



CHELMSFORD
CATHEDRAL

Choral Scholarships 2021 - 2022



The Chapter of Chelmsford Cathedral wishes to appoint gap year or graduate choral scholars for the academic year 2021-22 to join an exciting and dynamic musical programme. Chelmsford Cathedral is at the heart of a busy new city and 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 region is fast expanding and the Cathedral's ministry is growing with that of the diocese to meet new needs. Chelmsford is a growing city with excellent new amenities and transport links to London and East Anglia, Stansted and Southend airports, and Harwich International Port.

The music programme at Chelmsford Cathedral is busy and varied, encompassing regular choral services in the Cathedral with frequent visits to venues around the region and abroad. In recent years the Cathedral Choir has performed on BBC 1 and on a number of occasions on BBC Radio 3 and has sung for Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Concert performances have included collaborations with other groups including the Band of HM Royal Marines, the King's Singers, in programmes as diverse as Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concerts* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. Each academic year there is a performance of a complete Bach cantata at Evensong, with period instrument accompaniment, with choral scholars taking solos in these, and in other works and styles of music throughout the year.

The regular work of the choir involves singing at up to 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 somewhat limited; previous experience of the Anglican choral repertoire is valuable but not essential. In recent years the scholars have sung regularly at locations around the city and county performing close harmony arrangements, selections from the Barbershop repertoire and other styles of music - enthusiasm and entrepreneurial flair are useful attributes.

The scholarships run from the beginning of September until the end of July, including Christmas and Easter; accommodation is provided in nearby houses shared with other cathedral scholars. The scholarships are currently worth £6360pa, from which rent and payment for some domestic bills is deducted monthly. Singing lessons are provided by the resident singing teacher, Colin Baldy, who also works with the boy choristers, and there are frequent opportunities for solo and ensemble performances in a variety of contexts and repertoires. 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. Options for paid and voluntary work may be discussed with suitable candidates.

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 on Tuesday evening, the girls join with the back row of the choir for at least two Sundays' 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.

There are also regular sung services that do not involve either top line, including fortnightly Evensongs, occasional Choral Eucharists, and Compline during Lent. The adults of the choir enjoy a friendly and professional working atmosphere and the opportunity to sing with more experienced singers can prove very useful to someone in their first choral position.

The Music Staff

The Canon for Worship & Music	The Revd Canon Alison Kennedy
Organist & Master of the Choristers	James Davy
Assistant Organist & Director of the Girls' Choir	Hilary Punnett
Choir Matron	Stephanie Devonish
Music & Liturgy Assistant	Elspeth Manders

A typical week's musical commitments are:

Thursday	4.15 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full or Men's voices, alternating on a weekly basis)
Friday	4.15 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full)
	6.00 - 7.00	Men's rehearsal
	7.00 - 7.20	<i>Compline (during Lent)</i>
Saturday	4.30 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) * (see below)
Sunday	10.30 - 12.30	Rehearsal & Eucharist or Mattins (Full)
	2.45 - 4.30	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full)

At the time of writing, the pattern of services is suspended owing to the Coronavirus pandemic and the above is given to show the timetable in operation until March 2020.

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 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) by email to: music@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk or by post to: *The Organist & Master of the Choristers, Cathedral Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1TY*

To discuss informally any aspect of the scholarship, please contact James Davy by email at james.davy@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk.

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk