

**Sixth Form Choral and Organ Scholarship Scheme**

**Background**

The Sixth Form Scholarship scheme was launched in September 2021 as part of the reforms to the choral foundation and community music programme.

**Choral and Organ Scholarships overview**

- The sixth form scholarship programme provides opportunities for suitably skilled and enthusiastic young musicians to experience Cathedral music before perhaps going on to choral/organ scholarships at university. They will experience singing alongside our professional team of Lay Clerks, under the direction of the Cathedral’s professional musicians (the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music).

- Choral scholarships will be available for soprano, alto (male and female), tenor and bass voices. One scholarship is available per voice per year – eight in total. Choral Scholars would be appointed for lower sixth form and hold the Scholarship for two years, subject to satisfactory performance and review at the end of the first year.

- Organ Scholars will be appointed for lower sixth form and hold the Scholarship for two years, subject to satisfactory performance and review at the end of the first year.

- Applications will be encouraged from a variety of local schools, including King’s Rochester.

- The Cathedral will reimburse the cost of singing or organ lessons with a teacher of the scholar’s choice up to a maximum level of the equivalent to the cost of King’s School music lessons, currently £750 per annum. This would be a reimbursement, not a bursary. (Due to the nature of preparing for choral accompaniments and registration on the Cathedral Organ, it is anticipated that the majority of lessons for Organ Scholars will be undertaken by the Cathedral Organists. Practice time on the Cathedral Organ will be made available).

- Choral Scholars will rehearse and/or sing a service on Mondays, and sing alongside our professional Lay Clerks and Choristers for some Sunday services, as well as other special services.

- Organ Scholars would attend services on Sundays and one other weekday Evensong. They would also experience taking rehearsals and playing for parts of services as skill-level and need would dictate.

- The scholarship programme will provide valuable musical development and experience. Although the Scholars will make a genuine contribution to the Cathedral Choir and the musical and liturgical life of the Cathedral, the programme is a developmental role and they would not be relied upon too heavily.

- The Cathedral takes Safeguarding very seriously, and all the appropriate safeguarding risk assessments and chaperoning arrangements will be in place, in order with the Cathedral’s Health and Safety Policies.

**Usual weekly timetable**

The liturgical life of the Cathedral is varied and no two weeks are the same. As this is a relatively new role, the timetable will also be subject to ongoing review to ascertain the best structure to suit both the needs of the Scholars as well as the Cathedral. Detailed termly schedules are issued before the beginning of each term. However, it is anticipated that the usual duties will be along the lines of the following:

* Sundays in term-time: Either Choral Mattins & Eucharist 08:40-11:45, or Choral Evensong 14:00-16:00 (usually alternating on a weekly basis).
* Mondays in term-time: Rehearsal and/or service. Exact timings to be decided.
* Fridays in term-time: Rehearsal and/or service at approximately 16:40, finishing around 18:15.
* Occasional other special services as required, including a termly ‘Youth Choral Day’ attended by other local singers aged 13-18.

We would expect that the Scholars attend 100% of duties as per the schedule, unless in the case of illness or agreed prior absence with the Director of Music for suitable reason.

Please contact the Acting Director of Music, Jeremy Lloyd (jeremy.lloyd@rochestercathedral.org) if you have any queries, or to obtain an application form. **The deadline for applications is Sunday 5th June 2022 at 5pm.**