

May 2022

Dear Applicant,

**ALTO CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP SEPTEMBER 2022**

Thank you for your interest in an alto choral scholarship here at Norwich Cathedral for the academic year 2022-23. Applications are welcome from male or female altos and we are seeking a talented, enthusiastic and ambitious young singer who would benefit from 1-2 years' experience singing to a high standard with our Cathedral Choir.

The application pack below contains some background information about the City of Norwich, the Cathedral and its music department. The role of a choral scholar and the terms and conditions of the scholarship are also outlined.

**The closing date for applications is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.** Shortlisted candidates will be contacted shortly after then to arrange an audition. Candidates should please return a completed application form: other supporting information is welcome but not expected.

I would welcome informal enquiries about the scholarship, should you have any questions or wish to discuss it further. Please do feel free to contact me either by email ([masterofmusic@cathedral.org.uk](mailto:masterofmusic@cathedral.org.uk)) or telephone (01603 218319).

I hope that having read the details below you will be encouraged to get in touch.

Thank you for your interest.



Ashley Grote  
**Master of Music**

# Application Pack



**ALTO CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**SEPTEMBER 2022**



## **Norwich Cathedral**

The Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Norwich has stood for over 900 years as a beacon of faith and hope for the people of Norfolk. It has had different functions in different ages, and yet its purpose remains unchanged: witnessing to the constancy of God's love for each of us in Christ, and offering a perspective on the world that each generation inhabits.

Construction of the Cathedral began in 1096 and a monastic community was established based on the rigorous Rule of St Benedict. The monks and lay brothers lived and worked in buildings clustered around the cloisters, and worshipped day and night in the Cathedral Church. They were to offer unrestricted hospitality to pilgrims and those who came for help and advice. They were to be men of learning, offering their knowledge and their skills in the service of the wider community. Those same Benedictine principles of worship, hospitality and learning apply today and shape both our daily lives and our vision for the future.

The Cathedral continues to do what it has always done. It provides the opportunity for personal reflection and prayer; it connects us with the wider Church on earth and in heaven; it provides a focus for the Diocese of Norwich; it offers opportunities for celebration, learning and discovery. The Benedictine principles inform our Mission Statement:

***Norwich Cathedral is a Christian presence at the heart of Norfolk***

**A place where all are welcome**

**A place to share learning**

**A place to grow in holiness**

## **The City of Norwich**

Norwich is a thriving provincial City which is very much a focus for the County of Norfolk, and the Cathedral is a key part of it. It has a large but compact city centre with excellent shops and restaurants, a daily market, theatres, cinemas and an excellent modern library. The cultural and artistic life of the City is rich and active and the Norfolk and Norwich Festival takes place annually. The University of East Anglia and Norwich University of the Arts are both based in the City and attract a large student population to during term time. There is a regular train service to London Liverpool Street (typical journey time 1 hour 45 minutes), and to Cambridge (1 hour 15 minutes) with then good connections beyond.

## **The Cathedral Music Department**

Norwich Cathedral has a flourishing music department which, despite the challenges of Covid-19, continues to thrive and has returned to its pre-pandemic level of activity. The department is a happy team characterised by positive relationships between colleagues and with the rest of the Cathedral community as a whole.

Overall responsibility for the liturgy and music at Norwich Cathedral lies with the Precentor, **Canon Aidan Platten** who joined the Cathedral Chapter in September 2017.

The Master of Music is **Ashley Grote**, who has been in post since September 2012. He previously held posts as Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey and Organ Scholar of King's College Cambridge.

**David Dunnett** is the **Organist**, having held the post of Organist and Master of Music from 1996-2007. He came to Norwich having been Sub-Organist of Winchester Cathedral and, before that, Assistant Director of Music at Uppingham School.

The Assistant Organist is **George Inscoe**, previously organ scholar at The Temple Church in London, and a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music.

There is a full-time Music and Liturgy Administrator and a part-time Choir Administrator.

There are **six Lay Clerks** who sing alongside **six Choral Scholars**, who are either gap-year or post-graduate singers who typically spend 1-2 years here.

There are **twenty Boy Choristers**, who receive bursaries to attend Norwich School, which is sited within the Cathedral Close.

There are in addition **twenty-four Girl Choristers** aged 11-18, drawn from schools across the area and who receive a termly financial award.

### **The life of the Cathedral Choir**

The Cathedral Choir sings seven choral services each week during term-time: Choral Evensong each day Monday-Friday at 5.30pm and on Sundays the Cathedral Eucharist at 10.30am and Choral Evensong at 3.30pm. Typically Tuesday Evensong is sung by the Girl Choristers alongside the Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars, and Thursday Evensong is sung by the Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars only. Saturday is usually clear of any choir duties.

The choir aspires to the highest possible standard of singing and, under the leadership of Ashley Grote since 2012, has established a busy programme of concerts, recordings and other projects alongside the core work of singing for Cathedral worship. The annual performance of a Bach Passion and Christmas concerts attract large audiences and the choir has an established relationship with the flourishing Norfolk and Norwich Festival. The choir's most recent recording, of sacred choral works by Benjamin Britten, received outstanding reviews. There have been regular broadcasts on BBC Radio and, prior to the pandemic, tours to Sweden, Germany and Italy. Recent commissions for the choir have included works by Bob Chilcott, Richard Allain, Philip Moore, Ruth Byrchmore, Ben Parry and Malcolm Archer.

In 2017, the Dean and Chapter launched a £2.5 million music appeal to raise money for the complete restoration of the Cathedral's 105-stop pipe organ and to provide financial support for both its boy and girl choristers. This appeal is now complete: work begins on the organ in June 2022 with an expected completion date in the summer of 2023. Following on from the music appeal, a subscription group for music supporters ('The Statham Society') has been launched in order to provide ongoing support for music projects.

### **Person specification**

The Chapter of Norwich Cathedral seeks to appoint an alto choral scholar (male or female) for the academic year 2022-23 to sing in the Cathedral Choir. Applicants should be excellent singers with some proven experience of choral singing. The ability to sight-read music confidently is essential, as is a good musical ear and sense of musicianship. Suitable candidates may be looking for either a gap-year or post-graduate placement, but regardless will be seeking to gain as much choral singing experience as possible during their time in Norwich and eager to improve themselves as a singer and musician. They should be good at working alongside others in a team, demonstrating a good sense of humour. It may be possible to extend the scholarship for a second year subject to discussion with the Master of Music

## Duties of a Choral Scholar

The normal weekly commitment for Choral Scholars is as follows:

Monday	4.55pm Rehearsal 5.30pm Evensong (Boys and Altos, Tenors and Basses)
Tuesdays	4.55pm Rehearsal 5.30pm Evensong (Girls and ATB)
Wednesday	4.55pm Rehearsal 5.30pm Evensong (Boys and ATB) 6.15-7.00pm ATB rehearsal
Thursday	4.55pm Rehearsal 5.30pm Evensong (ATB only) 7.30-9.00pm Cathedral Chamber Choir rehearsal
Friday	4.55pm Rehearsal 5.30pm Evensong (Boys and ATB) 6.15-7.00pm Full rehearsal
Saturday	No regular commitments
Sunday	9.30am Full rehearsal 10.30am Sung Eucharist (Boys or Girls and ATB) 2.55pm Full rehearsal 3.30pm Evensong (Boys or Girls and ATB)

Currently, three services each week are live-streamed via the Norwich Cathedral Services YouTube channel (normally Tuesday Evensong and both Sunday services)

### **Additional commitments**

The choral scholars are additionally required to sing at special services, concerts and events as directed by the Master of Music, for which extra fees will be payable.

### **The Cathedral Chamber Choir**

The Cathedral Chamber Choir normally sing one Sunday of services each term and three concerts per year, at least two of which are accompanied by orchestra. Past performances have included Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Mozart *Mass in C minor*, Bach *Mass in B minor* and *Magnificat in D*, as well as an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*. The choral scholars are required to be members of the Cathedral Chamber Choir, who rehearse on Thursday evenings each week from 7.30 – 9.00pm.

### **Singing Tuition**

Part of the aim of the choral scholarships is to enable young singers to develop their vocal potential so, with this in mind, free singing tuition is provided for choral scholars. Currently, **Richard Edgar-Wilson** visits Norwich monthly during term times to give most of the Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars vocal tuition. If there is good reason for a choral scholar to study with a different teacher, this can be arranged in consultation with the Master of Music.

## **The Aston library and the Runnett collection**

The Cathedral library houses an extensive music library, comprising amongst other things the music libraries of the late Professor Peter Aston and of Brian Runnett, Organist of Norwich Cathedral from 1967 who was tragically killed in a car accident in 1970. Choral Scholars are encouraged to use the Cathedral library and its resources for personal reading and study if they wish to do so.

## **Scholarship & Accommodation**

The Dean and Chapter want choral scholars to play a full part in the life of the Cathedral, maximizing the educational opportunities of their time in the Cathedral Choir. With this in mind, rent-free, furnished accommodation is provided for all choral scholars in two shared flats. The cost of council tax and all utilities is met by the Dean and Chapter.

The choral scholarship honorarium is £2,000 for the academic year. This will be paid in three equal instalments in September, January and April, to coincide with the terms of the academic year. Since this is a Scholarship, it will not be subject to HMRC. The Chapter will also pay for attendance at those special services for which fees are payable, a fee of £75 or such other amount as may from time to time be agreed. Extra fees are payable for most concerts, recordings and broadcasts as advised by the Master of Music.

## **Absences**

It is understood that choral scholars may wish to be absent from time to time in order to undertake professional engagements and other opportunities which may enhance their prospects as a singer. The Master of Music will always try to accommodate such reasonable requests, and if permission for absence is given, a deputy will be provided at the Chapter's expense.

## **Holidays**

Outside of Choir activities, Choral scholars will have free time of not less than i) seven weeks holiday in the summer (should the scholarship be for a period of more than one academic year), ii) 14 days, including two Sundays, at Christmas and Easter and iii) seven days at each half-term, to include at least one Sunday. The dates of all holidays are determined by the Cathedral Chapter.

## **Other work**

It is perfectly acceptable for choral scholars to undertake employment outside of their Choral Scholar duties should they wish to do so, as long as their choir duties are in no way compromised. In the past choral scholars have worked at a number of local schools and we can help put successful candidates in touch with relevant Head Teachers and school Directors of Music.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The Cathedral operates an equal opportunities policy.

## **Safeguarding**

Norwich Cathedral is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and all applicants must be willing to undergo screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and an Enhanced Check with the Disclosure & Barring Service.

## **How to Apply**

**The closing date for applications is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted soon after then to arrange an interview and audition.**

Please complete the application form supplied. We cannot consider a CV as an application, although supporting materials can be accepted.

We actively encourage submission of this application by e-mail. If you are completing the application form on paper, please use black ink to help us photocopy it; add whatever supplementary forms you see fit. If you are completing the form electronically, please take whatever space is necessary for your replies and attach any supporting documentation.

**Applications should be addressed to: Mrs Susan Bulpitt, PA to the Chapter Steward, The Chapter Office, Norwich Cathedral, 65 The Close, Norwich, NR1 4DH or by email to [recruitment@cathedral.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@cathedral.org.uk)**

## **Interviews and Auditions**

Candidates will be asked to prepare two contrasting pieces of their own choice and undertake some sight-reading and aural tests. There will be a short interview with the Master of Music and Canon Precentor, and the opportunity to look around the choral scholars' accommodation.

# Application for Choral Scholarship

Please complete using black ink

Position applied for: ALTO CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP
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## Personal information

Title	
Forenames	Surname
Address	Telephone numbers:
	Daytime
	Evening
	E-mail:
Are you legally eligible for employment in the UK?	
How did you hear of this vacancy?	
Have you made any previous applications to Norwich Cathedral? If so, when and for which post	

## Referees

Please name two referees (excluding relatives), one of whom should be able to speak with authority on your abilities as a singer. Any offer of a scholarship is subject to satisfactory references. Can we approach these referees before an offer of a scholarship is made? YES/NO

Name	Name
Address	Address
How is the referee known to you?	How is the referee known to you?
Telephone No.	Telephone No.
E-mail	E-mail

## Education

Secondary Education (name and address of school)	From/to	Examinations passed and grades
Further Education (if applicable) (university, college)	From/to	Courses and results
Professional memberships and qualifications (if applicable)		

## Musical qualifications

Please give details of any musical qualifications, including singing or instrumental examinations passed:

## Employment History (if applicable)

**If you have been employed previously, please give details below.  
Begin with present occupation/last employer and work backwards.**

From/to	Name and address of company/ organisation	Position held Key responsibilities Reason for leaving Final salary in role

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes/No

You do not need to give further details at this stage, however if you are invited to attend for interview please advise us of any specific arrangements or equipment which you require.

## **Additional information**

Please explain why you are applying for a choral scholarship and outline how you meet the skills specification, adding any other relevant information in support of your application. You may use extra sheets.

Please give details of hobbies and interests (include membership of any organisation, any office held and any voluntary work)

Under the Data Protection Act, information is obtained and held by Norwich Cathedral only as part of the recruitment and selection process. It is regarded as strictly confidential and will be stored securely.

I hereby provide explicit consent for the information to be stored within the organisation's manual and computerised filing systems.

SIGNED:

DATE:

If you give any information which you know is false, or if you withhold any relevant information, this may lead to your application being rejected, or if you have already been appointed, to your dismissal.

I confirm that all the information I have given is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete.

SIGNED:

DATE: