



St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace, NW8

Choral Scholarship Information

2018-2019

The Choral Scholarships

Significant opportunities exist for personal and musical development for singers at St Mark's. The Parish choral tradition has undergone a renaissance recently with the re-building of a voluntary choir and the gradual appointment of choral scholars since 2012. The church is pleased to be able to offer opportunities for young singers to develop their skills and it is envisaged that the post holders will be keen to contribute to the overall musical life of the church. A choral scholarship is a wonderful way of gaining vocal experience at a high level within a supportive environment and post holders will be given opportunities to develop their own vocal abilities including sight-reading and ensemble skills. The appointment is initially for a period of one year though may be renewed annually subject to performance within the post. It is anticipated that potential choral scholars will most likely be aged 15-22 and in full time education (at any level). Whilst there is no specific requirement relating to Church membership it is expected that they will be in sympathy with the worship and mission of the Church, and will wish to identify with the common life of the community. Further information about the church can be found on the website www.stmarks.me.uk

Music at St Mark's

St Mark's has a strong musical heritage, with connections with the Victorian opera and oratorio star, Charles Santley and also Arthur Sullivan. The hymn tune *Day of Rest* sung to the words *O Jesus I have Promised* was composed by J.W. Elliott, a former organist of St Mark's. Over the past years there has been significant re-development of a robed voluntary choir; the profile of the singers is such that they are mostly between the ages of 18-50 and many are professionals working in the city for whom singing in a choir (many as choral scholars) at University was a major part of their musical development. Over the past years the Church Choir, building, and community has featured several times on episodes of BBC Songs of Praise including the Lent and Easter Day episodes. The choir recorded its first CD in 2014 with Regent Records, *Soon to be born*, and most recently has recorded a second disc of Choral Favourites from St Mark's and this is due to be released in September 2018. The choir has given concerts with ensembles such as the Brandenburg Sinfonia, and ECSE, in venues including St Martin in the Fields, and Hinde Street Methodist Church, and also sung the services in various Cathedrals in the UK. The choir's repertoire spans over five centuries, and the choir sings at the weekly Choral Eucharist in addition to festivals and some Diocesan events at the Church. A different choral mass setting is sung each week in addition to motets and anthems (see Appendix A for examples of Mass settings). When there is no choral setting (eg the Summer vacation), the congregational setting by David Thorne is used.

Responsibilities and duties of the Choral Scholars

Applications for choral scholarships are welcome from enthusiastic singers of any voice part currently in secondary or tertiary education. There will be up to 6 award holders within the choir at any point. The schedule and details of regular and extra festival services is outlined below;

Sundays: (this is the only regular day of duty)

09.20 Rehearsal

10.30 Sung Eucharist (usually finishing c.11.50)

Festival services:

Additionally, Choral Scholars would be expected to attend the following special services when they occur;

Advent / Christmas / Epiphany Carol Services (held on Sunday evenings)

Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, All Souls, Confirmation (held on weekday evenings during term time)

*Christmas services – Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

*Easter services – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil when scheduled, Easter Day

*Choral Scholars may only be absent for *one* of the Christmas / Easter festivals in an academic year.

There are no full choir commitments from mid/end July until the new academic term begins in September.

The awards

The award will comprise –

- The title, *Choral Scholar, St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace, NW8*
- £800 per annum paid in monthly instalments (pro rata) in arrears. It is anticipated that this would be put towards musical enterprise of the scholars' choosing such as lessons, a course, recording or other such venture
- Up to 10 weeks holiday leave annually (absence dates must be agreed in advance with the Director of Music. Choral Scholars may only be absent for *one* of the Christmas / Easter festivals. Christmas commitment is Midnight Mass & Christmas Morning, Easter commitment is Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Day)
- Extra fees may be available for wedding and funerals
- The opportunity to give at least one solo vocal recital during the year at the church

The choral scholarships are excellent opportunities for singers who wish to develop their choral and vocal skills at a high level and the awards are available at any point within year, usually running from September through to August of the following year.

Person specification

The role of Choral Scholar requires some prior solo and choral experience. Potential candidates are likely to be singers for whom committing to sing regularly is a natural extension of their enjoyment of singing, and they may be preparing for Choral Scholarships / Awards at University / Conservatoire. Changed voices should be reasonably settled, though as voices adjust over time the Director of Music appreciates that this means that they may need to switch voice parts and this is easily accommodated. Choral Scholars will be open-minded to engage in a variety of different styles of repertoire and should have ability within sight-reading as they will become a core-part of leading their section of the choir.

Applications for awards

How to apply

Singers may apply for, and be awarded scholarships at any point in an academic year; in this case, successful applicants will be awarded a scholarship on a pro rata basis. Applicants interested in the 2018-2019 awards should write a brief letter of application stating why they are suitable for the post and what they would hope to gain from it. Applicants should

include a CV or details of their qualifications and experience, and the names and addresses of two referees (one musical, one personal). In the event of a candidate being successful at audition, there may be the possibility of taking up the award sooner than September of the year of audition on a pro-rata basis, should an award vacancy currently exist within the choir. The audition will require candidates to sing two contrasting pieces (own choice and totalling not more than 12 minutes), and under take sight-reading and aural tests, and a short viva voce.

Applications should be sent to Tansy Castledine, Director of Music at the following address: tansycastledine@aol.com

Appendix A – Mass settings – current repertoire of Mass settings includes the following -

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| Archer | Christchurch Mass |
| Buxtehude | Missa brevis |
| Byrd | a 5, a 4, a3 |
| Charpentier | Messe des morts, Messe de minuits |
| Chilcott | Little jazz mass |
| Croce | Missa sexti toni |
| Darke | E minor, A minor, F Major |
| Durufle | Requiem |
| Dvorak | D Major |
| Elliot | St Mark's |
| Faure | Messe basse, Requiem |
| Fischer | Missa Sancti Dominici |
| Gabrielli | Missa brevis |
| Hassler | Missa super ecce quam bonum, Super dixit maria |
| Haydn | Kleine Orgel Messe, Missa Sancti Nicolai |
| Howells | Coll reg |
| Ives | Missa brevis |
| Jongen | Messe en l'honneur du Saint-Sacrement |
| Kodaly | Missa brevis |
| Langlais | Messe Solennelle |
| Lloyd-Webber | Missa princeps pace |
| Lotti | in F |
| Monteverdi | a 4 Coronation, D Major, Spatzenmesse, F Major, Bb Major, G Major, |
| Mozart | Requiem |
| Palestrina | Missa aeterna christi munera, Missa brevis |
| Plainsong | Missa de angelis |
| Rheinberger | Cantus missae, Missa sincere in memoriam / G minor |
| Schubert | G major, C Major |
| Shephard | Western wind |
| Stanford | Bb/F Major |
| Vaughan-Williams | G minor |
| Vierne | Messe solennelle |
| Victoria | Missa quarti toni |
| Whitbourn | Son of God mass |