

St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace, NW8

Choral Scholarship Information

2020-2021

Music at St Mark's

The music department at St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace, is currently led by interim Director of Music, Daniel Collins.

Over recent years there has been significant re-development of a robed voluntary choir; the profile of singers is such that they are mostly between the ages of 18 and 50 and many are professionals working in the City for whom singing in a choir at university (many as choral scholars) was a major part of their musical development. Over the past few years the choir has featured on numerous BBC broadcasts. In 2014 the choir recorded its first CD, *Soon to be Born*, with Regent Records, and most recently recorded a second disc, *Choral Favourites from St Mark's*, which was released in September 2018. Visits to sing services at a number of cathedrals across the UK have been particular highlights over the years.

The choir's repertoire spans five centuries, and it sings a different mass and motet/anthem at the weekly choral eucharist in addition to festivals.

Choral Scholarships

St Mark's is recruiting Alto (male or female) and Bass choral scholars for the 2020-21 academic year. The scholarship is for a duration of one academic year (September – July), although the opportunity for this to be renewed for a further year is possible, subject to performance in the post. It is expected that scholars will be in full time education at a London university or conservatoire students, although some recent scholars have been young professionals. Previous experience of church music and the Anglican choral tradition is desirable, but not essential.

The scholarship fee for 2020-21 academic year will be £2,400, paid throughout the year in monthly instalments (this will be paid pro-rata if starting after September 6th). It is anticipated that this would be put towards musical enterprise of the scholars' choosing, such as tuition or courses.

Responsibilities of the Choral Scholar

The responsibilities and duties of the choral scholars are outlined below:

Sundays: (the only regular day of duty)

9.20 am – Rehearsal

10.30am – Sung Eucharist (usually finishes 11.45am)

Festival Services:

Choral scholars will be expected to be in attendance at the following services:

- Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Carol Services (Sunday evenings)
- Ash Wednesday, All Souls Requiem Mass (weekday evenings during term time)
- Christmas Eve (Midnight Mass) and Christmas Day (Eucharist)
- Palm Sunday afternoon, Maundy Thursday (evening), Good Friday (morning), Easter Day (Eucharist)

There are no full choir commitments from mid July until the new academic term begins in September. Choral scholars are not required for services when the full choir is on holiday (typically one week at half term, and one week following Christmas and Easter, in addition to the summer break).

Reasonable planned absences may be taken during term time. Scholars shall be entitled to one Sunday off per term (a total of three per annum), for which the church may appoint and pay a deputy. The Director of Music will approve any further absences, subject to a suitable deputy being appointed and paid directly by the Scholar.

If at any point we return to lockdown we will shift to producing music for online streamed services. Scholars will be expected to produce a recording of one motet per week, along with a hymn or movement of a mass. The Director of Music will create a performance from the individual recordings.

Person Specification

The role of choral scholar requires prior solo and choral experience to a high standard. Scholars will be expected to provide leadership and support where necessary to their voice part. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate musicianship and a strong sight-reading ability across a variety of different styles. It is expected that the appointed scholars will embrace and integrate into the spirited and sociable nature of the choir.

Whilst there is no specific requirement relating to Church membership, it is expected that scholars will be in sympathy with the worship and mission of the Church.

Auditions

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to audition on a mutually convenient date. Auditions will require the candidate to sing two contrasting pieces (own choice not longer than 10 minutes) and undertake sight-reading and aural tests, along with a brief interview.

Applications

Applicants should submit a CV and covering letter (including the names and contact details of two referees) to Daniel Collins, the Director of Music, at the following address: decmusic@gmail.com. The deadline for applications is Monday 21st September 2020. If you have any questions or wish to arrange an informal chat about the role, please contact the Director of Music at the above address.