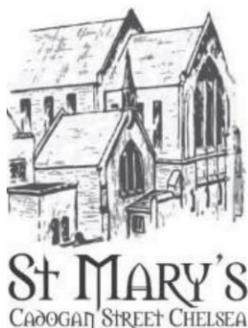


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## CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP, ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHELSEA

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St Mary's Church, Chelsea, London SW3 is seeking to appoint a SOPRANO CHORAL SCHOLAR from September 2018 to support the current voluntary choir who sing each week at the 11.30 Solemn Mass.

### The Church

The parish of St Mary's Cadogan Street is one of the oldest Roman Catholic parishes in Central London. Priests and people have met and offered Mass in various buildings around the parish since 1794. The current church was built between 1877 and 1879 by John Francis Bentley, most notable for his work as architect of Westminster Cathedral. The church, rectory, almshouses and schools are only a 4 minute walk from Sloane Square (District/Circle line) and a 20 minute walk from London Victoria.

### The Current Choir

The current choir of volunteers is made up a number of singers, drawn from all over London, who have made St Mary's their place of worship. In addition to the Sunday service, they also rehearse at the Church on Thursday evenings. Repertoire consists of music from a variety of styles including 8-part polyphonic motets by Palestrina and Victoria, accompanied masses by Mozart and Haydn, and contemporary works by Philip Stopford and Ola Gjeilo. The choir also occasionally performs at other venues – in 2017, the choir gave a concert at Arundel Cathedral and, earlier in 2018, they sang for Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

### The Choral Scholarships

The Soprano Choral Scholarship was introduced at St Mary's in January 2017. It has proved to be a highly successful initiative that has helped to enhance the choir and support its members. The scholarship also provides opportunities for solo work – in addition to weddings and funerals, there are a number of services throughout the year that require a soloist or cantor. Generous extra fees are paid for all these engagements, and the Choral Scholar has first refusal on all such events.

It is expected that the Choral Scholar will work alongside the Director of Music to provide appropriate choral support for the rehearsals and services each Sunday and at other special events when appropriate. While there are no restrictions on age or employment status, it is envisaged that the Choral Scholarship will best suit current university students, gap year students (pre- or post-university) or recent graduates. As a result, the commitments of the Choral Scholar can be tailored to fit in with University terms and vacations as and when necessary. The Choral Scholar will be expected to attend the 11.30 Mass each Sunday, along with the rehearsal beforehand at 10.30. Exact details will be discussed with shortlisted candidates at interview and can be tailored to suit the needs and demands of the post holder.

### Person Specification

The ideal candidate is likely to be:

- A confident singer, capable of holding a part of polyphony on their own
- An excellent sight-reader
- An experienced choral singer, perhaps with an interest in renaissance polyphony
- A reliable, amiable and enthusiastic person, committed to working with the other singers of varying ability and supporting the Director of Music and Parish Priest

### Typical Weekly Commitment

- 10.30 – 11.20 rehearsal each Sunday morning, followed by:
- 11.30 – 12.40 service

There is no service on Christmas Day. Attendance is, however, expected on Christmas Eve for a service at 10pm and at services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. There are no administrative tasks associated with the role. The Choral Scholar is not required to sing during the Summer Vacation (usually from mid-July to the first weekend in September) and six further weeks of holiday are permitted (no more than two weeks in any one month) during the course of the year.

### Remuneration

Scholars are paid a basic annual honorarium of £750 plus generous extra fees for weddings/funerals as available through the year. Though the number of such services is not fixed, the post holder could expect to earn a considerable supplement from solo work. There were roughly ten extra services in 2017/18 – the same number in 2018/19 would bring the total honorarium to no less than **£1,500**.

The scholarship will run to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, and will be renewable by mutual agreement for a further year.

### **Application**

To apply please send a CV, covering letter and contact details of two referees (to be contacted after short-listing) to the Director of Music, Jack Thompson, by email to [directorofmusic@smlmc.org.uk](mailto:directorofmusic@smlmc.org.uk). **The closing date for applications is 5pm on Thursday 5 July 2018.** Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sing with the choir at the 11.30 Mass on either Sunday 8 July or Sunday 15 July, and to attend an interview and audition with the Director of Music on the same day. Please state within your application if you are unable to make either of these dates. The successful candidate will commence her duties on **September 1 2018**.

For further information, please contact the Director of Music, Jack Thompson, at [directorofmusic@smlmc.org.uk](mailto:directorofmusic@smlmc.org.uk) or visit [stmaryscadoganstreet.co.uk](http://stmaryscadoganstreet.co.uk).