



The London Symphony Chorus

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

April 9th 2010

The London Symphony Chorus is delighted to announce the recipients of the LSC Choral Conducting Scholarships 2010. The Scholarships are supported by **The London Symphony Chorus Endowment Fund**

The Scholarships have been awarded to **Cameron Burns** and **Chi Hoe Mak**. Cameron is currently studying at the National Opera Studio, London and Chi Hoe at Birmingham Conservatoire.

The London Symphony Chorus Choral Conducting Scholarships are designed to offer young musicians a unique opportunity to learn about choral conducting through experience with one of the world's leading symphonic choruses.

Joseph Cullen, LSC Chorus Director, said: *"The LSC Scholarships provide cutting edge choral insight for the choral trainers of the future. During 2010, Cameron and Chi Hoe will experience the nuts and bolts behind the organisation of a big chorus, and have the opportunity to get their hands on 'the real thing'."*

During their Scholarship year, Cameron and Chi Hoe will attend chorus rehearsals, conductors' piano rehearsals, orchestral tuttis, planning meetings, consultations with conductors, language coaching sessions, pre-concert warm-ups, recordings and concerts, and will also have opportunities for hands-on experience with the Chorus.

Cameron Burns said: *"I was delighted to be awarded one of the Choral Conducting Scholarships. It's going to prove a wonderful opportunity to see the inner workings of arguably one of the best choruses around and I am particularly looking forward to the projects with Sir Colin Davis and Valery Gergiev. It has already been a great thrill to watch the chorus prepare for the recent performances of Elektra and even more exciting to watch Gergiev in rehearsal with the orchestra. Conducting of any sort is not an easy thing to break into and this Scholarship will provide not only the chance of observing Joseph (Cullen) at work and learning how he prepares the chorus for some of the greatest works in the repertoire, but it will also give me some hands-on experience with the chorus under his watchful gaze."*

Chi Hoe Mak said: *"I am honoured and excited to be a joint recipient of the 2010 LSC Conducting Scholarship. It's a fantastic opportunity for me to gain an insight into the work that goes behind one of the world's most established symphonic choruses. It is every young choral conductor's dream to be able to experience work at such a high professional level which in return, challenges us to constantly strive to be at the top of our craft."*

I'm looking forward especially to the Eric Whitacre project (LSC new commission) in October as it would indeed be very interesting to hear the LSC in a different light, approaching

The

LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS

President: Sir Colin Davis CH

Chorus Director: Joseph Cullen

Registered Office: 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

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contemporary choral repertoire working with the composer himself. I sincerely look forward to enjoying my year with the LSC which will be a rewarding musical and professional experience for me."

The scheme aims to help facilitate and encourage the development of the next generation of conductors by offering practical experience of the processes and techniques necessary to direct, work with and manage a symphony chorus. The Scholarships also offer some financial assistance, and offer the recipients the support of the Chorus Director of the LSC, an experienced practitioner, as he or she develops their choral conducting skills.

The scheme provides a rare opportunity to work closely with a leading symphonic chorus. It is managed by the London Symphony Chorus, a registered charity. The scheme is co-financed by the London Symphony Chorus Endowment Fund.

Notes for editors:

- The Scholarships are intended for individuals who may have relatively little experience of choral conducting but are expecting this to form a significant part of their future career.
- The scope of the Scholarship is intended to primarily embrace advanced students studying conducting as a key discipline and post-graduates who wish to gain skills in this field but who may not have had experience of directing large choirs or acting as chorus master for other conductors.
- The Scholarship will run from January 2010 for one year.
- The London Symphony Chorus is the UK's leading symphonic chorus and is based in the City of London. It is a registered charity.
- The London Symphony Chorus is the London Symphony Orchestra's chorus of choice for performances of choral works, but the Chorus is managed independently from the Orchestra, and works with many other orchestras both in the UK and abroad.

For more information please contact:

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