



The **Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations** (FCOCA) exists for the benefit of those Associations to which old (former) choristers of any of the following Foundations can belong: Cathedrals, Chapels Royal, Collegiate Churches, College Chapels of Oxford and Cambridge, and such other Choral Foundations as may from time to time be recommended by the Executive Committee for affiliation to the Federation.

It was formed in 1910 during a reunion of the Peterborough Association.

The objectives are primarily to further the love of Cathedral Choral services and Christian worship; to bring Affiliated Associations into closer touch with one another, and to promote their interests and welfare; and to encourage the formation of ex-chorister Associations where such do not exist.

In the past the Federation has been instrumental in retaining BBC Choral Evensong on Radio 3 at a time when the BBC threatened to axe the programme. Another occasion when the Federation used all its influence and strength to bring about a favourable

outcome was when it was possible that choir schools might be closed.

THE ASSOCIATIONS: Each Association runs its own affairs and usually holds an annual reunion. Many Associations now produce their own newsletter. All Associations are encouraged to send a representative to attend the Federation AGM, normally held on a Saturday in Springtime, hosted by one of the Associations. This will also usually include a local tour, lunch and the chance to hear the current choir sing Choral Evensong.



THE FESTIVAL: This is the highlight of the Federation's year, when a Festival is hosted by an Affiliated Association and forms a weekend package (Friday/Saturday/Sunday). This includes good food, good music and excellent company. Attendees normally book their own accommodation. It is a time to make new friends and renew old friendships. Often it is possible for former choristers to sing part of one of the weekend choral services. Interesting local tours and visits are often organised. Partners, friends and Individual Members are warmly welcome.



FEDERATION TOURS: In some years, the Federation has organised a tour. These tours have taken us to wonderful cathedrals and places of great interest in UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Portugal and New Zealand. Often there is a chance to taste wine whilst touring the wine regions of these countries, but again these are great opportunities to meet others.

Details of recent and any future tours can be found in the latest *Once a Chorister* magazine, and on the website.



THE MAGAZINE: The Federation's official publication (hard-copy or electronic for optional personal printing) is *Once a Chorister* and is published annually. It contains details of the Festivals, AGMs, news from Associations, articles of general interest, useful information together with details of future events. An interesting read for all former choristers and other supporters of the Cathedral choral tradition.

Why Not Join Us?

MEMBERSHIP

Do not be deterred from enquiring whether you can join your local Association if you live away from the place where you once sang as a chorister, as well as being a member of your own association. If the choral Foundation where you sang does not have an Association to which you can belong and you feel it should, then please contact our Secretary; otherwise you may apply for INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP of the Federation.

You can also apply for a FCOCA membership card which entitles you to free admission to some cathedrals which have an entry charge. It will also give a discount in some cathedral shops and with some record companies. See the website for a list of those that do offer reductions.

If you are not a member of an Affiliated Association or an Individual Member but would like to receive a copy of the *Once a Chorister* magazine each year, and be placed on our mailing list, then again please refer to our website. The Old Chorister network can open up a new world of friendships and contact with people of similar interests.

www.FCOCA.org.uk

ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION

(See the website for the current list and contacts)

BELFAST	LONDON ST PAULS
BIRMINGHAM	NEW YORK ST THOMAS
BLACKBURN	NORWICH
BRADFORD	OXFORD CHRISTCHURCH
BRISTOL	OXFORD NEW COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE KINGS	PETERBOROUGH
CAMBRIDGE ST JOHNS	PORTSMOUTH
CANTERBURY	RIPON
CARLISLE	ROCHESTER
CHAPEL ROYAL	ST ALBANS
CHELMSFORD	ST EDMUNDSBURY
CHESTER	SALISBURY
CHICHESTER	SHEFFIELD
CHRISTCHURCH	SOUTHWARK
<small>NEW ZEALAND</small>	
DUBLIN CHRISTCHURCH	SOUTHWELL
DUBLIN ST PATRICKS	TENBURY WELLS
DURHAM	TEWKESBURY
EDINBURGH	TRURO
ELY	WAKEFIELD
ETON COLLEGE	WARWICK ST MARYS
EXETER	WELLS
GLOUCESTER	WESTMINSTER ABBEY
GUILDFORD	WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL
HEREFORD	WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL
LEEDS	WINCHESTER COLLEGE
LEICESTER	WORCESTER
LICHFIELD	YORK
LINCOLN	

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What is the

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