



Bristol Cathedral
Music



Choral Scholarships in Bristol Cathedral Choir

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There are places for up to four Choral Scholars in the Bristol Cathedral Choir at any one time. These will generally be two basses, a tenor, and an alto. The alto Choral Scholarship is open to anyone, regardless of gender. They will be expected to sing one weekday service (currently Monday) and at the weekend. They will be of a very high standard, both vocally and in terms of reading, but will not be expected to sing without the support of the professional Lay Clerks. There may be opportunities to deputise for absent Lay Clerks for extra remuneration, but this will only be with the agreement of the Master of the Choristers who will assess their proficiency for such an undertaking.

The current value of a Choral scholarship is incremental on years of service: £2580 p.a. (Year 1), £3100 p.a. (Year 2), and £3621 p.a. (Year 3).

Choir terms are:

- **Michaelmas:** The first weekend after the beginning of the Bristol Cathedral School term in September until Christmas Day
- **Lent:** The weekend of Epiphany until Easter Day
- **Trinity:** The beginning of the choir term until the Sunday after the end of the Bristol Cathedral Choir School term.

The Choral Scholarships can be held in conjunction with a degree course at either Bristol University or UWE, though this is not an essential requirement. It would be our hope that an undergraduate Choral Scholar would be in post for three years, though the Scholarship would be reviewed annually.

Music

Music is an integral part of Bristol Cathedral's life and mission. Evensong is sung on most days at 5.15pm (on Saturday and Sunday at 3.30pm).

The Cathedral Eucharist is sung each Sunday Morning. In addition there are a number of special services throughout the year as well as the important church festivals and feasts.



The Choir of Bristol Cathedral



There has probably been a choir singing in Bristol Cathedral since its days as an Augustinian abbey church, founded in 1140. When, in 1542, it became the cathedral church of the new diocese of Bristol, its new statutes still provided for cathedral life in terms of worship, community and education; of the praises of God sung with perpetual jubilation, of the common table, of the masters of the choristers and of the Cathedral Grammar School. The passing of the centuries has modified but not destroyed the pattern.

The choir consists of 28 choristers (14 boys and 14 girls), all of whom are educated at Bristol Cathedral Choir School - occupying the former Augustinian refectory, and magnificent new buildings. These are supported by incentives endowed by the Bristol Cathedral Choral Foundation. There are also probationary choristers who fulfil a part timetable and attend other schools in the city, 6 Lay Clerks, and 4 Choral Scholars. Together, with the voluntary Consort, Choral Evensong is sung 6 times a week in the Cathedral in term time.

The Choir enjoys a busy and challenging timetable, and highlights have included singing at the Royal Maundy Service in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, tours to France, Italy, Germany, Poland, and the USA (New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island). Recent events have included singing live on BBC One on Christmas Day 2016, and recording a brand new CD. The Choir also broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 3.



About the Cathedral

A church has probably stood on this site for over a thousand years but it came to prominence in 1140 when Robert Fitzhardinge founded the Abbey of St. Augustine. The Chapter House and Abbey Gatehouse remain clearly to be seen: other remains are within Bristol Cathedral School.

The eastern end of the Cathedral, especially in the Choir, gives Bristol Cathedral a unique place in the development of British and European Architecture. The Nave, Choir and Aisles are all the same height, making a large hall. Bristol Cathedral is the major example of a 'Hall Church' in Great Britain and one of the finest anywhere in the world.

In 1539 the Abbey was closed and the partially rebuilt nave was demolished. The building became the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in 1542. In 1868 plans were drawn up to rebuild the Nave to its medieval design. The Architect, G. E. Street, found the original pillar bases, so the dimensions are much the same as those of the abbey church. J. L. Pearson added the two towers at the West End and further reordered the interior.



If you are interested in a Choral Scholarship, please contact:

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