



Choral Scholarships 2016 - 2017

The Chapter of Chelmsford Cathedral wishes to appoint up to six choral scholars for the academic year 2016-17. The scholarships are suitable for graduate or experienced gap-year singers; the choral scholars play a key role in the delivery of the *Opus Dei* in a cathedral serving one of England's largest Anglican dioceses.

The music programme at Chelmsford Cathedral is busy and varied, encompassing choral services and concerts in the cathedral and across the diocese, with frequent visits to venues around the region and abroad. In the last year the Cathedral Choir has broadcast on Radio 3 and has sung for Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Concert performances have included music from Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*, and the choirs give an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Forthcoming plans include a broadcast of Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3, a Bach Cantata evensong, and a recording.

The regular work of the choir involves singing at the five choral services each week as well as their associated rehearsals. A choral scholar will be expected to be a good sight-reader, as the repertoire of the choir is wide and varied and rehearsal time is limited; previous experience of the Anglican choral repertoire is valuable but not essential.

The scholarships run from the beginning of September until the end of July, including Christmas and Easter, and are currently worth £3500 with rent-free accommodation provided in houses shared with other cathedral scholars. Additionally, singing lessons to the value of £750 are provided by the resident singing teacher, Colin Baldy. There are a number of opportunities locally for work to supplement the scholarship and it is expected that the choral scholars will play a full role in the life of the department and wider cathedral community.

A significant role in the life of the music department of New Hall School (situated in North Chelmsford) may be available to a suitable candidate. This work would be arranged around the Cathedral Choir timetable and paid by the school at a rate commensurate with hours worked.

The Cathedral Choir of boys and men provides the music at the majority of Cathedral services. Boys are recruited from a variety of local schools and the back row comprises lay clerks, choral scholars (and deputies) and a number of unpaid singing men.

The Cathedral Girls' Choir is directed by the Assistant Organist. Singing regularly for Evensongs and occasional Eucharists on Tuesday evening, the girls join with the men of the choir for at least one Sunday's services per term, and at various special services in the church's year including the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve and the Epiphany & Candlemas Carol Service.

The Music Staff

Canon Precentor

Organist & Master of the Choristers

Assistant Organist & Director of the Girls' Choir

Choir Matron

Music & Liturgy Assistant

The Revd Canon Simon Pothen

James Davy

Laurence Lyndon-Jones

Keren Hollier

Stephanie Brasier

A typical week's musical commitments are:

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| Thursday | 4.30 - 6.00 | Rehearsal & Evensong (Full or Men's voices, alternating on a weekly basis) |
| Friday | 4.30 - 6.00 6.00 - 7.00 7.00 - 7.20 | Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) Men's rehearsal <i>Compline (during Lent)</i> |
| Saturday | 4.30 - 6.00 | Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) * (see below) |
| Sunday | 10.30 - 12.30 2.45 - 4.30 | Rehearsal & Eucharist or Mattins (Full) Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) |

Monday to Wednesday is normally free from choir duties, although from time to time services and other events take place, when the choral scholars will be expected to attend. The choir is normally free from duties on at least one or two Saturdays per month. Seasonal changes to this pattern are notified a half-term in advance.

Applications should be supported by the names of three referees, including

- Your current singing teacher
- Someone who has known you in a professional capacity for at least two years

Please send a letter of application and CV (including your e-mail address) to:

The Organist & Master of the Choristers, Cathedral Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1TY

The application deadline is Noon on **Monday 12 October 2015**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted on the same day. Interviews and auditions will be held during the week commencing **Monday 19 October**.

To discuss informally any aspect of the scholarship, please contact James Davy via 01245 294481 (Music and Liturgy Assistant) or by email at james.davy@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk