

Eastbourne College Music Department

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1999



Photo by courtesy of Bill Norris

The Dream of Gerontius

The highlight of the musical year so far has been the performance of Elgar's choral masterpiece *The Dream of Gerontius* which took place in Chichester Cathedral on 1 May. The College Choral Society joined forces with the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the University College Chichester Chamber Choir in a performance to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Orchestra's foundation. Director of Music Graham Jones took the rostrum, and the soloists were Neil Jenkins as Gerontius, College singing teacher Martin Elliott as the Angel of Agony and mezzo Sarah Connolly as the Angel. The audience, which included a large Eastbourne contingent, packed the cathedral nave and was treated to a performance that was described by the critic of the *Eastbourne Herald* as "not just a concert, but an experience".

Chapel Choir

In addition to preparing for *Gerontius*, the Chapel Choir continued to maintain its demanding routine of weekly services. Evensong was sung in Winchester Cathedral in March, when the canticles were sung to the rarely performed setting in D by Moeran and the anthem was Bairstow's monumental *Blessed City, Heavenly Salem*. Other special services included the Ascension Day Eucharist in April, and the Confirmation Service at which Elgar's *The Spirit of the Lord* from *The Apostles* was sung. The annual Midsummer Concert was given at the beginning of June; based on the theme "The Wings of Faith" it included a wide selection of repertoire ranging from Byrd and Purcell through romantic works by Wesley, Parry and Stanford to Howells and Radcliffe.