

EGLWYS GADEIRIOL TYDDEWI



ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL

## CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you for your interest in Choral Scholarships at St Davids Cathedral. The Dean and Chapter awards up to three choral scholarships annually, and this year seeks to appoint two basses and one tenor to begin in September 2019.

The Choral Scholarship scheme has been running since 2008 and provides exceptional training, experience and opportunity in a stunning environment. Past scholars have been awarded further scholarships or appointed to professional positions at Cambridge, Bristol and London Universities, and at Hereford, Gloucester, Southwell, Ely, Lincoln, Exeter, Truro and Edinburgh cathedrals.

## St Davids

St Davids is situated in the beautiful Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, West Wales. It was given a Royal Charter by the H.M. Queen in 1995 which formally recognised its status as a city. It is surrounded by some of the finest coastline in Europe and offers an unrivalled range of outdoor activities including walking, rock climbing, surfing, swimming and hiking. St Davids is an extremely popular tourist destination attracting around half a million visitors every year.

## The Cathedral

The present building was begun in 1181-82 and is thought to be on the site of a monastery founded in the mid-6th century by David, patron saint of Wales. Her Majesty



The Queen is a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter and President of St. Davids Cathedral Festival. The Cathedral provides a stunning setting for worship which has been offered on this site for 1400 years, within which the musical tradition is an essential ingredient. The famous Tudor composer Thomas Tomkins was born in St Davids in 1572. Whilst his father was Organist and Master of the Choristers, Tomkins served as a chorister

and lived in the cathedral close until his mid-teens. The Tomkins family then moved to England, when Thomas began studying with William Byrd.

## The Cathedral Choirs

St Davids Cathedral Choir enjoys a reputation locally and nationally for the high standard of its singing. It is unique in the United Kingdom in that its top line is sung by girls aged 8-18. The alto, tenor and bass lines are sung by Choral Scholars and Vicars Choral. There are currently three other choirs: the Cathedral Boys' Choir, Junior Choir, and the Cathedral Singers.

The current pattern of choral services is as follows:

<b>Monday</b>	Evensong 6pm*	<i>Cathedral Singers &amp; Choral Scholars</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Evensong 6pm	<i>Boys &amp; Choral Scholars</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Evensong 6pm	<i>Cathedral Choir +</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Evensong 6pm	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Evensong 6pm	<i>Boys, Lay Vicars &amp; Choral Scholars #</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	Eucharist or Mattins 11.15am	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>
	Evensong 6pm	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>

\* Fortnightly  
+ Girls voices / Full choir fortnightly  
# ATB fortnightly

Rehearsals take place before all services and after Evensong on Thursdays. The choir is occasionally required on a Saturday for the Friends' Festival (once a year) and at Ordinations. From time to time there are weddings, funerals and memorial services requiring singers, for which fees are paid.

The Cathedral Choirs sing for the duration of the academic term, with choir holidays taking place during school half terms, after Easter and after Christmas. The choir year usually ends in mid-July. The Choir is in residence during Holy Week to Easter Day, and until after the morning service on Christmas Day. The annual St Davids Cathedral Music Festival usually takes place in May half-term week, after which the choir takes a week off.

## Recordings, Broadcasts and Tours

The Cathedral Choir frequently broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and BBC television, and has toured the USA, Australia, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and Spain. The choir has made recordings with Priory Records, Regent Records and York Ambisonic. The Cathedral Singers has been on tour to Ireland, Germany and Salisbury.



## St Davids Cathedral Festival

The Festival takes place annually at the end of May attracting audiences and artists from all over the world. The Cathedral Choir takes a leading role in the Festival and in recent years has given concerts with the King's Singers, Tenebrae, British Sinfonietta, The City Musick, The BBC Singers, and Onyx Brass. The Festival has commissioned music by Giles Swayne, David Briggs, Neil Cox, Francis Grier, Matthew Martin, Meirion Wynn Jones, Paul Mealar, Robert Walker and Geraint Lewis. BBC Choral Evensong is often broadcast live from the Cathedral during the Festival. The Festival Chorus usually sings a large-scale oratorio with a professional orchestra each year: Mozart's Mass in C minor (2016) Verdi's Requiem (2017) Haydn's The Creation (2018). The BBC National Orchestra of Wales performs annually at the Festival.

## The Music Department

Oliver Waterer *Organist & Master of the Choristers*

Simon Pearce *Assistant Director of Music*

Emily India Evans *Organ Scholar*

Sarah Green *Festival Administrator & Music Administrative Assistant*

[currently vacant] *Singing Teacher*

## Remuneration, Accommodation and Duties

Choral Scholars are paid £3,500 per year with additional funds available to pay for singing lessons. Extra fees are paid for radio broadcasts, festival concerts, weddings and funerals. Shared accommodation is provided rent-free in Wayside (pictured), a comfortable and attractive house situated in the Cathedral Close. This is within walking distance of the Cathedral and the city. Electricity, heating, water, phone and WIFI costs are paid for by the cathedral.



A Choral Scholar's duties include:

- ◆ Being present and singing at all rehearsals, choral services, concerts, recordings and choir tours as directed.
- ◆ To assist with the running of the Choir Library and with general music-related administration as required.
- ◆ To perform as part of the Cathedral Festival and assist with its smooth-running.
- ◆ To sing with the Cathedral Festival Chorus (usually ten rehearsals plus the concert for which a fee is paid)
- ◆ To sing at rehearsals (three per concert) and concerts (four per year) with Cŵr Dyfed: a prominent choral society based in Pembrokeshire with close links to the cathedral. Fees are paid and transport is provided.

In addition to regular singing duties, choral scholars are required to work up to a maximum of ten hours per week during choir terms, usually doing a combination of the following:

- ◆ Assisting the cathedral's Education and Pilgrimage Department
- ◆ Deanery Office / Cathedral Shop Assistant
- ◆ Stewarding

Occasionally there may be opportunities to earn extra income by taking on further hours in these areas.

### Outreach and Schools

The Choral Scholars regularly assist with the work of the cathedral's Education & Pilgrimage Department. Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi is a new Church in Wales 3-16 School which opened in St Davids in 2018 when the existing primary and secondary schools combined. There are opportunities for Choral Scholars to be involved in the school's musical life. In the past this has included assisting with choirs and orchestras and school productions. During the Lent and Summer terms the choral scholars assist with the Festival's Outreach Project in local schools from which the Children's Festival Chorus is formed.



### Enquiries and Applications:

Enquiries are welcome at any time. To apply, a letter of application, together with *curriculum vitae* and the names and contact details of *two referees* should be addressed to Oliver Waterer and emailed to [stdavidsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsmusic@gmail.com)



The closing date for applications is **4th March** 2019. Interviews will take place on 12th March 2019.

For further information or assistance email Oliver Waterer or contact the Deanery Office on 01437 720202.