

S489 and S490 : 1952

Mastersound Blue label : 12"

Southwell Minster Grammar School Choir

Directed by Jack Vernon Peters

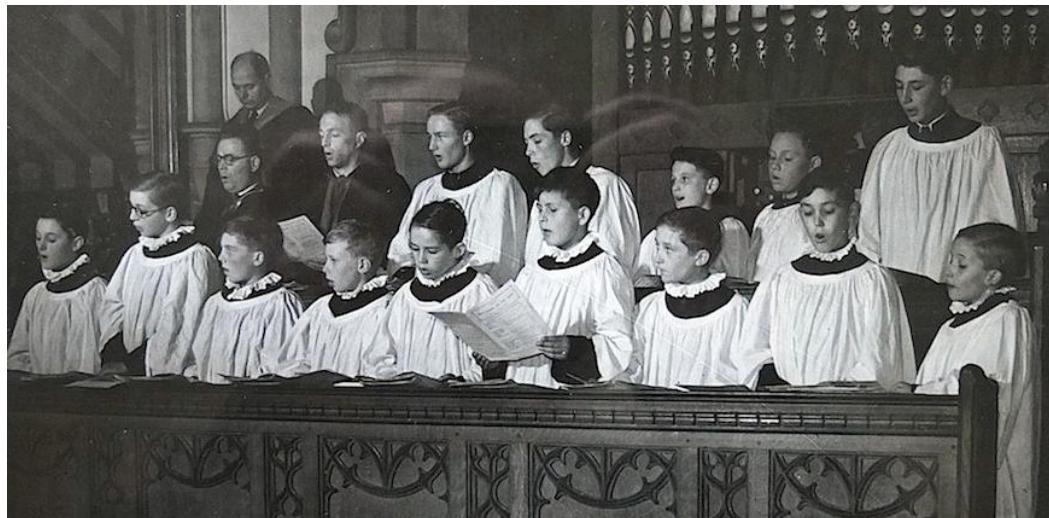
Recorded June 1952 in Southwell Minster

I was given the CD transcription of this record by Stephen Harrow in 2012, who thought they were of Southwell Minster Choir but had no other information on the recordings. In October 2013 I gave my talk at Southwell Minster and the following information, via email, was given to me on the recordings.

The soloist, Barry Fisher, had a younger brother, Malcolm, who was briefly in the choir and his face was carved as one of the new corbels. See the photos opposite

"Many thanks for a very interesting and superbly illustrated talk at Southwell yesterday - also for the excellent CD.

Could I just mention the attribution of the Southwell item to the Minster Choir? I was a pupil at Southwell Minster Grammar School in the 50's and a member of the School Choir (but not of the Minster Choir). The School Choir recorded a 78 disc in the Minster in 1952 and one of the items was that Psalm 146. There were 4 items (2 per side) the others being "Qui Creavit Coelum"(Song of the Nuns of Chester), "How goodly are thy tents" (Ouseley) and 2 verses of the carol "Ding!Dong! merrily on high".



The School Choir Director was Jack Vernon Peters. The record sleeve has the name of E.S.Rose Ltd of High St Lincoln and the record itself has a blue label and a reference to The Mastersound System. If so I should be so pleased if it were possible to have a CD of the record. My own copy is very badly worn and although I had it transferred to a CD a year or two ago, the quality remained poor and far inferior to the standard of Psalm 146 on your CD. Just out of interest, the boy featured in the photograph (Malcolm Fisher) had an older brother Barry. Barry Fisher is the soloist in "Qui Creavit Coelum" on the recording.

*I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience. No rush, of course. I am in the treble line somewhere on the recording over 60 years ago so time is not of the essence!
Yours sincerely, John Lester"*

Second email:

The Minster choir boys were a separate body from those in the School choir though at that time members of both choirs were all members of the school. The Minster choir boys were almost all boarders. The school choir was a mixture of boarders and day boys.

Generally the School choir was not robed. There was an exception when they sang a 6.30 Nave Evensong in the Minster on Sunday when they robed and also when they visited local churches. I attach a photograph showing the school choir visiting a local church in 1952 - the same date as the recording. (I am the boy on the extreme left !).