

Faith in harmony

Picture: IAN HOSSACK



The Gloria Dei Cantores choir from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, yesterday took part in an ecumenical service at St Columba's Church, Glasgow. The choir, which was accompanied by 500 choristers from Glasgow churches, travels the world promoting greater understanding among people of different faiths.



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Elizabeth
C. Patterson,
Director,
Gloriae
Dei
Cantores.

GLORIAE Del Cantores (Singers to the Glory of God) are a choir with a mission.

No, they don't want to convert you to fundamental Christianity.

They want to convert you to Gregorian Chant and to all kinds of sacred choral music from every historical period since.

They firmly believe that the consequence of this will be the dissolving of the barriers on language, ethnic differences and political ideologies.

Since they were founded in 1975, they

HARMONY FOR ALL

have sung in such culturally and ideologically diverse places as the National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC; the Catholic Cathedral and Hussite Church, Kromeriz, Czechoslovakia; and the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London.

At all of these venues,

they have received accolades testifying to the quality and deep spirituality of their music and singing.

Gerre Hancock, organist and choirmaster of St Thomas Church, New York City, said of them: "They are, in short, superb. Their singing comes from the heart and the listener is

inevitably moved very deeply."

Glaswegians will get a chance to share this transcendental experience when the 44-strong choir, under the inspired leadership of Elizabeth C. Patterson, sing at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama on September 14.

They will also participate in an ecumenical service at Glasgow Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday, September 15.

● *Gloria Del Cantores* are at the *RSAMD* on Sept 14, and *Glasgow Cathedral* on Sept 15.

Life and Work

SCOREBOARD

GLASGOW is one of the cities chosen by the professionally trained American choir *Gloriae Del Cantores* for a concert in its International Gateway series this month. The series is also taking them to Holland, Italy and Poland.

Although the singers specialise in Gregorian chant, their repertoire spans all historical periods from the 11th century to the 20th, and includes some of the finest sacred music by British, American, European and Russian composers.

Gloriae Del Cantores, founded in 1975, is "dedicated to dissolving bar-

ing of two half-hour worship services, to be shown in December. BBC Radio 3 has invited the choir to record a programme of American music for transmission in November.

The Glasgow concert will be held in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama on September 14 at 7.30pm.

The choir is also taking part in an ecumenical service in Glasgow Cathedral the next day. Hosted by the St Mungo Singers, and starting at 6pm, the service will be attended by 500 of the city's choristers,



Photograph by Steve J. Sherman

riers of language, cultural differences and political ideologies", promoting peace and understanding through the universal language of music. The choir has toured in Eastern, Central and Western Europe.

Scottish Television broadcast on Easter Sunday a documentary about the choir's recent tour of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, and plans are under way for the record-

church and civic leaders.

Regrettably, I will have to pass up this chance to listen to these singers. Judging them from a tape I received I suspect I'm missing a tremendous experience.

They produce a very clean, rich, beautifully controlled sound, and sing with inspiring conviction. If you can get to hear them in Glasgow, I am sure you will not be disappointed.

By Allison Buckley

- 6 SEP 1987



American visiting choir launches massive concert

GLASGOW has surprised itself by coming up with perhaps the biggest impromptu choral festival in the world.

What began as a throw away "Why don't we get together for a sing-song" has brought an amazing 500 city choristers together.

The reason for this mega production is the arrival in the city of the world famous American choir, Gloriam Dei Cantores.

It is the first time this highly acclaimed travelling choir has visited Scotland.

In recent months the ecumenical singers have been caught up in a rigorous tour of eastern European countries, bringing together Christians of all denominations.

In fact improving interdenominational understanding is their entire raison d'être.

By Joe Sikora

Gloriam Dei Cantores were scheduled to perform one concert at the Royal Academy of Music and Drama and record a one hour programme for Scottish Television.

But the members of the choir expressed a desire to meet with choristers from churches in Glasgow. Enter stage left the idea for a sing-along.

Fr. Gerry Fitzpatrick and John Rafferty, Chief Executive of the Scottish Foundation, wrote to parish choirs with the intention of a small performance in Glasgow Cathedral.

Such was the response - 500 said they wanted to join in - that the event has had to be moved from the original venue of Glasgow Cathedral to St. Coumbs's Free Church in St. Vincent Street, the biggest church in the inner city.

As well as the 500 choristers from Glasgow and 60 members

of Gloriam Dei Cantores, there will be 120 invited guests at the 3 pm start of the September 15 event.

There were also 300 places set aside for members of the public and tickets for this unique ecumenical event.

Tickets are still available from John Rafferty at the Scottish Foundation, 25/27 Elmbank Street, Glasgow. Tel 041-226 3431.

Among the special guests attending the choral service will be the Lord Provost of

Glasgow, Mrs Susan Baird.

She has invited all the participating choristers back to the City Chambers for a special reception to mark the occasion.

Tickets for the concert at the Royal Academy are available from the Ticket Centre.