

Choral Scholarships

Introduction

From September 2012, Worcester Cathedral is offering Choral Scholarships for young men with counter-tenor, tenor and baritone/bass voices in partnership with the University of Worcester.

The purpose of the Choral Scholar scheme is to encourage young singers to become part of the long-standing tradition of Cathedral Music, which is such an important part of our musical heritage whilst pursuing a course of study at the University of Worcester. It is hoped to attract a broad range of singers from different backgrounds over the years and to introduce and extend the opportunity offered to young musicians in this very special form of music making. There is no restriction on the subject of study at the University. Choral Scholarships will be offered following an audition and interview process and acceptance for a course of study at the University.

The Music Department forms an integral part of the structure and life of the worshipping community of the Cathedral. The Canon Precentor, The Reverend Canon David Stanton, is responsible for the worship of the Cathedral and represents the Music Department within the Chapter, the governing body of the Cathedral. Other members of the Music Department include:

Post	Current Post-holder
The Master of the Choristers	Adrian Lucas
The Assistant Organist	Christopher Allsop
The Sub-Assistant Organist	George Castle

The rest of the Cathedral Choir is made up of 18 boy and 18 girl choristers (singing usually as separate units) and professional adult Lay Clerks who provide the lower choral lines. There are two groups of Lay Clerk: 6 Principals who sing at all services during the week and at weekends and Assistants who sing at weekends and major festivals only. Choral Scholars will be expected to sing Evensong on Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays and two services on Sundays during school term time and major festivals. Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks sing with both the boy and girl treble lines.

In addition, the Cathedral is proud to have a Voluntary Choir (founded in the 1870s) of boys and men and a mixed adult Chamber Choir (founded in 1998). The Worcester Festival Choral Society is also based around the Cathedral and usually gives four concerts per year with professional orchestras. There are also two Junior Choirs, one for girls and one for boys, which aim to encourage singing among young people. These groups extend and complement the range of choral activity available as part of 'Worcester Cathedral Music'.

The University of Worcester dates from 1946 when it was established as a teacher training college. It is now a University with a student population of around 10,000 students. It is a multi-site university with campuses in St Johns' and in the City Centre. It has strengths in many subject areas and teaches a full range of subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in: Education; Health, Psychology and Social Care; Humanities and Creative Arts; Business and Computing; Science and the Environment; and Sport and Exercise Sciences. The University places a very strong emphasis on the quality of the student experience and student support. It regards its students as partners in learning and seeks to provide opportunities for students to develop their skills and expertise to prepare for success beyond University in their chosen field.

1 Rehearsals and Services

a) All normal rehearsals and services will take place within the Cathedral of Worcester and its precincts, though Chapter may request that you sing at other locations with reasonable notice.

b) The normal week-by-week schedule for Choral Scholars is as follows:

Monday	
5.00 – 5.25	Full Rehearsal
5.30 – 6.20	Choral Evensong
Tuesday	
5.00 – 5.25	Full Rehearsal
5.30 – 6.20	Choral Evensong
Saturday	
4.30 – 5.25	Full Rehearsal
5.30 – 6.20	Choral Evensong
Sunday	
9.15 – 10.25	Full Rehearsal
10.30 – 11.45	Sung Eucharist
16.00 – 16.50	Choral Evensong

c) On certain days, there may be different service and rehearsal times, which will be included on the dates list with reasonable advance notice.

d) Choral Scholars will also be required to sing at other Cathedral services. These will normally include such major festivals as:

Advent Procession with Carols

2 Cathedral Carol Services

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve

2 Services on Christmas Day

Epiphany

Epiphany Carol Service

Candlemas

Ash Wednesday

2 Services on Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Eve

2 Services on Easter Day

Ascension Day

The services in bold frequently fall outside term time but form a statutory part of this scholarship. A list of the required services and their times will be agreed each year in advance. Reasonable notice will be given for any service, which falls outside the normal pattern.

e) Choral Scholars may also be asked to deputise for Principal Lay Clerks at other services.

2 Academic Study

- a) You will need to satisfy the entry requirements for the particular course of study and any other selection criteria; these will vary depending on the course you apply to study.
- b) You will be required to comply with all University of Worcester academic regulations that are listed in relevant University and subject specific student handbooks, including any specific attendance requirements.
- c) You will be required to meet with an academic tutor on a regular basis to discuss your academic progress.
- d) You will be required to satisfy the specific assessment requirements associated with your course of study.

3 Responsibilities

- a) You will be responsible to The Master of Choristers, with oversight from the Canon Precentor on behalf of the Chapter. The Master of Choristers will monitor your performance and give you regular feedback (see Review below). A Principal Lay Clerk will be designated to offer you guidance and support when required.
- b) **Attendance** – Regular and punctual attendance is vital to the demanding work of the Cathedral Choir. If a service or rehearsal has to be missed through illness, all attempts must be made to contact the Master of the Choristers or his Assistant. Requests for absence for other reasons must be made at least 4 weeks in advance, unless for unforeseen circumstances.
- c) **Dress code** – Cassocks and surplices will be provided by the Cathedral for your use. It is customary to wear dark trousers, formal black shoes, and a smart shirt and tie underneath robes.
- d) **Preparation** – You will need to be able to sing all the notes correctly at the start of each rehearsal, as well as to have a feel for the style and shape of the music. This may need a good degree of preparation in advance and time should be allowed for this, particularly in your early days as a Scholar.
- e) **Community** – As part of the Cathedral Community, the mutual respect required between all members of the choir and all those connected with the Cathedral is important. Good relations with staff, lay clerks and chorister families are also key to a successful partnership.

4 Other benefits

- a) **Singing Lessons** - During the period of this scholarship, the Chapter will arrange and pay for vocal tuition.
- b) **Concerts** - Payment for concerts and other engagements in addition to the those listed in 1) above will be made extra to your scholarship at rates agreed by the Chapter or otherwise negotiated on your behalf.
- c) **Three Choirs Festival** – Subject to the Master of the Choristers, you may be invited to join the Cathedral Choirs' contingent at the Three Choirs' Festival. Further remuneration will be offered from the festival for such work if it is accepted.

5 Review

- a) **Initial Review** – At the end of the first month, a brief review with members of the music staff will establish goals for the coming year and advise on any areas of concern.
- b) **Half-Year Review** – At a point close to the February Half Term, another brief review will be arranged to take stock of progress during the course of the year and, where necessary, to revise goals for the remainder of the year.
- c) **End of Year Review** – As the Summer Term draws to a close, there will be a chance to review and set out achievements from the past year and to offer advice for any relevant future musical activity.
- d) **Review of Academic Progress** – at appropriate points in the academic calendar there will be meetings with the student's Academic Tutor to review academic progress and to agree outcomes and actions for the rest of the academic year

6 Terms and Remuneration

- a) Your Choral Scholarship is offered jointly by The Chapter of Worcester Cathedral and The University of Worcester.
- b) Your Scholarship will begin on 5 September 2012 and finish on 9 July 2013. A further Scholarship may be negotiated at the end of that period. Any further scholarship will be subject to satisfactory academic performance as well as a successful end-of-year review of the scholar's musical achievement. The Chapter reserves the right at any time to review the way in which musical provision is made and to make changes, following consultation.
- c) You will be paid a gross annual Scholarship with effect from 5 September, this Scholarship being paid directly into your bank account monthly on the fifteenth day of each month. The amount of the Scholarship for 2012/13 will be £2,000. The Chapter reserves the right to make deductions from your Scholarship for absences from the services detailed in section 1), except by reason of certified illness.
- d) The Cathedral and the University shall be entitled to terminate the scholarship if the scholar fails to satisfy the responsibilities set out above; normally 3 months' notice will be given. You will be entitled to terminate your Scholarship, normally giving 3 months' notice.
- e) Your continued Scholarship will be subject to satisfactory completion of a voice test conducted by the Master of the Choristers at his discretion.

August 2011