

Chipping Norton Music Festival Celebrates its 100th Birthday

The Chipping Norton Music Festival began with the aim 'to encourage part singing in the country districts.'

This was the vision of two ladies in Cherington, Warwickshire, and so the first Festival was held in Shipston on Stour in 1904. The participants were just four choirs, Cherington, Sibford, Shipston and Stretton. There were classes for glees and madrigals, vocal solos, male and female voice choirs and a chorus sung by the combined choirs.

A banner was awarded to the best all round choir, that banner, and other artefacts will be on display during the 2012 Festival.

The Festival became known as the Stour Choral Union, a name that stuck until 1968 despite the fact that this popular Festival has largely been held in Chipping Norton since 1911. Two world wars caused some disruption hence our 100th celebration is in 2012.

So, we are very pleased to announce that a choral workshop will be held after the senior choirs' class at 4.00pm on **Saturday 10th March**. As 2012 is also the Queen's Jubilee the works for that workshop will be selected Coronation Anthems and a new work specially written by Colin Touchin to commemorate our 100th Festival.

The charge for this is just £2.50 and if you are interested in joining the workshop please email: secretary@cnmf.org.uk or telephone: 01993 831810.



The Festival has adapted to changing needs, no longer does it focus on English classical composers and nor is it just about choral singing. There are many instrumental classes, speech and drama, guitar, folk and of course the

professional concerts. Those taking part can choose their own music which may be jazz, songs from shows or something more traditional.

Audiences are welcome to all classes, not just professional concerts.

The full programme will be out in late February and will be available at Jaffé and Neale.

The 100th Festival runs from 9th to 24th March 2012 and the key dates are:

Friday 9th March Youth Jazz Band Challenge

Saturday 10th March Senior Choirs and Choral Workshop

Sunday 11th March Anthony Williams, our president, will be presenting a family concert. *He is an acclaimed pianist, has adjudicated at the Festival and is very involved in his role as President.*

Monday 12th to Saturday 17th March - Various classes all in the Town Hall

Sunday 18th March - An evening with Claire Martin and Sir Richard Rodney Bennett in Chipping Norton Town Hall

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd March - Classes and workshops

Saturday 24th A celebratory Festival Concert

For further details about the Festival please email secretary@cnmf.org.uk or go to the website: www.cnmf.org.uk

Rosemary Wilson