



Application Pack

Choral Scholars

September 2024 – August 2025



WORCESTER
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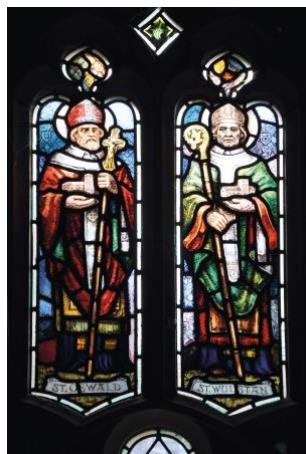
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About Worcester Cathedral



Worcester Cathedral is a magnificent sight as it rises majestically above the River Severn. Worcester has been the seat of a bishopric since the seventh century, and the Cathedral was served by monks until the Reformation. St Oswald and St Wulfstan were among the bishops.

Since the eighteenth century, the Cathedral has been famous for its part in the annual Three Choirs Festival (the 2025 festival will take place in Hereford Cathedral), the oldest choral festival in existence. Today, the Cathedral is the centre of a vibrant community of clergy and laypeople; offering the praises of God each day, serving the city and diocese of Worcester, and attracting visitors from all over the world.

The Cathedral community is diverse with over 100 staff and 300 volunteers. We are rightly proud of the tremendous heritage and number of partners we work with across the Cathedral to provide a warm welcome to our visitors to learn more about the history of the building, attend our many events and activities, and to experience the spiritual opportunities of the Cathedral.

The governance of the Cathedral is the responsibility of the Chapter, which comprises residentiary canons and lay canons with professional expertise. The Chapter is responsible for the strategy, oversight and delivery of the operational plan. A recruitment process for a new Dean is currently underway, following the retirement of The Very Rev'd Peter Atkinson in August 2023.

There are a team of Departmental Managers led by the Chief Operating Officer, who meet regularly and work collaboratively to achieve the annual objectives and plan. The Cathedral has a diverse range of income, all of which is either achieved through donations, fundraising, earned income, investment income or other support.





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Worcester Cathedral Music Department

The Cathedral's Canon Precentor, Rev'd John Paul Hoskins is responsible for the worship of the Cathedral and as such represents the Music Department within the governing body of the Cathedral, the Chapter.

Other members of the Music Department currently include:

Organist and Director of Music	Mr Samuel Hudson
Assistant Director of Music	Mr Nicholas Freestone
Organ Scholar	Mr Charles Gurnham (2023 – 2024)
Music Administrator	Mr Alan Sheldon

Regular service timetable:

Monday:	17:30	Evensong *
Tuesday:		Music Department day off
Wednesday:	17.30	Evensong (boys & girls)
Thursday:	17:30	Evensong (girls and lower voices)
Friday:	17:30	Evensong (boys and lower voices)
Saturday:	17:30	Evensong *
Sunday:	10:30	Eucharist *
	16:00	Evensong *
	18:30	Evening Worship (voluntary choir)

*Services marked * alternate between boy and girl choristers from one week to the next, all sung with the lower voices.*



Worcester Cathedral's Choirs

Worcester Cathedral Choir consists of up to 18 boy choristers, 18 girl choristers, 9 lay clerks and 3 choral scholars. In September 2021 the cathedral implemented a series of changes to the configuration of the music department, one aim of which was to achieve parity between the boy and girl choristers of the cathedral choir. In this new model, both boy and girl choristers receive an equal scholarship to the King's School, and sing an equal number of services each week. During a transition period over the next few years, some existing girl choristers from other nearby schools are continuing to sing in the choir at weekends.

The lay clerks sing for six choral services each week. Six principal lay clerks sing for all of these services, with three assistant lay clerks joining them for services on Saturday and Sunday, and for major festivals. The back row is completed by three Choral Scholars.

The cathedral choir takes a central role in the **Three Choirs Festival**, held in the final week of July every year and hosted in turn by the cathedrals of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester.

Worcester Cathedral Voluntary Choir is directed by the Assistant Director of Music and also entered a new chapter of life in September 2021. The Voluntary Choir is now an upper voice ensemble for boys and girls, recruited from a variety of local schools. The choir sings at the weekly 6.30pm Sunday service.

Worcester Cathedral Youth Choir was formed in September 2021. Directed by the Assistant Director of Music, the choir aims to provide an opportunity for former choristers and other singers from the local area from year 9 and above to contribute to the cathedral's music. The choir rehearse once per week and sing at a number of services and concerts throughout the year.

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir is an adult choir of some 30 singers, directed by its founder and former Senior Lay Clerk, Stephen Shellard. The choir sings regularly at cathedral services, as well as at services and concerts in the local area.

Worcester Festival Choral Society is an autonomous group of approximately 120 singers linked to the cathedral, conducted by the Director of Music. They rehearse on Mondays every week in the cathedral, and present three concerts in the first two terms of each academic year.



The Role



Worcester Cathedral are looking to appoint three Choral Scholars – alto (male or female), tenor and bass – for the academic year 2024-2025.

The scholarships are suitable for graduate or gap-year singers and offer the opportunity to work with and learn from the thriving Music Department at Worcester Cathedral. Previous holders of choral scholarships have gone on to obtain posts as lay clerks at cathedrals around the country, and scholarships at colleges at both Oxford and Cambridge.

The regular singing timetable for choral scholars is as follows:

Monday:	17:00	Rehearsal
	17:30	Evensong (boys/girls and lower voices)
	19:30 - 21:30	Worcester Festival Choral Society rehearsal
Tuesday:		Department day off
Wednesday:		A working day, but no singing duties
Thursday:	17:00	Rehearsal
	17:30	Evensong (girls and lower voices)
Friday:	19:00 - 20:30	Youth choir rehearsal
Saturday:	16:30	Rehearsal
	17:30	Evensong (boys/girls and lower voices)
Sunday:	09:45	Rehearsal
	10:30	Eucharist (boys/girls and lower voices)
	15:20	Rehearsal
	16:00	Evensong (boys/girls and lower voices)

Choral scholars are also required to assist through their presence at some morning chorister practices and afternoon rehearsals, and with escorting choristers between the Cathedral and Choir School. A full timetable will be provided upon appointment.





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Job Description

Job Title: Choral Scholar

Department: Music Department

Reports to: The Director of Music

Overall purpose of the post:

To provide an opportunity for gathering experience as a choral singer through membership of the Cathedral's choirs, working as part of a supportive team in the professional environment of the cathedral music department.

Duties & responsibilities:

- To sing as a member of the Cathedral Choir, including at major festivals, regular concerts and radio broadcasts;
- To assist with the supervision of the choristers, including escorting them between the cathedral and school premises;
- To sing in the Cathedral Youth Choir, assisting in sectional rehearsals if necessary;
- To sing in the Worcester Festival Choral Society, directed by the Cathedral's Director of Music, including three orchestral concerts in the autumn and spring;
- To take a full part in the Three Choirs Festival, as a member of the Cathedral Choir, the Festival Chorus, and the Festival Youth Chorus;
- To assist with administrative duties as requested (possibly including the running of the music library)
- To take part in training as required;
- To ensure that all safeguarding and health and safety instructions are followed, and that care is taken to ensure safety for self and colleagues, reporting concerns immediately;
- To treat everyone in a way which reflects the Cathedral's Values;
- To undertake as requested other duties as may reasonably be expected.

The scholars receive support from the Director of Music and the Assistant Director of Music, and feedback from the lay clerks. The Music Department is also keen to enable the scholars to develop solo singing (goals may include grade/diploma preparation), repertoire development, performance practice and teaching.

Health & Safety

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, whilst at work, you must take reasonable care for your own health & safety and that of any other person who may be affected by your acts or omissions. In addition, you must co-operate with the Organisation on health & safety and not interfere with, or misuse, anything provided for your health, safety or welfare.

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers are expected to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults who may be vulnerable, who are involved with and/or visit the Cathedral. This will include adherence to policies and procedures, following good practice in relation to their own behaviour and conduct, and undertaking any safeguarding duties commensurate with their specific role. This role will require an Enhanced DBS disclosure.



Person Specification

REQUIREMENTS

The post holder must be able to demonstrate:

Education, skills and experience:

- Experience in choral singing in a church or cathedral context;
- Some degree of formal voice training or singing lessons;
- Confidence in sight-reading;
- A strong musical ear and sense of general musicianship;
- Ability to work in a team;
- Formal training on one or more instruments (desirable);

Personal qualities:

- Punctual and well-presented;
- Efficient in time management;
- Willing to engage with a range of tasks to assist with the smooth running of the music department;
- Self-motivated to improve individual performance and gain experience;
- Interested in engaging with the varied life of the Cathedral and city;
- An ability to be flexible and adapt to a dynamic environment;
- A commitment to living harmoniously with others in shared accommodation.



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Working for us

Remuneration

Each Choral Scholar receives an honorarium of £3,000, plus rent-free accommodation in an eighteenth-century flat above the Song School with spectacular views of the Cathedral, Malvern Hills and River Severn. The flat is shared with the other choral scholars and organ scholar.

There are also opportunities for extra work in the surrounding area, including in the music department at the King's School, Worcester.

Singing lessons

An allowance is available for singing lessons, with a teacher agreed in consultation with the Director of Music.

Staff Discount

All employees will receive a 10% discount on purchases in the Gift Shop and Café within the Cathedral.

Employee Assistance Programme

All employees and their immediate family have access to a range of confidential support through our commissioned employee assistance programme.





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How to apply

To apply for a Choral Scholarship, please send your application by post or email to:

Matthew Hall,
Chief Operating Officer,
The Chapter Office,
8 College Yard,
Worcester, WR1 2LA

jobs@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Your application should include:

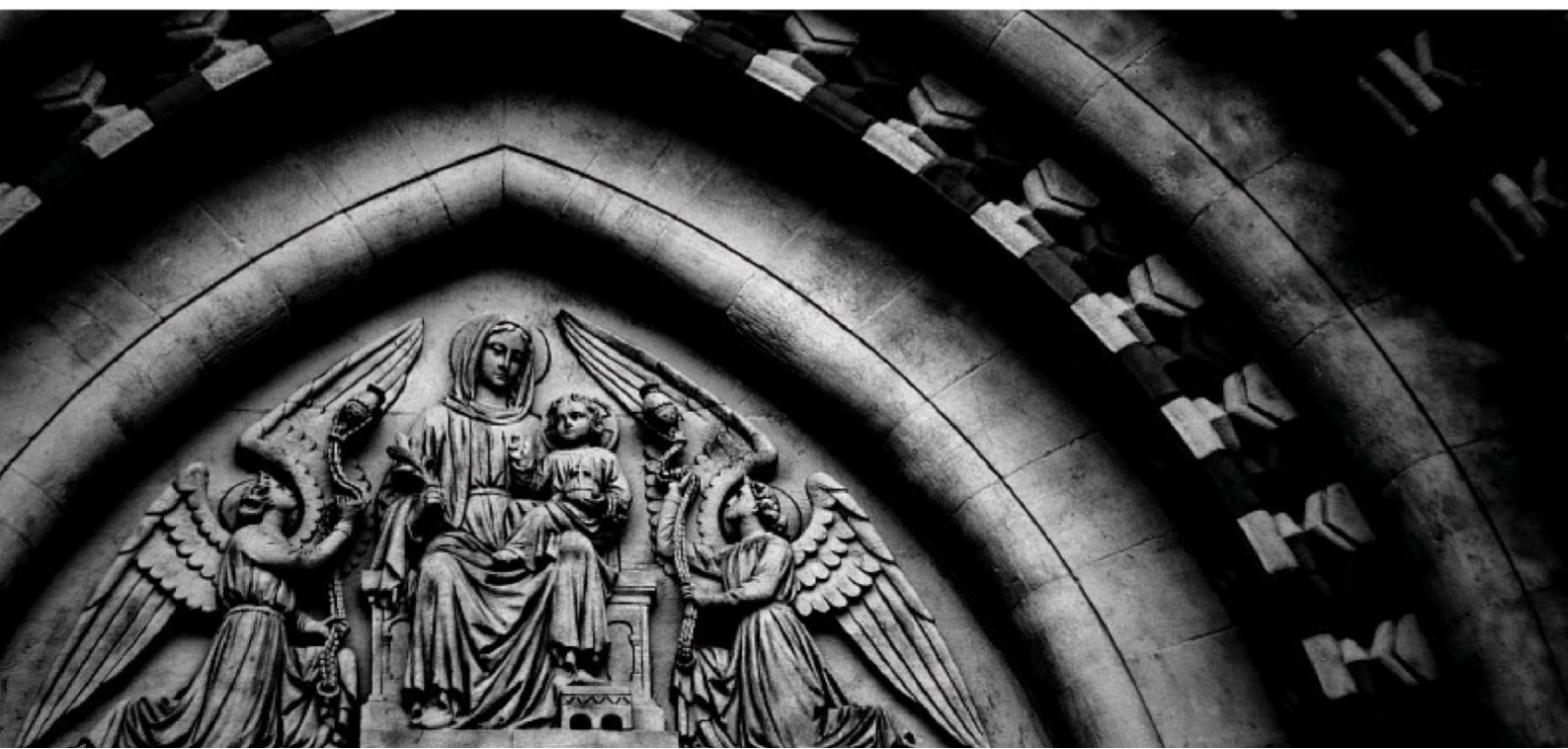
- a current CV including confirmation of your voice part, contact details, and availability if called for an interview between Wednesday 22 and Friday 24 November 2023;
- a brief covering letter explaining why you are applying for the post and how your skills and experience match the requirements of the role;
- and the details of two referees who can speak about your relevant experience and personal qualities. Please note that, if applicable, one of your referees should be your current employer, and that references will usually only be contacted if you are shortlisted for the role.

Should you have any queries about the role, please don't hesitate to contact the Director of Music, [Samuel Hudson](#) (01905 732916).

Closing date: 9am on Wednesday 15 November 2023.

We will aim to contact all applicants by the end of Friday 17 November 2023.

Interviews and auditions for shortlisted candidates: Wednesday 22 – Friday 24 November 2023.





The Chapter Office
Worcester WR1 2LA
Enquiries: 01905 732900
www.worcestercathedral.co.uk



Worcester Cathedral is fully committed to Equal Opportunity policies.