



CHELMSFORD
CATHEDRAL

The Graham Rogers Organ Scholarship 2024-2025



The Dean and Chapter of Chelmsford Cathedral seek to appoint an Organ Scholar for the academic year 2024-25. The Scholarship is named after the late Graham Rogers, a benefactor of the Cathedral and its music, and is suitable for a graduate or experienced gap-year organist, offering a unique learning opportunity to gain experience as a cathedral organist. Working as part of a dedicated and supportive department, the Organ Scholar plays a key role in the delivery of the *Opus Dei*.

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 Late Majesty the Queen and His Late Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Concert performances have included collaborations with other groups including the Band of HM Royal Marines and the King's Singers and in programmes as diverse as Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concerts* and Monteverdi *Vespers*. Since Covid-19, in light of the Bishop of Chelmsford's Visitation in 2022, the Cathedral has embarked on an exciting project to rebuild the Cathedral's music programme which has been wholeheartedly supported by congregation and staff. The hiring of a professional octet in September 2023, augmenting the Cathedral Choir, has allowed for greater flexibility.

The scholarship normally runs from the beginning of September until the end of August and is offered for a period of one year (renewable by agreement). It is currently worth £9120 with nearby accommodation provided, at low rent, in a shared house. A bursary of up to £750 is provided towards the cost of organ lessons. From time to time, the organ scholar may be required to play for weddings, funerals and other extra services for which additional fees are normally payable; there are also opportunities for being involved in music within the city and for private teaching. You are expected to attend all Cathedral Services and rehearsals where the Cathedral Choir is present. In addition, you will have opportunities to develop key skills including choral accompaniment, rehearsing and conducting choirs, and playing organ repertoire in recitals and at services, including recitals before the Advent Procession and Festivals of Nine Lessons & Carols; you will also normally give one of the lunchtime concerts during the year. Additionally, with primary responsibility for the choir library, you will ensure that all music is provided for rehearsals and maintained in a good condition; an eye for organisational detail is useful for this part of the position.

You are usually offered the position of rehearsal accompanist to the Chelmsford Singers, a local mixed-voice choir, for which separate fees are payable.

Recent Organ Scholars have gone on to further scholarships or positions at other cathedrals and universities including Keble College and Christ Church Oxford and York, Norwich, Newcastle, Peterborough, and St Edmundsbury Cathedrals.

The Cathedral Choir comprises girl and boy choristers and a back row of clerks and scholars, in addition to an octet of professional singers. Choristers are recruited from a variety of local schools, a number of whom later become choral scholars, holding a junior scholarship while still at school. A new permanent Director of Music is expected to have been appointed prior to the Organ Scholar's arrival.

There are also regular sung services that do not involve the top line, including frequent Evensongs and Eucharists, with Compline being sung during Lent. The adults of the choir enjoy a friendly and professional working atmosphere and the opportunity to work with the choirs as conductor, organist, or singer is very valuable, especially to someone considering a career in church music.

You will have a good sense of initiative and be able to work in a flexible manner, responding to the changing needs of the music department with diligence and good humour. It is possible to combine the scholarship with study at university or conservatoire, although this requires scrupulous organisation to work satisfactorily.

Tuesdays 5.15pm - 6pm Sung Evening Prayer

Running concurrently with Cathedral Young Singers rehearsal

Wednesdays Normally the Organ Scholar's day off

Thursdays from 4.15pm Rehearsal

5.15pm - 6pm Choral Evensong

Trebles rehearsal running concurrently fortnightly

6.45pm - 7.15pm St Mellitus College service (supper provided)

By agreement with St Mellitus and Organ Scholar

Fridays from 4.15pm Rehearsal

5.15pm - 6.15pm Choral Evensong

6pm - 7pm Full choir rehearsal

Saturdays Occasional commitments as required

Sundays 9.30am Sung Eucharist

from 10am Rehearsal

11.15am-12.30pm Choral Eucharist

from 3pm Rehearsal

3.30pm - 4.30pm Choral Evensong

**The choir is normally free from duties on at least one or two Saturdays per month. From time to time weddings, concerts and other choir events take place. Seasonal changes to this pattern are notified a half-term in advance.*

Choral Conducting and Singing

You are encouraged to sing with the back row of the choir from time to time and will have opportunities to conduct the choirs as appropriate.

The Organs

The Nave Organ is situated at the west end of the Cathedral under the Tower. It is a four-manual instrument with mechanical action built by NP Mander in 1994. The Chancel Organ, also by Mander, is a two-manual mechanical instrument incorporating 19th century pipework by Holdich and Hill. Principally used to accompany the choir, it is widely admired for its warmth of tone, character and versatility. The Nave Organ's Great, Swell, Solo and Pedal divisions are playable via an electric link from the Chancel Organ console.

The organs are generally available for practice in the evening and daytime practice time is booked into the Cathedral diary on weekdays. Other organs in the city may be available for practice by arrangement. The Cathedral Song School houses a Yamaha Grand Piano which can also be used for practice or teaching.

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

- A priest
- Your current organ teacher
- Someone who has known you for at least two years.

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

The Sub Organist,
Cathedral Office,
53 New Street,
Chelmsford,
CM1 1TY

or by email to: sam.bristow@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

To discuss informally any aspect of the scholarship, please contact Samuel Bristow by email at the above address or phone: 01234 252430.

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk