

'O Sing Unto the Lord'

On Friday 9th October, in conjunction with The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival, Cheltenham College Chapel Choir led by David McKee and accompanied by Alex Ffinch on the organ provided beautiful sung extracts for a discussion chaired by freelance broadcaster and journalist Christopher Cook, who is synonymous with the Guardian and the New Statesman, as well as BBC Radio 3.

On the panel were Andrew Gant and Lucy Winkett. Andrew is former organist, choirmaster and composer at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal and author of the recent book *Sing Unto the Lord: A History of English Church Music* in which he traces English church music from Anglo-Saxon origins to the present. He was paired with Lucy Winkett, rector of St James's Piccadilly and a former Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. Lucy trained as a soprano at the Royal College of Music before she entered the priesthood.

Following a pre-concert meeting, drinks reception and presentation in the Cadbury Room chaired by Richard Smith from the Literature Festival, a discussion between Andrew Gant and Lucy Winkett ensued in Chapel, interspersed with four short choral works sung expertly by the choir to reflect the evolution of church music. The selection of pieces included Hannah Kendall's hauntingly beautiful work 'Their Kingdom, The Air' which was commissioned by Cheltenham College as part of their commemorations for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Book signing and sales organised by Waterstones took place in the Dining Room at the interval and also following the event at the exit to the Chapel.

The event has been organized by Nick Nelson, Director of Culture at Cheltenham College: n.nelson@cheltenhamcollege.org