

The Kath Topping Award for Vocal Studies 2012

Kent Chamber Choir is now inviting applications for the Kath Topping Award for Vocal Studies 2012. Applicants must be aged 16-23 and their '**Family home**' should be in either the Kent or Medway Local Authority Area, even if they are currently living outside the county because of college/university study.

One or more awards of up to £500 each may be provided to support vocal studies such as singing lessons or the purchase of music or scores. The closing date for applications is 31st May 2012.

For further details and an application form, go to: www.kentchamberchoir.org.uk or contact:

Mrs Jane Henderson, Kent Chamber Choir, 106 Birling Avenue, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4LL Telephone: 01622 737118 e-mail: home@peterhenderson.plus.com.

Background

The Kath Topping Award is made by Kent Chamber Choir in memory of Kath, a much-loved member of the Choir who died suddenly in 2002. Kath joined Kent County Council as an archivist finally becoming Specialist Services Manager in Kent Libraries. She lived in Maidstone and was a governor of St Simon Stock RC Secondary School.

Singing was a real joy to Kath and her musical and social contribution to Kent Chamber Choir was outstanding through her enthusiasm, loyalty and lovely alto voice. She had told close friends that if she could have her time again, singing would have been the career she would have chosen. Her tragic premature death prompted choir members to seek to remember her and celebrate her life.

In October 2003 Kent Chamber Choir together with their patron, Dame Emma Kirkby, and massed youth and junior choirs gave a very successful concert "Sing Joyfully" in memory of Kath. The money raised was used to create the Kath Topping Bursary Fund which is used to finance the annual award for promising young singers.

The 2011 winner of the Kath Topping Award is the Soprano Hannah Grace.