



CHELMSFORD
CATHEDRAL

The Graham Rogers Organ Scholarship 2021 - 2022



The Chapter of Chelmsford Cathedral wishes to appoint an Organ Scholar for the academic year 2021-22. 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 music team in a cathedral serving one of England's largest Anglican dioceses, 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 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*.

The scholarship normally runs from the beginning of September until the end of August, and is normally offered for a period of one year (renewable by agreement). It is currently worth £4500 (net) with accommodation provided in a house shared with the Cathedral's choral scholars. A further 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 town and for private teaching. The Organ Scholar is expected to attend all Cathedral Services and rehearsals where the Cathedral Choir or Girls' Choir is present. He/she 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; the Organ Scholar will also normally give one of the lunchtime concerts during the year.

The Organ Scholar is normally the principal organist for the weekly Parish Eucharist and is expected to play congregational mass settings, hymns and voluntaries, and to rehearse the Cantor. He/she is normally the principal accompanist to the Girls' Choir and plays for the ATB Evensong every other Thursday. Additionally the Organ Scholar has primary responsibility for the choir library, ensuring 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.

The Organ Scholar is usually offered the position of rehearsal accompanist to the Chelmsford Singers, a local mixed-voice choir directed by James Davy, for which separate fees are payable.

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

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 work with the choirs as conductor, organist, or singer is very valuable, especially to someone considering a career in church music.

The successful candidate 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.

The present regular musical commitments for the Organ Scholar are:

Monday	7.50 - 8.35 4.00 - 6.00	Boys' rehearsal (Song School) Rehearsal & Evensong (Boys)
Tuesday	7.40 - 8.20 4.00 - 6.00 6.10 - 7.00	Girls' rehearsal (Song School) Rehearsal & Evensong (Girls) Girls' rehearsal
Wednesday		Normally the organ scholar's day off
Thursday	7.50 - 8.35 4.00 - 6.00 6.45 - 7.15	Boys' rehearsal Rehearsal & Evensong (Full or ATB) St Mellitus College service (supper provided)
Friday	7.50 - 8.35 9.30 - 11.00 4.00 - 6.00 6.00 - 7.00	Boys' rehearsal Music department meeting Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) (usually unaccompanied) ATB rehearsal
Saturday	4.00 - 6.00	<i>Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) *</i>

Sunday	9.00	Cantor's rehearsal
	9.30	Parish Eucharist
	10.45 - 12.30	Rehearsal & Eucharist or Mattins (Full)
	2.40 - 4.30	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full)

**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.*

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.

Choral Conducting and Singing

The Organ Scholar is encouraged to sing with the back row of the choir from time to time and will have opportunities to conduct the choirs as appropriate. Some singing lessons with the Choral Scholars' singing teacher are provided as part of the scholarship.

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

or by email to: music@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

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