



A community for everyone celebrating
excellence in music and God's love for all!



**Dr. Rose shared this text with me and I wanted to share it with you.
I hope it can be an inspiration. Love, P.**

Being a Chorister

A view from a parent's perspective...

**Talk given by Dr. Barry Rose, OBE in support of a new Choir Foundation
in Newport, Rhode Island**

Sunday February 5, 2023

**Of all the sacred liturgies, the brightest star in the firmament is the Office
of Evensong, sung daily in our Cathedrals and Collegiate Chapels in the
United Kingdom by choirs who are often the envy of the worldwide choral
scene.**

**So important is Evensong in my country, that it is broadcast once a week
by the BBC.**

**For nearly 40 years I was privileged to be part of that tradition, but more
importantly, my son Tim was a chorister with the best church choir in the
world - St. John's College, Cambridge, whilst our younger daughter
Nicola, was one of the very first pioneers who started England's very first
residential Cathedral girls' choir -at Salisbury Cathedral, in 1991.**

**I'm telling you all that, not just as a proud parent of a now 51 and 41 year
old, but in appreciation of the amazing skills they learned in their time as
choristers - not just musical (Tim has not played or sung since his
chorister days) but in appreciation of the many non-musical skills they
learned - independence, self-reliance, self confidence whilst still being a
team member, self-discipline, care for others, an appreciation of beautiful
language and how to speak it, punctuality - the list goes on and on.**

**Think about it. From day one in the choir, Boys and girls in those choirs
are being asked to be adults.**

And that is true of singing in this, the Choir School of Newport County. For the treble line here today, this is the one and only thing in which you are asked to a professional singer from day one.

Let me explain.

If you are a talented instrumentalist, you may make it to the school orchestra, perhaps going on to a state youth orchestra and then maybe on to music school for several years - after which, if you're lucky, you might make it into one of the professional orchestras.

From day one in this choir here you are the equivalent of a member of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, or the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. If you like, in sporting terms, you're in the Olympics straight away - not the school sports day.

Training such as this is priceless - whether or not you later continue making music.

But priceless training comes at a price - and this is where this choir school needs your financial support, if it is to continue to give children this priceless education.

It also needs parental support and determination, and an understanding that this is something special, which will shape your son or daughter for the rest of their lives, and give them so many personal qualities that they won't get anywhere else.

My wife and I didn't flinch when we were asked to pay the full school fees at Salisbury Cathedral School so that a new girl's choir could set a pattern for the whole country to follow.

And we didn't flinch when in the middle of family holidays we were asked to drive our son all the way back to Cambridge or to some airport for a choir trip.

There's nothing more beautiful in church or chapel than beautiful singing by a well trained choir. Without sounds, these buildings are just mausoleums, and music makes them spring to life.

The psalmist exalts us to 'worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' and it's choirs such as this who help you to 'worship the Lord in the holiness of beauty'.

Think about that, and don't let it stop for lack of support - in finances and membership.

Newport, and the whole of Rhode Island would be the poorer without it.

Amen.

[Welcome Dr. Rose](#)

[Information on Dr. Rose](#)

[Sign up to help with the Concert Reception](#)

Invite your Chorister's classmates and families to the concert, let's build a great audience of support to affirm and inspire our singers and.....it won't hurt recruiting either!

**Rehearsal Schedule for the Annual Concert of Music for Treble Voices
February 7 - 12, 2023
Required for all Choristers**

Tuesday:

**3:00 – 4:30 Second, Third Grade Choristers
5:00 – 6:30 Fourth - Eighth Grade Choristers**

Wednesday to Friday

**All Novice Choristers 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Junior & Senior Choristers
3:20 – 5:00 p.m.**

Saturday 9:45 – Noon

**Dress Rehearsal for Concert – All Choristers Singing
You must attend the Dress Rehearsal to sing the Concert**

Sunday Call at 2:15, Concert at 4:00

Please note:

**Tuesday and Wednesday 14 and 15 February
No Choir Activities, I'll be out of commission having my second cataract
removed.**

The regular choir schedule will resume on Thursday 16 February

[Choir Parent Captains Link](#)

[Choir Schedules and Orientation Link](#)

Parents please sign up to be service helpers and for lunch

[Please go to the Sign up genius page and sign up. It takes a community.](#)



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