



Singing Together Outreach Programme A Salisbury Cathedral joint initiative with Salisbury Cathedral School

We are all aware that music provision in schools continues to be squeezed by the demands of the National Curriculum and are keen to support teachers who are responsible for this subject, particularly with singing in primary schools. The Cathedral, in conjunction with Salisbury Cathedral School, has been running its Singing Together outreach programme to promote singing in primary schools since September 2004. To date over fifty schools and 3600 children have experienced the joy of singing through this scheme. At every school we visit, the enthusiasm of the children for singing seems boundless and has improved enormously over the weeks as the children have had fun learning basic vocal techniques and singing rounds, blues, jazz, echo songs and carefully chosen repertoire.

This coming academic year we are visiting two primary schools each term within 45 minutes journey time of Salisbury. Each school receives regular tuition culminating in a lunchtime concert in which the participating schools sing together in the Cathedral with the cathedral choristers in front of a (large) audience of parents, friends and visitors to the Cathedral. This opportunity undoubtedly raises their game even further.

In the past this work has been free to schools and been funded as part of the national Sing Up! strategy, in part from the government and in part from the Cathedral and Cathedral School. From September onwards sadly the government funding is no longer available. In order to cover the costs of the regular tuition in your school, provision of the music, weekly transport for the specialist singing leader, and the cost of setting up the cathedral for the concert, we will be asking schools to make a contribution of between £250 - £500 which represents up to 33% of the total cost of delivering the project each term. It may be that your school budget is already set for the coming academic year but this is something your PTA might feel inclined to support as it will without doubt add value to the children's all -round education. However, if you are interested but simply can't afford to make a contribution, we'd still like to hear from you.

We know from the feedback we have received that schools - both staff and pupils - have really benefited from the project:

- This has been a truly inspirational experience for our school to be part of, culminating in the concert and we would like to thank everyone involved.
- I recently took our choir to St Mary's Church in Marlborough to a carol competition. The judges were so impressed with the children singing in parts to Ding Dong Merrily on High that we came 2nd, which the children were delighted with!
- We have all learned so much from the whole experience and will cherish the memories for every. Thank you.

- As a small village school it has been a wonderful opportunity to join a larger body of children and broaden the possibilities of choral singing.
- Mr Wicks' sessions within the school brought enthusiasm to the children's singing. He also took them, along with a group of choristers, to a neighbouring primary school for a rehearsal with more children.
- We valued Mr Wicks' expertise and enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.
- The opportunity to sing in such a wonderful setting, with great acoustics, was very special. For some this was their first visit to the Cathedral.
- We thoroughly enjoyed our practises with Mrs Bond.
- We LOVED our visit by the choristers. They sing with such enthusiasm.
- Our children now sing with enthusiasm and have developed a mature and polished performance.
- The project has reinforced the ethos of the class unit.
- A good experience for all - pupils and teachers alike. Thank you.

If you would like to find out more about the 'Singing Together' outreach programme or you would like your school to take part in the scheme, please contact Sarah Flanagan, email: s.flanagan@salcath.co.uk or telephone 01722 555148.

