

Blackburn Cathedral 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
**Music & More**  
 online Supplement 2015 No. 2  
**RSCM ANNUAL FESTIVAL**

A choir of well over 120 singers conducted by Samuel Hudson and accompanied by Shaun Turnbull led the worship for this magnificent service when RSCM Awards were presented to boys and girls, adult singers, and organists and choirmasters who had led inspiring music in our diocesan churches during the past year.

The awards for choristers are graduated, by the RSCM, into three stages: **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold**, plus the Archdeacons' young choristers' long service Award.

The badges and certificates were laid out in due order at the head of the Nave – they made a fine sight:



At the far right was a single **Gold** Award!



To whom would that be given?

The choirs assembled in our North Transept...



... and processed down the north Nave aisle, led by our own cathedral choristers, singing *O God of earth and altar...*



...and culminating with the Dean and the Bishop of Lancaster.



The massed choirs made a fine sound and a fine sight:



The music was ambitious and very well sung thanks to meticulous rehearsals by many choirmasters, and especially by massed rehearsals led by Samuel Hudson:

Psalm 23 from John Rutter's *Requiem*, with Ruth Watton playing the oboe solos.

Canticles: Noble in B minor.

Anthems: *And I saw a new heaven*. Edgar Bainton, and John Rutter's *May the Lord show His mercy upon you*.

There were stirring hymns for us all to sing, including:  
In our day of thanksgiving  
Dear Lord and Father of mankind, and  
I vow to thee, my country...

for we were also commemorating the outbreak of the First World War.

The Dean presented the **Bronze** awards – first to cathedral choristers:



Isabelle Barnes, Harrison Chick and Joseph Dearden.

Then Bishop Geoff Pearson presented the **Silver** Awards...



... first to Luke & Lee Felipes and Elizabeth Fielding.

Then we enjoyed the presence of both Archdeacons:  
Archdeacon John Hawley of Blackburn  
and Archdeacon Michael Everitt of Lancaster...



The Archdeacons stressed the importance of well-prepared and thoughtfully sung music in our worship.  
Music had brought many to the gates of heaven itself.

Archdeacon John presenting his certificate to Cathedral chorister Clara Slater:



And the **Gold** Award (the highest Award the RSCM can bestow) was presented to our Head Chorister **Oliver Fulwell**.



Loud and long was the applause from us all.



Two years ago, this coveted Award was presented to our then Head Chorister, **William Fielding** who is now singing alto and who was wearing his medallion today.

And after the service our cathedral chorister awardees had a special photograph taken of them all:



Back row L-R:

Madeline Noblett, Sarah Hunt, Clara Slater, Rebecca Pratt, Eleanor Tomlin, Annabelle Parkinson, Matthew Howard & Seb Roberts.

Middle row:

Olivia Grady, Isabelle Barnes, **Oliver Fulwell** & Lee Felipes

Front row:

Elizabeth Fielding, Luke Felipes, Harrison Chick, Leo Fulwell, Zak Tayler, William Keeling & Joseph Dearden.

**WELL DONE, ALL!**