

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS AT LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

2024–25



Choral Scholarships at Leicester Cathedral

The Cathedral

Leicester Cathedral is at the physical heart of our city and county. Our church, built on the site of a Roman temple and dedicated to St Martin of Tours, has been embedded in the public, economic, cultural and religious life of this community since medieval times. Since 1927, as the seat of the Bishop of Leicester, we gather people together for worship, celebration, lament, debate and service of the poor and vulnerable. We offer hospitality to the wider church, the communities of faith that make up our multicultural society, and those who come as visitors to the East Midlands, especially in search of the story of King Richard III.

The Cathedral Choir

Leicester Cathedral Choir is made up of the Boy Trebles, the Junior Girls, the Senior Girls and the Songmen. The choir sings in various combinations at the five choral services held at the Cathedral every week. Children are recruited to the Boys' and Junior Girls' Choirs from a range of local primary schools (including from those taking part in the schools' singing programme *DioSing*) and girls join the Senior Girls' Choir at the age of 13. Apart from a fortnightly evensong when the Senior Girls are joined by the older Junior Girls, the three top lines do not regularly sing together other than for special occasions. When their voices change, boys become Young Songmen, singing the lower parts alongside adult singers, including the Choral Scholars.

Foreign trips have taken the Choirs as far afield as Japan and the USA and, most recently, Germany and the Isle of Man. Cathedral residencies in the UK have included York, Worcester, Durham, Truro, and, in the summer of 2018, a week at Brecon Cathedral, where they sang for a Jazz Service forming a part of the Brecon Jazz Festival.

The Cathedral Choir sang for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she visited Leicester at the start of her Diamond Jubilee tour in 2012, and for the Royal Maundy Service in 2017. They have broadcast on local and national radio and television, including a live broadcast of the morning Eucharist on Easter Sunday in 2014. In 2015, they provided the music at the three principal services around the Reinterment of King Richard III, watched by some 350 million people worldwide.

The Music Department

The Director of Music (Chris Ouvry-Johns) is responsible for overseeing and leading all aspects of the Music Department. Within the music team there is also an Assistant Director of Music (Rosie Vinter), a part-time Organist (David Cowen), a part-time Schools Choral Director (Lucy Haigh) and a Music and Liturgy Administrator (Hannah Merritt). A number of parent volunteers assist with chaperoning the choristers in rehearsals and services.

Basic Expectations

While Choral Scholars are expected to attend the full schedule of rehearsals and services appropriate to their voice part, as published on the termly calendar, we are willing to consider applications from singers whose academic commitments would prevent them from attending on some days but who would be willing to participate in a job-share. Similarly, while the Cathedral Choirs sing services outside university terms and Scholars would be expected to remain in Leicester until after the morning Eucharist on Christmas Day and until after Evensong on Christmas Day, we are willing, for example, to consider applications from singers living in halls of residence who are required to vacate their accommodation during university vacations. In such cases, the amount payable to the Scholar is calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Regular Weekly Timetable

Sunday

9.30	Full Rehearsal	14.30	Full Rehearsal
10.30–11.45	Choral Eucharist	15.30–16.30	Choral Evensong

Around ten Sunday afternoon services each year take place at churches around the Diocese. The typical timetable for these is:

14.30–15.30 Full Rehearsal
16.00–17.15 Choral Evensong

The Senior Girls usually sing one of the Sunday services with the Songmen (including Choral Scholars) and either the Boys or the Junior Girls sing the other, also with the Songmen (including Choral Scholars). Details of which choir sings when is published on a termly calendar.

Monday

16.30 Rehearsal (Junior Girls or Senior Girls and Songmen, including Choral Scholars)
17.30–18.10 Choral Evensong

Tuesday

16.30 Rehearsal (Boys and Songmen, including Choral Scholars)
17.30–18.10 Choral Evensong

Wednesday

No sung services

Thursday

16.30 Rehearsal (Boys and Junior Girls, Songmen not required)
17.30 Choral Evensong (Treble Voices)

Friday

19.00–20.30 Rehearsal (Sopranos and Altos)
19.30–21.10 Rehearsal (Tenors and Basses)

Saturday

Occasional special services, but otherwise free of duties

Remuneration

The value of a full scholarship is £3,500p.a., paid in ten equal monthly instalments shortly after the end of the month from September to June. Soprano Scholars follow the same pattern of rehearsals and services as the Senior Girls (one Sunday service, fortnightly Monday Evensong and a Friday rehearsal) and receive £2,000p.a., reflecting the smaller time commitment required. Mezzo-sopranos willing to sing alto may do so on the occasions when the Boys and/or Junior Girls are singing and thereby receive the full scholarship.

Other Benefits

Choral Scholars are entitled to up to £500 worth of singing lessons over the course of the academic year. Scholars are expected to take part in the summer tour, usually in the first week of August, unless there is good reason why they cannot (e.g. summer work placement) and the cost of this is met by the Cathedral.

Absence

The choir year runs from the start of September to the second Sunday of July. The Cathedral Choir usually has two Sundays off in the middle of each term as well as one or two Sundays after Christmas Day and the Sunday after Easter Day. Absences at other times must be agreed in advance with the Director of Music and a suitable deputy engaged at the Scholar's expense (currently £40 per service). In the event of illness preventing a Choral Scholar attending a practice or service, they should first inform the Director of Music.

Dress Code and General Behaviour

Choral Scholars should be smartly presented at all times, especially when working with the choristers or the general public. They must be aware at all times of the importance of discretion in conduct and behaviour, especially with all under-18s, and will be required to sign a Code of Conduct, complete a self-declaration and undertake basic Safeguarding training (online).

Application Form

SOPRANO/ALTO/TENOR/BASS

(Please indicate which voice part you are applying for)

I. APPLICANT'S DETAILS

Title (Mr, Miss etc.)	
Name	
Date of Birth	
Home address	
Term-time address	
Phone number	
Email	

Are there any restrictions regarding your undertaking this scholarship? Yes / No

If the answer to this question is "Yes", please give details below. These might include details of how your academic or other commitments might prevent you doing the full timetable.

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2. SCHOLARSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Please list all current and past employers (if any), with the most recent listed first, and those with whom you have undertaken any previous scholarships, together with months and years of employment/scholarship.

Name of employer/ organisation		
Address		
Dates employed	From:	To:
Job title		
Briefly describe your duties		
Reason for leaving		

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Address		
Dates employed	From:	To:
Job title		
Briefly describe your duties		
Reason for leaving		

3. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Please state your most recent public examination results (GCSEs or A levels), as well as any professional qualifications, such as diplomas. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

School/College		
Subjects and results		
Dates of study	From:	To:

4. TRAINING, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Please list any training you have received or courses attended (within employment or not) which did not lead to a qualification but which you feel is relevant to your application. Do you have any experiences or skills which you feel make you suitable for this role? Please also include here the names of any singing teachers with whom you have studied, and approximate dates of study.

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5. REFERENCES

Please give the details of two referees who can comment on your suitability for the Scholarship, one of whom should be a current or former singing teacher or the conductor of a choir with which you have sung.

Referee 1	
Name	
Position	
Church/organisation	
Address	
Phone number	
Email	
Can we contact this referee prior to interview?	Yes / No

Referee 2	
Name	
Position	
Church/organisation	
Address	
Phone number	
Email	
Can we contact this referee prior to interview?	Yes / No

6. DECLARATIONS AND SIGNATURE

The information supplied in this application form and any attached sheets are accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of qualification or information may lead to the withdrawal of any scholarship offer before or during the scholarship without notice.

Signed Date

The information you have provided on this form will be used to inform the recruitment process. It will be held securely and used in connection with matters associated with a Choral Scholarship at Leicester Cathedral under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and subsequent amendments.

By signing and returning this application form you consent to Leicester Cathedral using and keeping information about you provided by you, or third parties such as referees, relating to your application or future undertaking of the scholarship. Information for candidates who are not appointed will be destroyed within six months of the date of notification as to whether or not you have been invited to interview/audition.

Please return this form as soon as possible and certainly by 23.59 on Sunday, 29 September 2024, to cathedral.music@leicestercofe.org