

Liverpool choir experience!

I recently had the superb experience of representing Gwynedd and Conwy County at a concert in Liverpool Cathedral. At the concert, there were 40 to 50 different choirs represented with every choir sending 2 choristers. Preparing for the concert, I and Sarah who also represented the North West Wales region, stayed behind for about 30 mins to practise the songs. I was told about it about a month before the concert. The practice was worth it because more than half the music was new.

The concert date quickly approached and we set off for Liverpool. After we got to our hotel in Liverpool, I went to the practice with everyone. The sound was AMAZING! We had two conductors, and one of them was nearly deaf. The practice was in the crypt of the Metropolitan (the Roman Catholic Cathedral). By the time we had finished, it was past 7:30pm. We had time to have an evening meal, music and bed.

By 9:15am the next morning, all the choristers were in the Anglican Cathedral. The practice lasted 3 hours. During the breaks in the rehearsals, we got to talk to choristers from all around Britain. Following lunch in cathedral, I had a few hours to relax and look over the music, before having an early tea, and going back to the Anglican Cathedral for the concert. I didn't know it at the time, but after about half an hour I would be meeting the Duchess of Gloucester. Just before the concert I met her at the east end of the cathedral. I was one of a few choristers chosen to meet her. She walked around everyone shaking hands and talking to us. She asked me about the choir in Bangor, and any other musical interests I had. I then told her about my trumpet and guitar.

Once we had re-joined the other choristers, the concert began. The echo was MAGNIFICENT. Part way through the concert, John Rutter, who had composed some of the music, stood up and talked about the choir. Half way through his speech he asked the organist to play a few bars of his music, so he could hear a new pipe they had bought. The sound was so hilarious - everybody in the cathedral laughed. After the concert was over, and almost all the people had gone, I realized that John Rutter was signing autographs. I got my programme and music signed by him - a lovely ending to a memorable evening. Returning to the hotel at 10:40pm I finally got to finish my pudding (which the chefs had kindly kept for me). Everyone I spoke to had really enjoyed the evening.

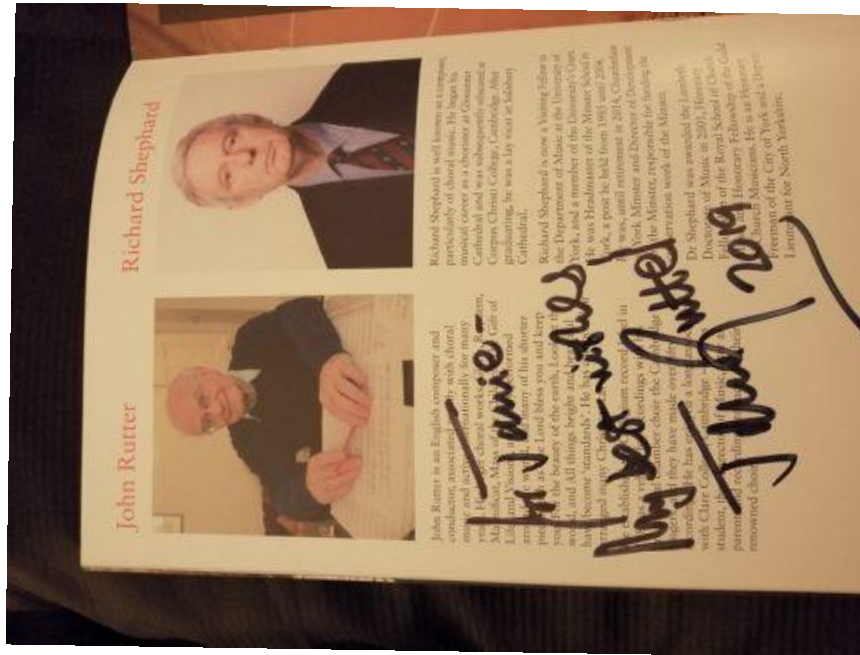
Jamie Oliver 7P



PICTURE FROM OUR REHEARSAL



PART OF THE CHOIR DURING THE CONCERT



THE AUTOGRAPH



THE AREA OF THE CATHEDRAL WHERE WE MET THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, UNDERNEATH THE HUGE 23FT REPLICA OF THE EARTH WHICH WAS CREATED FROM DETAILED NASA IMAGERY.

INTERESTING FACTS WE WERE TOLD:-

MOST PEOPLE IN LIVERPOOL DON'T KNOW THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL BY ITS NAME THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL..... INSTEAD THEY ALL CALL IT

'PADDY'S WIGWAM'.



THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL IN LIVERPOOL IS THE LARGEST CATHEDRAL IN GREAT BRITAIN.

