

St Mary the Boltons

rooted in faith open in thought reaching out in service

TENOR/BASS CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2019-20

1. This is a musically varied hybrid role which encompasses boosting a voluntary choir, singing in four-part consort, as part of an octet with other professional singers, and leading services as cantor (and performing solo oratorio arias on such occasions).
2. A flexible roster of 2 to 3 Sundays per month (and no midweek rehearsals) makes for a manageable time-commitment which dovetails well with study and other musical commitments, with scores sent out in advance to enable relaxed, optimal preparation.
3. The total commitment of some 30 services a year (each attracting a £40 fee) allows each scholar to earn a minimum of £1000 per annum, with opportunities to augment this by singing at special services (e.g. weddings) according to experience.
4. We are blessed with an attractive and convenient location – a beautiful garden-square setting on the edge of TFL zone 1, close to both Gloucester Rd and Earls Court Tube stations, and bus routes C1, 14, 211, 414, 345, 430. Church postcode is SW10 9TB.
5. Scholars are welcome to use our spaces for rehearsal and recital free of charge, subject to fitting in with other bookings, and new musical initiatives are very much welcomed.

To apply, click here to access the Google form <https://tinyurl.com/SMBCSAppForm2019> or read on below for more detailed information.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The church nestles within the beautiful garden square 'The Boltons', an oasis of calm in west central London, yet only a five-minute walk from the Fulham Rd, and fifteen minutes from South Kensington and all its cultural amenities. The building is a simply decorated but beautiful space with a warm acoustic and contains some interesting stained glass and sculpture, with the Pietà by Naomi Blake and the Craigie Aitchison stained glass being of particular note.

The Sung Parish Eucharist is the main weekly service. It lasts an hour or so and regularly attracts 70-100 worshippers. There is Sunday school provision for children each week during term time and all-age worship every half term. The service is followed by light refreshments and on the first Sunday of each month, we gather for a community lunch, which scholars attend free of charge as guests of the vicar. The congregation is an active, committed and welcoming group of people of all ages, made up of locals and both regular and occasional visitors. Our approach to liturgy is dignified, though not overly formalised, and sits within the central tradition of the Church of England. We appreciate intelligent preaching, reflective intercession, and a great deal of care and respect is accorded to the role of music within our services. The congregation and PCC are hugely supportive of music in general and the

scholarship scheme in particular, and we have a tradition of high musical standards going back many years under successive Directors of Music. We are well resourced, with a 24-rank two-manual organ by Compton (1960), very much in the vein of the post-war neoclassical trend in organ building which gave rise to instruments such as those at the Royal Festival Hall and Brompton Oratory, as well as a warm-toned Bechstein piano in the North transept, and an extensive library of choral music.

We enjoy a broad canon of traditional church music in English and Latin; our hymnody is largely traditional though supplemented by judicious use of more modern idioms, such as music from the Taizé and Iona communities. We have a well-established pool of first-rate professional singers who sing for special services (many of whom sing for other groups e.g. BBC Singers, Tallis Scholars, various London Cathedral choirs), and a keen and growing volunteer choir; the work of the choral scholars will dovetail with both of these ensembles.

Scholars' main role is to provide music at our 10.30am Parish Eucharist on Sundays and on between 6 and 10 other occasions (Christmas, Easter and other church festivals) throughout the year rehearsing beforehand, typically for an hour, with a clear expectation of looking over the dots in advance as necessary so rehearsal time can be devoted to musical finesse and not 'note-bashing'. Scholars can expect to perform:

- Once every month or so, this will be as the nucleus of a volunteer choir;
- Once every month or so, this will be as part of an SATB quartet of scholars;
- Once every two months or so, for large-scale holy day services, this will be as part of an octet alongside more experienced professional voices.
- Once every two months or so, this will be as cantor/soloist on a rota basis;
- On an *ad hoc* basis and according to experience, for special services (e.g. Weddings, Memorial services and such like) which will attract generous additional fees.

Scholars are most welcome to make use of our spaces, to assist with the organising of and/or contribute musically to our concert series, and we very much support their putting on their own recitals and events here. In this way, we see the choral scholarship programme as a catalyst to music-making in the church in a wider sense. There are regular community events, including monthly Sunday lunches (which are offered free of charge to choral scholars), and it is hoped choral scholars would want to take part in the life of the church to some degree.

REMUNERATION

Fees of £40 per service are paid monthly in arrears for the services at which a scholar has sung. Additional opportunities to sing at weddings and other special services alongside our professional singers may be offered as appropriate according to experience and ability; these attract generous additional fees.

SELECTION PROCESS

To apply, click here to access the Google form: <https://tinyurl.com/SMBCSAppForm2019>
The closing date for applications is **Friday 21 June 2019** but early applications are most welcome and we reserve the right to conclude the recruitment process as soon as a suitable candidate have been identified. A detailed person specification and information on the process which shortlisted candidates can expect and a person specification are given overleaf.

Person Specification: Choral Scholars

The successful candidate will have:	Essential	Desirable	How assessed?
	an unimpeachable record of punctuality and attendance	X	
a clear voice with good range, flexibility and secure intonation	X		Audition
pride in personal musical preparation commensurate with the professional nature of the role	X		Audition Application Interview References
secure sight-reading ability and the desire to develop it further	X		Audition
a genial manner such as will galvanise and enthuse volunteers	X		Interview References
a willingness to respond positively to direction and advice given	X		Interview References
an interest in involving him or herself in the church community		X	Application Interview
experience of singing in a high-standard choral ensemble		X	Application Interview References
demonstrable confidence and experience as a solo singer		X	Application Audition Interview References
an interest in taking a pro-active role in organising events		X	Application Interview
sympathy with the ethos of the Church of England in general and the liturgical practice of St Mary the Boltons in particular		X	Application Interview
an awareness of the role of all church members and staff in safeguarding and willingness to undertake any training as required	X		Interview

Short audition/discussion with the Director of Music – 15 minutes

1. You will be invited to sing an aria of your choice suitable for solo performance in the liturgy. 'The Oratorio Anthology' is a useful benchmark, but any solo sacred music which suits your current vocal ability is welcome. Pieces with multiple tempo changes or other quirks which require extensive rehearsal with an accompanist are best avoided.
2. You will be asked to sing at sight two verses of a hymn, firstly singing the melody, then singing the harmony part. This test will be in standard hymn book format, i.e. with lyrics on a page opposite the music rather than directly underneath each note, so it is worth familiarising yourself with this notation – we will be expecting both words and music.
3. There will be one or two ear tests, including being asked to locate and describe mistakes in pitch and rhythm of a passage of choral music played on the organ or piano.

Interview with Vicar and Member of the PCC (Church council) – 15 minutes

This will explore your interest in St Mary the Boltons, what you hope to gain from this scholarship, and how it fits with your broader career ambitions, and the skills, experience and qualities you have which are relevant to the role.