

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

ORGAN SCHOLAR 2022-2023



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

BACKGROUND

Guildford Cathedral is a sacred space and an open community of people who together engage with God and the wider world, for the common good. The cathedral is a focus and resource for the whole community: a place of daily choral worship, a space for stillness and prayer, a place of pilgrimage, and a venue for concerts, art and education.

Guildford Cathedral Choir is one of the musical success stories of our times. Ever since the Cathedral's consecration in 1961, the Choir has maintained the daily choral service, singing five or six days every week during school terms. For most of this period, the boy choristers have been drawn from RGS prep (formerly Lanesborough) School, taking part in daily morning rehearsals before lessons commence, and then being brought to the Cathedral in a bus for Choral Evensong. In 2003, a group of girl choristers was recruited from a variety of maintained and independent schools, and they now share the weekly singing duties with the boys. Six Lay Clerks, paid professional singers, complete the make-up of the Cathedral Choir. Occasionally, the boy and girl choristers contribute from their respective repertoires at the same service, for example at Christmas, and in Holy Week.

Choral Evensong is sung every weekday except Wednesday, and the Cathedral Eucharist, Choral Mattins and Choral Evensong are sung on Sundays during term time. There are also special services and concerts to play for throughout the year.

The head of department, is the Canon Liturgist, currently vacant; the Organist and Master of the Choristers is Katherine Dienes-Williams, the Sub Organist is Richard Moore, and the Organ Scholar for the 2021-22 academic year is Michael Stephens-Jones.

Guildford Cathedral invites applications for the post of Organ Scholar. The appointment, if ratified following a three month probationary period, will be for a period of nine months commencing on 1 September 2022 (ie ending 31st August 2023), and the successful candidate is likely to be either a recent graduate or a 'gap year' student. He or she will already play to a good standard and will have experience of choir accompaniment. The main Cathedral organ was refurbished alongside the Heritage Lottery Fund project, and rededicated in March 2018. There is, additionally, an organ in the Lady Chapel, and a piano in the Song School, which may be used for practice.

JOB SPECIFICATION

Job Title: Organ Scholar

Accountable to: The Canon Liturgist, and the Organist and Master of the Choristers

Key tasks: During term time:

- to accompany all or part of Evensong on at least one evening a week and on other occasions at the direction of the Organist and Master of the Choristers or the Sub Organist
- assistance at weekday Evensongs and all Sunday services
- attendance at four boy chorister morning practices each week, and attendance at girl chorister rehearsals

- assisting in Music Theory teaching
- acting as chaperone in accompanying choristers to the cathedral after school
- providing office assistance in the music department
- acting as choir librarian in the music library - cataloguing, filing, sourcing etc.

At other times:

- accompanying the Guildford Cathedral Singers and attending 2 hour rehearsals; this happens approximately 13 times in the year, usually before the start and after the end of choir terms
- occasional opportunities to accompany special services for which additional fees may be paid
- other duties at the direction of Organist and Master of the Choristers, and Sub Organist

The Organ Scholar should expect normally to be available on site during the working day, and occasionally at other times, except by negotiation.

Benefits: Salary approximately £12900 per annum, paid in monthly instalments
 Free single accommodation in a shared house with the lay clerks
 Tuition from the Organist and Sub Organist
 Subsidised organ lessons to the value of £150 annually

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

To apply for this post, please send a **letter of application**, the contact details of **two referees** (please inform your referees that we will be taking up references as part of the shortlisting process, prior to interviews on the advertised date), and a **copy of your CV** to the Music Administrator:

liturgymusic@guildford-cathedral.org;

Your application must be received by **5pm on Tuesday 28 September 2021**. All applications will be acknowledged.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of an initial short-listing of applicants as soon as possible after the closing date.

Auditions, interviews and a viewing of the shared house will be held on **Monday 04 October** – shortlisted candidates will be notified as soon after the application closing date as possible.

Any offer of appointment will be dependent on the receipt of satisfactory references, and an enhanced DBS check.