



Renowned Composer to work with Truro Cathedral Choir

Truro, Cornwall, 21 October 2016: Truro Cathedral is delighted to reveal that it has secured a grant from Arts Council England to commission renowned composer, Dobrinka Tabakova, to compose six new pieces of music for Truro Cathedral Choir. The project has also received support through a generous donation to Truro School from a benefactor wishing to support the work of the girl choristers.

The project will run for eighteen months and is the brain child of Christopher Gray, Director of Music at Truro Cathedral. The cathedral has a long history of commissioning composers to write new and exciting music for the choir. Christopher says, "I know that working with a composer of Dobrinka's stature is going to be a nourishing and rewarding experience for our cathedral choir and our local community. She writes in a distinctive style that is sophisticated but accessible, and she clearly thinks deeply about every note she pens. Having a series of pieces from her over an eighteen month period will enable us to develop our relationship and I know our local audiences will have an enchanting journey as they hear one premiere after another."

This particular project is significant because Dobrinka Tabakova is the first female composer to have been commissioned by Truro Cathedral. She will be writing works for the choir to perform with its girl choristers who are all educated at Truro School.

Dobrinka Tabakova says "It is with great excitement that I begin this two year association with Truro Cathedral, especially knowing that I will be working closely with the newly founded girl choristers. The rich natural and cultural heritage of Cornwall will provide a well of inspiration, which I am eager to share with the choirs, and the work which we will be doing with the local community. I am extremely grateful to Christopher Gray and all the staff at Truro Cathedral for this invitation and their work in making this wonderful collaboration a reality."

Having been founded just over a year ago by a partnership between Truro Cathedral and Truro School, the eighteen girl choristers, all aged 13 to 18, have quickly established

themselves as an outstanding group of young musicians. In the coming year, as well as singing at nearly one hundred services, they will perform their first live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and record a CD with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. The new music by Dobrinka Tabakova will add yet another dimension to their musical experience and they will gain from developing an artistic relationship with a leading composer over the coming months.

Andrew Gordon-Brown, Headmaster of Truro School said: "It is a joy to listen to our girl choristers and we are privileged to hear them practising on a daily basis. However, for them to be able to work with a composer writing specifically for this choir is a very exciting prospect and we are all looking forward to hearing the resulting pieces."

Ms Tabakova is based in London, but will travel down to Cornwall to work with the choir on the new pieces. While she is here, she will also deliver a series of workshops to students from Cornish secondary schools. The aim of the workshops is to engage students in working on one of the compositions so that they have experience of working hands-on with the composer and helping her to shape the piece. The students will then be given the opportunity to perform the piece at a concert in the cathedral alongside Truro Cathedral Choir in March 2018.

Adult professional singers who are members of the choir will assist in the delivery of the workshops. The workshops will be a great way to take classical music out into the community in a really practical way and to give young people an insight into what life as a cathedral chorister is all about.

We anticipate that the first of the newly commissioned pieces will be performed at the girls' Nine Lessons and Carols' service on 24 December. A further two pieces will be included in their BBC Radio 3 broadcast in March 2017.

ENDS

For further information or an interview, contact Liz Mulloy, Development Manager, Truro Cathedral on 01872 245013 or via email: lizmulloy@trurocathedral.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

About Truro Cathedral

Traditional worship has been at the heart of Truro Cathedral since it was consecrated in 1887. Beyond that core purpose, it has served the community in which it stands in a range of ways, often pioneering innovative and imaginative schemes that sit with its spiritual ethos. Recent examples include the ice rink, a Jubilee dinner in the Nave, theatre productions on the Cathedral Green, a controversial art installation by internationally renowned artist, Imran Qureshi, and a singing outreach programme that involved more than one hundred primary schools and became the basis of a major government initiative rolled out across England. It is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Truro (which includes Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and two parishes in Devon) and the seat of the Bishop of Truro.