



St Mary Magdalene, Richmond

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2017-18

St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation

St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, seeks to appoint four Choral Scholars for the academic year 2017-18 (September till end of July). One scholar per part (SATB) will be appointed and the scholarships are open to both male and female candidates. Countertenors are most welcome to apply. Scholars are paid an annual honorarium of £1,000 plus extra fees for any weddings/funerals as available through the year.

Music at St. Mary Magdalene

Music plays an integral role in worship at St. Mary's. The church has an able and enthusiastic robed SATB choir, supported by four paid Choral Scholars (SATB), which performs music covering a vast variety of musical styles from the Renaissance to the present day.

A typical Sunday Eucharist will contain a voluntary before and after the service. Along with the hymns, the choir normally sing an anthem, a psalm (Anglican chant or Responsorial), as well as a mass setting which is normally congregational. Choral Evensong is sung every week (apart from August) using a host of different responses and canticles, which allow the choir to explore more repertoire including larger evening settings. Once a month the choir sings Choral Matins.

The church is a particularly beautiful Grade II* listed building in the centre of Richmond and is an inspiring place to work.

Scholars are sometimes able to use the church for practice, concert performances, etc. subject to agreement with the Director of Music and booking with the Parish Office.

St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation

In 2017 money received from legacies was used for the setting up of a Choral foundation at St Mary Magdalene Church.

Its aims are threefold:

1. To enrich the worship at St Mary Magdalene through music
2. To grow the choir and repertoire
3. To develop the musical skills of individuals

The Scholarships

The Choral Scholars will help to enhance and support the choir of St. Mary Magdalene. As well as having the opportunity to expand their knowledge of repertoire and technique, the scholars will be able to improve their abilities through a vast array of music making. The scholarship can serve as a solid foundation for those looking to seek choral scholarships at a university or college, and/or can help to consolidate and expand skills of those who may be studying at university or conservatoire.

Under the direction of the Director of Music, Alexander Knight, and the Organ Scholar, each Choral Scholar is expected to be present at all rehearsals and services during term time, as well as major Feast Days (Advent, Holy Week and Easter, Ascension Day, etc.) and concerts which may fall outside of term. Although not expected for Midnight Mass/Christmas Day, scholars will be expected to attend all other Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services. 6 weeks' holiday is permitted during the term of the scholarship by agreement with the DoM. The Choral Scholars may also have many opportunities for solo performances through the year by mutual agreement with the Director of Music. There will be a recital series as well as choral concerts. Scholars are encouraged to perform as a quartet or as soloists. It is hoped the Choral Scholars will have a thorough involvement in the music making and life of the church.

Typical Weekly Timetable

Thursday

19:45 - 21.15 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday

08:45 - 09:20 Choir Rehearsal

09:30 - 10:45 Morning Eucharist

10:50 - 11:20 Choir rehearsal (third Sunday of the month only)

11:30 - 12:30 Choral Matins (third Sunday of the month only)

17.30 - 18.15 Choir Rehearsal

18:30 - 19:30 Choral Evensong

This list is not intended to be exhaustive and the Choral Scholars may be asked to sing at other services on occasion. Some help maintaining and managing the choir library is required.

Person Specification

This position is open to all ages and stages of career (undergraduate, postgraduate, etc.) and provides an excellent training to those who are looking to support their music studies and improve their abilities as a choral singer and/or soloist. Applicants should have some experience of choral and/or solo singing and have secure sight-reading skills. Previous experience of church music is highly desirable but not essential. Good self-management and time keeping are necessary. Above all, a passion for high standards of music making and choral singing is crucial. It is also expected that scholars will take part in some wider aspects of the church's life, being good team-players willing to work well with others.

Honorarium and Fees

The honorarium for each Choral Scholar position is worth £1,000 per annum, paid in 3 instalments. Weddings and funerals occur through the year and the scholars are often required for these. Fees are agreed depending on music required.

Application and Audition

To apply, candidates are asked to submit a complete CV along with a letter of application by email (preferable) or post to the Director of Music, Alexander Knight. Informal enquiries and visits to the church are most welcome.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to audition and will be asked to:

- Sing 2 contrasting works of their choice that best demonstrates their vocal ability and technique, (these may be solos from larger choral works).
- Sight read a short piece;
- Sing one or two verses from a hymn and some verses of a psalm (Anglican chant).

Some aural tests may also be required at the discretion of the panel. After the audition, a short interview will take place with the Director of Music.

Email: alexk9@me.com

Telephone: 07706 166379

Address:

Director of Music

The Parish Office

The Vicarage

Ormond Road

Richmond

TW10 6TH

More information

www.stmarymagdalenechoir.co.uk and www.richmondteamministry.org