

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT

### PRÆAMBULUM

What is “tradition” to the people of St. Olave’s? I would say it is an understanding of how practices of the past are still valid and relevant today. As a young and vivacious congregation, we understand that implicitly. Yet in too many places “tradition” becomes an excuse for slovenliness, decay, the thoughtless repetition of what has come before as if prior use is somehow indomitable approval for all eternity. Unfortunately this is often the case within liturgical music, and our role is reduced to nothing more than a refrigerator. Yet who did Pope Francis quote when he spoke to the Catholic Synod about religious rejuvenation? None other than Gustav Mahler, the legendary Austrian composer and conductor, who stated that fidelity to tradition does not consist in worshipping ashes but in keeping a fire burning. I think that, even if we have never heard a note of his music, at St. Olave’s we are all Mahlerians. This is my approach as well—by taking a clean-slate view of everything and stripping away preconceived notions, I nonetheless find myself returning to the old practices as the best and richest solutions, and occasionally finding something even older which had been thoughtlessly discarded but rings even more true in the current year. I think that you will find this mentality to be very salient in the work of the recent organ committee!

### CHOIR

We must have one of the youngest choirs in the city, which is quite the achievement for a Prayer Book parish. I cannot express enough gratitude for the presence of our four professional choristers—Thera, Nadia, Scott, and José—and our five volunteer choristers—Aden, Agatha, Janice, Dale, and Susan. Individually they are wonderful, sensitive, talented human beings, and together they fashion miracles. We accomplish with nine what many church choirs in the city of thirty or more struggle to even approach. That said, we are always on the hunt for new choristers, so please feel free to have a chat with me if you are interested.

### GUEST MUSICIANS

We welcomed the choir of St. Anne’s, Gladstone for First Evensong of Christ the King, and have invited the Victoria Scholars Men’s Choral Ensemble (of which I am both Secretary and chorister), led by Jerzy Cichocki (former choirmaster of St. Michael’s Choir School) for the Fourth Sunday of Lent—what we Romans would call *Latate Sunday*. In addition to our liturgical guests, we were also pleased to host the Baltimore Children’s Chorus in June as the only Canadian venue on their summer choir tour, and will be hosting Apocryphonia’s upcoming concert on March 1. I feel that these sorts of events show people a different side of churches and church life than they might hear about in the news or on the Internet, and I will do my best to support these kinds of projects as a facet of our community outreach.

### ORGAN

The past year’s work of the organ committee will be presented in-person at vestry.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that I have nourished a music programme which you, as the parishioners of this very unique church, can be proud of.

A.M.D.G.  
Jeremy Tingle  
Director of Music  
February 10, 2025