

LUCIAN NETHSINGHA

My time in the choir under Mr Nethsingha was life-forming:

He taught me a passion for church music, not least of all that of Herbert Howells (under whom he studied).

I also love the psalms we sang twice a day, and, as a result, the Coverdale translation, used in the Book of Common Prayer, is the only one I recognise!

He also taught me the piano and gave me the wherewithal to win a scholarship to my next school.

My early experiences have stayed strong in my memory.

Daily Matins and Evensong added up to thirteen full services a week, which as an 8 year old, you believe is what every 8 year old does.

We broadcast BBC choral evensongs, which can still be heard online.

We didn't sing outside College often, but I shall always remember the concerts we gave at: Ludlow PC, Tewkesbury Abbey, and Gt Witley PC (one of the most beautiful churches I know).

Also I shall also never forget our performance, in the cloister garden, of Brahms Liebeslieder Walzer, an unusual but inspired choice for a church choir.

My parents once told me that I used to arrive at school each term as if I was coming to a party!

Mr Nethsingha was a strict disciplinarian, hence the high standards he achieved; but during my time at SMC he had regular visits from his friend Jane Symonds (known to us as Netty's Bird!). We knew she was visiting long before we saw her, as Mr Nethsingha's mood changed on every occasion!

Soon they were married and a baby was born. I remember singing at the Christening of that baby.

That baby now runs the best choir in the country.

Frederick Appleby (chorister 1964-69)

25/9/21

