

1989-10-26 Letter

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

— Registered by the Charity Commission - Register No. 516572 —

Member of the National Federation of Music Societies

51 Delamere Road
Nantwich
26 October 1989

Dear Sir,

LETTERS PAGE

May I, through the medium of your paper, thank all who assisted the Nantwich Choral Society in its visit to Maçon last week-end.

The purpose of the trip was the first Choral Jumelage ("Twinning") between the Nantwich Choir and the Chorales A Coeur Joie Maçon.

The highlight was the Gala Concert held in the massive medieval Église Saint-Pierre, where the choir's full sound was heard at its best in the wonderful, but challenging, acoustics of the vast cathedral-like church. The effect of the grand organ and the accompanying trumpet, at the opposite end to the choir, added to the majesty of the Handel Four Coronation Anthems. Who, of Nantwich Choral, will ever forget the look of surprise and exhilaration on the faces of the audience as the visitors "hit" the opening chords of "Zadok the Priest" ? Magnifique!!

But the week-end was more than a musical feast. It initiated a fellowship which is surely at the heart of all twinning. The choir members were lavishly entertained in the homes of the Maçon choristers. Locally-arranged visits to several Romanesque churches and vineyards in the Maçon and Cluny regions, and to the world-famous International Ecumenical Youth Centre at Taizé all contributed to the initiation of friendships which will be long-maintained. On the return trip to Paris Airport, a lunch-stop at Beaune gave the opportunity to visit the world-renowned Hotel-Dieu Hospital, founded in 1443.

From the warm welcome given by the Mayor and local officials in the Maçon Town-Hall on the Saturday morning until the emotional farewells on Monday, it was obvious that visitors and local folk alike had no intention of waiting until 1992 to take down any barriers with Europe!

I am sure that your readers will want to join with us in anticipating the return visit of the Maçon choirs to us, in November 1990.

May I thank you all once again for assistance and encouragement in this and all of our ventures. All the planning and preparation will, I am sure, bring rich rewards in so many ways.

Nantwich Musical Director, Stephen Buckman, and the members of the choir have every right to feel that it was a job well-done. The area can be justly proud of them!

Cecil Bateman
Public Relations Secretary.

