

Somerset International Children's Choral Festival

in England's Historic Wells Cathedral and Sherborne Abbey

July 11 - 15, 2011

a special choral festival for treble voices in the Heart of England



Artistic Directors



Elena Sharkova



Darren Dailey



Welcome to Somerset!



Music Celebrations International is pleased to present the fourth-annual *Somerset International Children's Choral Festival in Wells Cathedral, July 11 - 15, 2011*. The festival performance will take place in *Historic Wells Cathedral*, which has maintained a choral tradition virtually unbroken for over 800 years.

The quaint city of Wells lies near Bath and Bristol in the Southwestern England county of Somerset. Its cathedral is one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the country. Accommodations and rehearsals for the festival are in nearby Sherborne, with optional individual choral performances to be held in *Sherborne Abbey*.

Treble voices of various backgrounds are invited based on recommendations. **The cathedral's unique size and acoustic limits the total number of voices to no more than 225 singers.**

Festival Artistic Directors

Darren Dailey

Darren Dailey is celebrating his fourth season in Jacksonville, where he has been molding The Jacksonville Children's Chorus into a world-class organization. Under his artistic leadership the Chorus has grown to serve over 400 First Coast children annually with three core performance choirs, multiple satellite rehearsal locations, and outreach throughout the region. He has introduced Chorus singers and their audiences to innovative and renowned guest artists, and he has broadened the Chorus's opportunities including, performance tours in the southeastern states and to Carnegie Hall. In June 2010 he will conduct The Jacksonville Children's Chorus at Lincoln Center.

A nationally-recognized clinician and conductor, Mr. Dailey has recently been invited to be a guest conductor in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, at the ACDA Honor Choir in Seattle, and to serve as Artistic Director of the 2011 Somerset International Choral Festival. He has presented workshops for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Organization of Kodály Educators, North Carolina and Florida chapters of American Choral Directors Association, Massachusetts and New Jersey chapters of the Music Educator's National Conference, and many universities.

He serves as FL ACDA R&S Chair for Children's Choir/Boy Choirs. As the founding artistic director of the Boston Children's Chorus, Mr. Dailey and his chorus performed at the 2004 Democratic Convention, appeared as the host chorus on the television special, "Raising the Roof: A Celebration of the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Song," broadcast nationally on WGN, and performed internationally in Japan. Dailey has produced two recordings: "Come and Rejoice" and "Sing!" His work can also be heard on "A Boston Christmas" (Back Bay Chorale), "Building Bridges" (Mystic Chorale), and "Amani Celebration," a limited-edition compact disc of holiday songs from 15 children's choirs to benefit African children who have been orphaned because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Mr. Dailey received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a concentration in Voice from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music Education in Choral Conducting from Appalachian State University's Hayes School of Music. Mr. Dailey is also trained in Kindermusik Early Childhood Beginnings. He has shown his commitment to the future of Jacksonville's children. His vision of creating one of the nation's premier children's choruses will soon be realized.

Elena Sharkova has been Artistic Director of the Cantabile Youth Singers since 2004 and oversees all educational and performance aspects of the program, in addition to conducting the Ensemble and Vocalise. A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Ms. Sharkova arrived in the Bay Area in 1998 to join the faculty at San Jose State University where she served as Director of Choral Activities. Ms. Sharkova received a Bachelor's Degree in music education and piano and subsequently a Master's in choral conducting from the Rimski-Korsakov State Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. Upon graduation, she was appointed Chair of the Choral Department of the Preparatory Music School at the conservatory. There she conducted four children's choruses (ages 3 to 19) and taught the innovative Ogorodnov Method to graduate conducting students.

Elena is delighted to be working with young voices again, this time in North America! In demand nationally and internationally as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, Ms. Sharkova has lectured extensively on Russian choral tradition and premiered several contemporary Russian major choral works. She has presented workshops and clinics for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the California Music Educators Association (CMEA), and the Association of Kodaly Educators. Elena has conducted children's, community, university, and professional choirs and orchestras in the USA, Canada, Italy, Switzerland, Baltic republics, Scandinavia, and Russia.

With Cantabile Youth Singers, she made her Carnegie Hall debut in June 2005 and performed at the American Orff-Schulwerk Association 2007 National Convention. Elena's most recent engagements include Texas, Missouri, and Kansas All-State Honor Choirs and the American Choral Directors Association South West Division 2008 Convention Treble Choir.



Festival Tour Itinerary

Sunday, July 10th, 2011

Departure via scheduled airline service to London, England. Enjoy in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

Monday, July 11th, 2011 Sherborne

Arrive in one of London's airports. After passport and customs clearance, meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist you to awaiting motorcoach. Transfer to the southwestern English town of Sherborne. En route, if time permits, stop to see the prehistoric site of Stonehenge. Arrive in Sherborne and check into accommodations at the historic Sherborne School. Chorus members and non-singing participants gather for the Welcome Dinner with introductions and a brief orientation.

Sherborne is, without doubt, one of the most beautiful towns in England. With its abundance of medieval buildings, superb Abbey, world famous schools, picturesque almshouse and two castles, Sherborne has much to offer visitors.

Tuesday, July 12th, 2011 Sherborne/Bath

Morning rehearsals. Non-singing participants may enjoy additional sight-seeing opportunities. Lunch at Sherborne School. Afternoon guided tour of Bath, including the Roman baths and beautiful Bath Abbey. Dinner is followed by *evening rehearsals.*

Wednesday, July 13th, 2011 Sherborne

Morning rehearsals. Non-singing participants may enjoy additional sight-seeing opportunities. Lunch at Sherborne School. Afternoon individual choir rehearsals in Sherborne Abbey. Early dinner. *Evening community concert featuring each individual choir singing optional performances in Sherborne Abbey.*

Thursday, July 14th, 2011 Sherborne/Wells

Breakfast, followed by coach transfer to Wells

9:30am - Morning Dress Rehearsal in the Wells Cathedral

Afternoon guided tour of Wells. Early dinner.

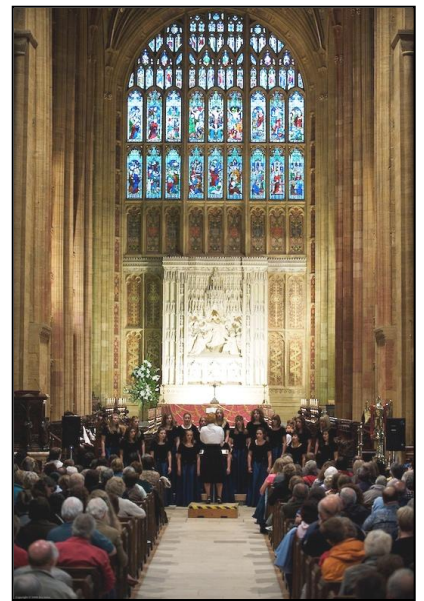
7:30pm – Somerset International Youth Choral Festival Finale Concert in Historic Wells Cathedral

Post-concert reception at the Cathedral for all tour participants

Wells is a popular tourist destination, due in large part to having several historical sites and its proximity to Bath, Stonehenge and other popular sites. Parts of Wells Cathedral (widely considered one of the most beautiful in England) date back to the 10th century. The city derives its name from three wells in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace. William Penn is said to have passed through Wells shortly before leaving for America, spending a night at The Crown Inn.

Friday, July 15th, 2011 Depart for home

Transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.



Suggested Festival Tour Extensions

*Music Celebrations International knows that many choirs singing in the festival will want to stay in the United Kingdom afterwards to explore and experience some of the many musically and culturally significant towns and cities in the area. MCI is also able to help balanced choirs perform in stand-alone concerts as part of the **American Celebration of Music in Britain**. The following are four examples of possible post-festival extensions to consider. Remember that MCI is more than happy to use these itineraries as a starting point to then create a completely customized tour for you and your choir.*

Extension Tour #2: Add London (add two nights): Transfer to London via Windsor. Tour Windsor Castle, the State Apartment and St. George's Chapel. Continue on to London. The next day starts with a 6-hour tour of London including the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge, visit to Whitehall and Trafalgar Square, then viewing of the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Spend the rest of the day at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. **Optional afternoon concert.** Evening Farewell Dinner, and a morning transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight.



Extension Tour #3: Add Cardiff and London (add four nights):

Transfer to Cardiff, Wales for a tour of its castle, Llandaff Cathedral, the Cardiff City Hall and Market. Also visit the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's. **Possible evening concert.** Transfer to London via Salisbury and Windsor. Tour Windsor Castle, the State Apartment and St. George's Chapel. Continue on to London. The next day starts with a 6-hour tour of London including the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge, visit to Whitehall and Trafalgar Square, then a viewing of the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Spend the rest of the day at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. The following day is

spent at leisure in the great city. **Possible concert in London.** Evening Farewell Dinner, and a morning transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight.

Extension Tour #4: Add Stratford and London (add four nights): Transfer to Stratford-Upon-Avon via Oxford and the Cotswolds. In Oxford, visit Christ Church College and Chapel before continuing on to Stratford. Morning guided tour of the Shakespeare properties: Birthplace house, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Holy Trinity Church where the Bard is buried. **Possible midday recital in Holy Trinity Church.** Late-afternoon transfer to London. Morning starts with a 6-hour tour of London including the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge, visit to Whitehall and Trafalgar Square, then a viewing of the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Spend the rest of the day at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. The following day is spent at leisure in the great city. **Possible concert in London.** Evening Farewell Dinner, and a morning transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight.



Extension Tour #5: Add Stratford,

Canterbury and London (add four nights): Transfer to Stratford-Upon-Avon via Oxford and the Cotswolds. In Oxford, visit Christ Church College and Chapel before continuing on to Stratford. Morning guided tour of the Shakespeare properties: Birthplace house, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Holy Trinity Church where the Bard is buried. **Possible midday recital in Holy Trinity Church.** Transfer to Canterbury via Cambridge. In Cambridge, visit King's College Chapel. Continue to Canterbury. Enjoy a tour of Canterbury Cathedral with a possible **midday recital there.** Afternoon transfer to London. The next morning is begun with a 6-hour tour of London including the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge, visit to Whitehall and Trafalgar Square, then a viewing of the

Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Spend the rest of the day at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. **Optional afternoon concert.** Evening Farewell Dinner, and a morning transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight.