



APPOINTMENT OF CHORAL SCHOLARS

The Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral is seeking to appoint an Alto Choral Scholar (male or female) to the Cathedral Choir from September 2019. Choral Scholarships will be awarded for a term of one year, and present an ideal opportunity for a gap-year or graduate student to gain valuable musical and vocal experience. Peterborough Cathedral provides a supportive environment in which a young musician can develop, responding to the challenges of daily choral liturgies sung to a high standard. Choral scholars will benefit from the mentoring of colleagues and the financial support of Chapter for singing lessons.

Chapter regards worship, ministry and mission as the key priorities of the Cathedral, and is therefore highly supportive of the Cathedral Choir, and of music within the Cathedral, which it sees as integral to its aims. It is committed to fostering a high standard of music-making within worship and ensuring that the choral music inspires worshippers. It recognises that projects such as concerts, tours, broadcasts and recordings are important opportunities to develop the professional standing and standards of the Cathedral Choir and to make a wider public aware of the Cathedral's worship, ministry and mission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Peterborough is one of the new foundation cathedrals (together with Gloucester, Oxford, Chester and Bristol) created by Henry VIII as the monasteries were dissolved. There has been an Abbey on this site for over 1200 years, but the current building was begun in 1118. Three principal glories of the Cathedral building are its iconic West Front, the painted wooden Medieval Nave ceiling and the splendid fan-vaulted New Building, possibly created by the architect of King's College Chapel in nearby Cambridge. The spacious Precincts still contain a number of monastic buildings and ruins. Inside, the Cathedral has been completely cleaned and restored since 2001, and is probably more complete and in better condition than at any time in its history.

There is a lively Cathedral community including all age groups, and as well as regular worship led by the Choir it supports children's and young people's groups, education programmes, a theological society and a weekly lunchtime address. It contributes time and resources to a local project for the homeless, educational and other outreach initiatives, and provides hospitality to a variety of groups and gatherings. The Cathedral is principally the seat of the Bishop of Peterborough, and hosts many of the larger Diocesan services and events. There is considerable support here for music in worship. Resources for music and the Choir have grown considerably in recent years, since the restoration of the inside of the building was completed.

The Director of Music (Tansy Castledine, September 2018) is responsible for overseeing and directing all aspects of the Music Department. Supporting staff include an Assistant Director of Music (David Humphreys, 2011), Organ Scholar, Administrator (Penny Wood, 2012), Choir Matron (Julie Aloe, 2011), and a singing teachers (Sarah Burston, 2018 and Joe Bolger, 2018).

At present, the Cathedral Choir comprises forty five boy and girl choristers who take an equal share in singing the daily services. There are six Lay Clerks, who normally sing seven choral services per week. In addition to the Lay Clerks there are Assistant Lay Clerks who sing on Sunday, and at other major events. A gift from a charitable trust has enabled the introduction of Choral Scholars from September 2014. There is also a Youth Choir and Festival Chorus.

The Cathedral Choir undertakes concerts, tours, broadcasts and recordings from time to time. Some of this work falls within salaried duties, and some attracts additional fees; the contract and past practice makes these arrangements clear. There are separate rates for certain Diocesan or Cathedral extra services and for services such as weddings and funerals.

Recent CD recordings include a disc of Christmas music produced in 2015, and Cheryl Frances-Hoad's *Even You Song*, released in 2017; this project involved several schools within the Peterborough area, and received 4 star reviews in BBC Music Magazine, and Choir and Organ. A new CD charting the church year at Peterborough has been recorded in June 2019, and is due to be released later this year. The Cathedral Choir tours annually, and in recent years the girl choristers and lay clerks toured to Madrid in 2017, the boy choristers and lay clerks toured to Holland in 2018, and the girl choristers and lay clerks toured to Belgium in 2019. In February 2020 the combined choirs will tour to the West Coast of America.

Through its daily support of the liturgy and varied supporting activities, the Cathedral Choir has developed and maintained a broad, high quality repertoire from plainsong to contemporary music.

Peterborough as a place to live and work

Peterborough is a city of nearly 200,000 inhabitants, with good local facilities and excellent transport links. London is only 45 minutes away by the faster trains, and Cambridge is 45 minutes away by car. A number of other centres in Eastern England, such as Leicester and Northampton, are within an hour's drive of Peterborough, and almost anywhere in the Midlands can be reached easily by train; the East Coast line connects Peterborough with York, Durham and Edinburgh. Oakham, Oundle, Stamford, Uppingham and a number of other well-known public schools are within the immediate area. The city centre of Peterborough has benefitted from recent regeneration projects, and boasts a wide variety of cafés, restaurants and pubs/bars, in addition to excellent shopping in the Queensgate Centre and elsewhere. Peterborough is best described as a cross between a traditional Cathedral City and a New Town, enjoying the best features of both.

Person specification

We are looking for the following qualities in a Choral Scholar:

- a talented musician who is supportive of the worship, ministry and ethos of Peterborough Cathedral
- a musician with a broad interest in music who will thrive from performing a wide choral repertoire
- a musician who is dedicated to achieving high standards and who is keen to learn and improve
- a hard-working person capable of setting and achieving goals in his/her own musical development
- a team player who will be a reliable member of the choir and on whom his/her colleagues can depend
- a person who can accept critical comment and learn from colleagues

Choral Scholars will be mentored by Lay Clerks and members of the Music Department. They will be expected to take responsibility for the preparation of repertoire, and in addition to private preparation, extra rehearsal time with a Lay Clerk or member of the Music Department will be available as necessary. Choral Scholars must attend any rehearsal, service or other event required of them by the Director or Assistant Director of Music or their deputies, as detailed on the choir schedule or in separate communication.

Choral Scholars must be good ambassadors for the Cathedral. They are not required to be practising Christians, but are expected to work and behave in sympathy with the worship, ministry and mission of the Cathedral. They must uphold excellent standards of personal presentation and behaviour.

Safeguarding Policy

The Cathedral is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons, and all employees, students and volunteers must ensure that the highest priority is given to following guidance and regulations to safeguard children and young people. Choral Scholar appointments are subject to the usual safeguarding checks, which will be carried out after interview for the successful candidates. If you are shortlisted, as part of our safer recruitment, we need to see documents and photo ID such as a passport, driving licence and a utility bill such as a Council tax statement. These can be used for the DBS should the applicant be successful. We would be grateful if you could bring these documents with you to your interview, if called.

Duties of the scholarship

The duties allotted to Choral Scholars will depend on their particular skills and potential for development, but it is anticipated that they will undertake the following roles:

Choral singing

- to sing as part of the Cathedral Choir at Evensong on four weekdays and at weekend services
- to sing as part of the Cathedral Youth Choir at all rehearsals, services and other events
- to sing in concerts, recordings and other extra events, at the discretion of the Director of Music, and as detailed on the termly choir schedule. Fees may be payable for certain extra commitments.

Administration

- to act as assistant Choir Librarians. The library has recently been significantly restocked and improved in recent years, and is maintained principally by the Organ Scholar. Choral Scholars will assist the Organ Scholar in the day-to-day running of the library – in particular in the labelling, distribution and collection of the Lay Clerks' music – and in longer-term projects such as auditing the choir's repertoire and music processing using Sibelius software. No extra fees will be paid for this work, which would not ordinarily amount to more than two hours per week.

Training will be provided in all duties asked of the Choral Scholars, and they are strongly encouraged to ask for extra assistance where necessary in any aspects of their work.

Terms and conditions

A Choral Scholarship is offered for one year (in effect, 11 months) and is available to any suitable singer over the age of 18 on 1 September 2019, including both pre- and post-university candidates.

Appropriate accommodation will be provided; this is likely to be shared accommodation. Chapter will pay rent, council tax, water rates and utilities bills.

The value of the Choral Scholarship is £2,500, payable in monthly instalments. Choral Scholars' singing lessons (up to one lesson per month) will be paid for by Chapter in response to an invoice from a singing teacher approved by the Director of Music; travel costs to singing lessons will be covered by the Choral Scholar.

Choral Scholars are entitled to one day free of Cathedral commitments per week. Holidays must be taken outside choir term, and take account of any choir tour dates; the scholarship ends with the choir's summer term, usually at the end of July.

How to apply

The **closing date for applications** is Friday July 26th at 09.00, and auditions will be held at a mutually convenient time after this date.

Making an application

Please send a CV and covering letter, and ensure that the following is included in your application:

- your full contact details (telephone including mobile, email and postal address)
- any courses studied and qualifications gained
- details of singing study past and present
- details of any church music experience
- full contact details (including both telephone numbers and email address) of three referees whom we may approach immediately. One of these should be your current tutor (or employer if you are not in full-time education), and one the director of a choir in which you are currently singing, or, if this is not possible, someone for whom you have worked in the field of church music and who can comment on the quality of your recent work. If you are unable to provide such references, please talk with the Director of Music so that you and he can agree alternative suitable referees. In each case please state the referee's relationship to you. Referees may not be related to the candidate
- the reasons you wish to apply for the post and feel that you are a suitable candidate

Application materials should be sent to: music@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk