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**The Choir of
 Christ Church Cathedral,
 Oxford**

Stephen Darlington, director

Oundle School Chapel Monday 15 July 7.30pm

Te Deum (Collegium Regale)	<i>Herbert Howells 1892-1983</i>
Faire is the heaven	<i>William Harris 1883-1933</i>
Organ - Verset pour la Fête de la Dédicace	<i>Olivier Messiaen b1908</i>
Otçenas	<i>Leos Janáček 1854-1928</i>

INTERVAL

Oculi omnium	<i>William Byrd 1543-1623</i>
Justorum animae	<i>Byrd</i>
Gaudemus omnes	<i>Byrd</i>
Organ - Deuxième Fantaisie	<i>Jehan Alain 1911-1940</i>
Chichester Psalms	<i>Leonard Bernstein 1918-1991</i>

Written in 1944, the Te Deum represents the best features of Howells' style; ranging from nostalgic Elgarian lines to more aggressive Waltonian rhythmic intricacies. Harris was organist at Christ Church and this double-choir motet is regarded as his finest work. Janáček's setting of the Lord's Prayer is heard here in his rescoring for tenor, choir, organ and harp. In five sections it foreshadows the Glagolitic Mass, ranging from a peaceful opening to a dramatic ending with brutal ostinato rhythms. Considered by many the greatest English composer of church music, William Byrd was organist at Lincoln Cathedral from 1563 to 1570. A steadfast Catholic he also composed for the Anglican church.

Like the composer's Third Symphony, the text of Bernstein's Chichester Psalms is sung in Hebrew. Commissioned for the 1965 Southern Cathedrals Festival in Chichester, the work, while reflecting Bernstein's personal spiritual concerns, is affirmative and exuberant. It opens with a compelling chorale, the five-note figure of this providing the impetus for the melodic and rhythmic developments, including some brilliant syncopation, which follow. The first movement is an energetic setting of Psalm 100, 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord', moving to a resounding conclusion. A simple melody, the words of the 23rd Psalm sung by a counter tenor, opens the second movement. With the lines from Psalm 2 'Why do the nations rage?' the mood changes abruptly. The chorus melody gradually dominates and the opening melody returns. After a prelude the third movement becomes a 'peacefully flowing' setting of Psalm 131 before words from the first verse of Psalm 133 bring the work to a tranquil ending.

Messiaen's Verset pour la Fête de la Dédicace was written as a test exercise for the Paris Conservatoire in 1960. The adapted plainsong idea with which it commences is set alongside refrains of birdsong.

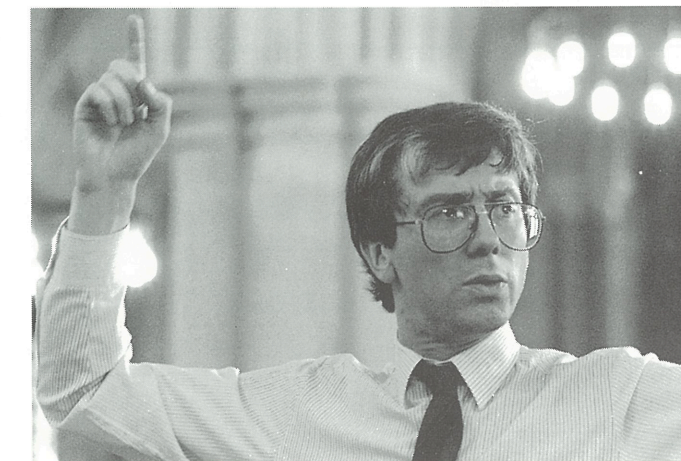
Alain's Fantaisie has three sections; the outer two sharing similar material with an Arabian flavour. A scurrying presto with an unusual rhythmic pattern forms the central section. Alain's early death in action during the Second World War was an inestimable loss.

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Founded in 1526 when Cardinal Wolsey invited John Taverner to become Organist and Master of the Choristers, Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford has continued the high standards of English choral tradition for over 400 years. In that time many fine musicians have been associated

with it including William Walton who was a chorister. The 16 boy choristers and 12 men sing at the daily services in the cathedral and also give many concerts in Britain and abroad. A prestigious series of recordings has been made in conjunction with some of Britain's most renowned orchestras.



Stephen Darlington has long been associated with Christ Church, Oxford. He was an organ scholar from 1971 to 1974, studying with Simon Preston. Appointments as Assistant Organist at Canterbury Cathedral and Master of the Music at St Albans Abbey followed. In 1979 he succeeded Peter Hurford as Artistic Director of the world-famous International Organ Festival,

returning to Christ Church in 1985. He has made several recordings and performed on radio, television and at the Proms. Stephen Farr is soloist in Verset pour la Fête de la Dédicace and Geoffrey Styles plays Alain's Fantaisie. In the performance of Bernstein's Chichester Psalms the harpist is Rachel Dale and the percussionist Levon Parikian.

Tonight's Twilight Recital
 Melinda Maxwell and friends
 Yarrow Art Gallery 9.55pm
 See Page 20 for programme details.