

# Cathedral Music News

Christmas 2025



*Music & Choirs*

AT PORTSMOUTH  
CATHEDRAL

83

## Round-up

We're set to **welcome thousands** of people to services and events in the days running up to and including Christmas Day! The choir is key to the success of **attracting so many** into the building on top of a number of services and concerts already this term. Read on for a roundup on our concert in the Mary Rose Museum, a **London carol service** and preparations for our traditional four Christmas Carol Services, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services.



## New People...



It has been brilliant to welcome our splendid Choral Scholars **Henry, Alex, Jeremy** and **Sam** as well as our talented Organ Scholar, **Michael** as well as Lay Clerk **Eliot Mead** all of whom were installed at the start of term alongside **Dr Annika Lindskog**. We were also pleased to install three girls as Senior Choristers. Well done to **Elsie, Jenna** and **Grace**. Congratulations too to **Evelyn** and **Olivia, Alex, Sam, Hugh** and **Dan** who make up this year's Head Chorister team.

## Former Chorister Reunion

Earlier this term we welcomed **thirty** former cathedral choristers to Evensong for their Annual Reunion. We were immensely privileged to have former Head Choristers **Guy Snowball** and **Benjamin Nash** attend and speak to us. Two brilliant speeches with memories and life skills learnt from their time in the choir.



## Requiems

This year our choirs tackled **two beautiful** and different Requiems. The Girls and Back Row gave a beautiful rendition of the **Fauré Requiem** for All Souls' Day. The Boys and Back Row sang the **Duruflé Requiem** on Remembrance Sunday itself.

## Mary Rose Concert and THE BIG GIVE

The Cathedral Choir (Boys) gave a splendid carol concert in The Gallery at The Mary Rose Museum as part of our 2025 BigGive Campaign. As a result of generosity on the night and that week we raised just under £22,000 for the music department.



## Cathedral Sing



### St Cecilia Evensong

We welcomed nearly **150 children** to join with our Cathedral Choir to sing a special Evensong for **St Cecilia Day** last month. All the children enthusiastically joined in with the Psalm, Magnificat, anthem and final rousing rendition of Vaughan Williams The Old 100th!

## The Snowman

Don't miss this month's performance of The Snowman with The Solent Symphony Orchestra. The Cathedral Choir will also sing a short selection of carols with the audience participation! And last month, one of our Boy Choristers performed the Snowman solo at Oaklands School for a professional orchestra—well done Daniel!



## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Carol Service



We were honoured to sing for the annual Commonwealth War Graves Commission Carol Service held at **All Hallows By The Tower, London**.

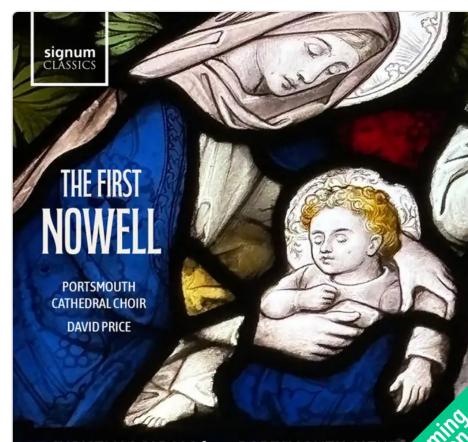
The Girls and Back Row sang a beautiful service alongside Mared Pugh-Evans, Official Harpist to His Majesty The King.

## NEW Signum Christmas album

Our **senior boy and girl choristers** have recorded a delightful selection of 18 Advent and Christmas carols able supported by our Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars. Now available from The Cathedral Shop or online. Here are some reviews from the national music press....

**"The Band of the Royal Marines Collingwood sound fabulous with Portsmouth Cathedral's choristers" – Gramophone**

**Carries the listener in 18 tracks of spiritual authenticity, with lovely tone from both boy and girl trebles and tenderly shaped interpretations and above all, an engaging, youthful sound. – Choir and Organ**



## Next year.....



Join us for a sequence of special events at the **start of 2026**. We are singing an **Epiphany Carol Service** on Sunday 18th January at 5.45pm and then our Candlemas Carol Service takes place on Sunday 1 February at 5.45pm. In March we are delighted to host our third **Early Music Festival**—more details below.....

Later in the year we also look forward to being part of centenary events for The City of Portsmouth and a BBC Radio 4 broadcast for Sea Sunday

## Our next tours.....



Plans are underway for the boys' DDay82 tour commemorative events for in Bayeux and Caen in June next year. And the girls will be heading to **Hanover** for Christmas concerts in mid-December 2026.

Thereafter we're looking at venues in Hungary (boys) and Italy (girls)—watch this space!



## Portsmouth Cathedral Early Music Festival

Between **March 5th and 15th** we shall be joined by The Gabrieli Consort and Baroque Alchemy, as well as our own cathedral musicians in concert including Britten's Noyes Fludde and **Handel's Messiah** on Saturday 15th March.



More details at [festivalofearlymusic.com](http://festivalofearlymusic.com)



## JOIN OUR CHOIR

We are always pleased to hear from prospective singers—**boys and girls aged Year 2** upwards can audition at any time and we hold regular **choir taster sessions**. Email for information.

[music@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk)

