshes his work in Cambridge through the many other musical activities in which he engages.

At King's, he has sought to enhance the reputation of the world-famous Choir, considerably broadening the daily service repertoire, commissioning new music from leading composers and developing its activities in broadcasting, recording and touring. He introduced the highly successful annual festival, *Easter at King's*, from which the BBC regularly broadcasts, and, in its wake, a series of high-profile performances throughout the year, *Concerts at King's*, which this season has already seen performances with the Vienna Boys' Choir and with Andreas Scholl. One of the most exciting innovations in this context was the first ever live simultaneous transmission of a concert (Handel *Messiah*) direct to cinemas across Europe and North America. This year's *Easter at King's* included broadcasts by the BBC of Elgar *The Apostles* and MacMillan *Seven Last Words,* both conducted by Cleobury.

From 1995 to 2007 he was Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers and since then has been Conductor Laureate. During his time with the Singers he was much praised for creating an integrated choral sound from this group of first-class professional singers. With the Singers he relished the opportunity to showcase challenging contemporary music and gave a number of premieres, including Giles Swayne *Havoc*, Ed Cowie *Gaia*, and Francis Grier *Passion*, all with the distinguished ensemble, Endymion.

Since 1983 he has been closely involved in the Cambridge University Musical Society, one of the UK's oldest music societies, where he has nurtured generations of young talent. Highlights have included Mahler *Symphony No. 8* in the Royal Albert Hall and Britten *War Requiem* in Coventry Cathedral on the 50th anniversary of its bombing. As part of the 800th anniversary celebrations of Cambridge University in 2009 he gave the premiere of *The Sorcerer's Mirror* by Peter Maxwell Davies.

Beyond Cambridge he is in demand as a conductor, adjudicator and leader of choral workshops: this season's non-King's engagements have seen him working with the Northern Sinfonia at The Sage, Gateshead, giving masterclasses in Göteborg and Sollefteaa in Sweden, taking CUMS to Paris and working with the newly formed East Anglian Chamber Orchestra, of which he is President. A trip to the USA is currently being planned.

In recent seasons he has performed as an organ recitalist at Houston, Delaware, Minneapolis-St Paul (where he gave the premiere of Judith Bingham's organ concerto at the American Guild of Organists' Convention), Geneva, Finland, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Gloucester, St David's and Westminster Cathedrals, Wymondham and Bath Abbeys, Great Malvern Priory, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, Leeds Town Hall, and at the La Verna, Rotterdam and Toledo Organ Festivals. The latest addition to his many organ recordings is a DVD of popular repertoire released by Priory Records.

Stephen Cleobury has played his part in serving a number of organisations in his field. From his teenage years until 2008 he was a member of the Royal College of Organists, of which he is a past President. He has been Warden of the Solo Performers' section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and President of the Incorporated Association of Organists; he is currently Chairman of

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the IAO Benevolent Fund, which seeks to support organists and church musicians in need. He was appointed CBE in the 2009 Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Choir of King's College, Cambridge is represented by Intermusica.
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