

## Programme notes for June 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 Children's items

### **Mi'kmaq Honour Song**

This is a song of greeting. The name Mi'kmaq derives from a word in the Native North American language "nikmaq" meaning my kin friends or brothers.. The drum was traditionally used to call people together for a ceremony and as such is considered very important being thought of as being like the heartbeat of creation.

The song begins with the "hum of life" and the sound of the wind and is punctuated by animal and bird calls. The greeting chant starts gently accompanied by a steady heartbeat on the drum, builds to a climax and then subsides again finishing as it began with gentle humming.

### **Ducks Ditty**

**Ronald Corp**

This lively little song captures beautifully the carefree atmosphere of a walk by the river and the busy ducks bobbing around. It was composed in 2008 to words by Kenneth Grahame.

Ronald Corp is one of the UK's most popular conductor-composers. He is the founder of the New London Children's Choir and is a busy composer and workshop leader.

### **Day by Day**

**Philip Godfrey**

Here we have a lovely 2 part setting of the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester. Written in 2003 it has already been warmly received by a number of choirs. Philip Godfrey lives in North London and divides his time between composition of choral, orchestral and theatre music with teaching.

### **Wayfarin' Stranger**

**arranged Reginald Unterseher**

An Appalachian folk hymn has the same message as the negro spiritual where the journey through hard times to the "bright land" is a metaphor for a life journey to the eventual joy of heaven – "Goin' over home."

### **Red Boots On**

**Bob Chilcott**

This funky song written in 2007 and loved by the choir, uses jazzy rhythms and harmonies to bring Kit Wright's text alive.

### **Like a Singing Bird**

**Bob Chilcott**

Was commissioned through Chorus America's 2007 Conference by a number of American choirs and one Scottish choir thus the Scottish folk tune which weaves its way so magically into the lovely Christina Rossetti words the children sing. This new arrangement which adds the extra colour of a mixed voice adult choir to the Scots melody receives its first performance as the choirs combine this evening.

### **Abcd NW Children's Honour Choir**

...was formed for the **abcd** Annual Convention in 2007, drawn through publicity and then a simple audition from all around the North West Region. The choir sang to great acclaim at the Convention Gala Concert in Chester Cathedral and many among the choir expressed a wish to continue. The current membership of 48 is a healthy mix of past members and new singers. This concert is the end result of three full day rehearsal workshops giving the youngsters the opportunity to work on vocal training and musicianship under the expert guidance of Bob Chilcott and James Lewis. As well as structure and discipline emphasis is also placed on commitment, enjoyment and singing as a life-long passion. The opportunity to work with the composer on his music is a special privilege.

### **The Association of British Choral Directors**

... a registered charity, founded in 1986 is the only organisation in the UK that is devoted entirely to the interests of those leading choral music- both professional and amateur – and welcomes anyone from all sectors of choral activity who leads singers or sings. Teachers have been invited to observe the recent workshops with the Honour Choir as we consider part of our work is to encourage young singers and those who work with them. For further details, please contact Rachel Greaves, **abcd** General Secretary, 15 Granville Way, Sherborne, DT9 4AS Tel 01935 389482; or Mavis Fletcher, **abcd** Trustee on 01772 655939