



Press release: 17.10.17

Tŷ Cerdd launches **academi côr** – *the choral summer school with a Welsh accent*

academi côr, a brand new residential summer school for experienced adult choral singers, is launched today.

A new initiative of Tŷ Cerdd – whose mission is to promote the music of Wales – **academi côr** will provide high-quality choral training in an intensive week of rehearsals, workshops, masterclasses and public performances.

The first **academi côr** will take place in Monmouth (at Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls) from 19 to 25 August 2018, and will be conducted by eminent Welsh composer/conductor Paul Mealor, supported by a distinguished team of vocal tutors. Renowned Welsh soprano Elin Manahan Thomas will also take part – delivering a Masterclass for individual choristers, and giving a public song recital. The choir will take part in Evensong at St Mary's Monmouth on 22 August and the week will culminate in a public concert at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday 25 August.

The Welsh choral tradition is central to the **academi côr** repertoire, which is drawn from a range of eras, styles and countries: music by William Mathias, Grace Williams and Paul Mealor features alongside choral favourites (including Fauré's Requiem) and Tŷ Cerdd will commission a new work from a Welsh composer to sit within the programme.

Deborah Keyser, Tŷ Cerdd's director said: "**academi côr** celebrates Wales's rich heritage of vocal music – so placing brand new work alongside choral favourites is particularly important to us. We know, through our connection with societies and performing groups around the nation, that choral singing and community music are thriving – and through **academi côr** we aim to consolidate and develop the important work going on regionally. We're thrilled that Paul Mealor and our brilliant team of vocal tutors are on board: their choral training skills are exceptional, their verve and enthusiasm infectious. We're very much looking forward to welcoming choristers from around the country."

Paul Mealor shot to international fame when his *Ubi caritas* was performed at the 2011 royal wedding. He welcomed the initiative: "I'm so looking forward to the inaugural **academi côr**, and am delighted to have been asked to take part. The opportunity to enjoy an intensive week of music-making with singers from around Wales and beyond was one I

couldn't refuse. I applaud Tŷ Cerdd for embarking on this summer school – it can only serve to strengthen our potent choral tradition.”

Applications for places close on 30 November 2017. For full details see:

www.academicor.co.uk

For further information, please contact: academicor@tycerdd.org / 029 2063 5640

Notes to editors

Tŷ Cerdd - www.tycerdd.org

Tŷ Cerdd's mission is to promote and celebrate the music of Wales. Through our activities – including an in-house recording studio, record label and publishing imprint – and with a variety of partners, we work: to bring Welsh music to audiences across our nation and around the world; to protect the legacy of Welsh music of the past; to support the creation & performance of new music.

Vocal tutors (for biographies please visit <https://www.academicor.co.uk/staff>)

Zoë Milton-Brown

Kate Woolveridge

Huw Llewelyn

Dyfed Wyn Evans