

EGLWYS GADEIRIOL TYDDEWI



ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL

## CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS AT ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL

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 wishes to appoint two basses and a tenor to start in September 2018.

The Choral Scholarship scheme has been running since 2008 and provides an exceptional opportunity, experience and training. Many scholars have gone on to further choral scholarships and/or lay clerkships at Cambridge, Bristol and London Universities, and at the cathedrals of Hereford, Gloucester, Southwell, Ely, Lincoln, Exeter, Truro and Edinburgh.

### 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 probably on the site of the monastery founded in the mid-6th century by David, the 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 here for 1400 years, within which the musical tradition of the cathedral is an essential ingredient. The famous Tudor composer Thomas Tomkins was born in St Davids in 1572 and is very likely to have sung as a chorister at the cathedral while his father was Organist and Master of the Choristers.



## The Cathedral Choirs

St Davids Cathedral Choir is widely recognised 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 four other choirs: the Cathedral Boys' Choir, the Junior Choir, a Youth 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>	Mattins* 11.15am	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>
	Evensong 6pm	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>

<sup>+</sup> *Girls only every other week*

<sup>#</sup> *ATB only every other week*

<sup>\*</sup> *Choral Eucharist is usually celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and on major feast days.*

Rehearsals take place before all services and after evensong on Thursdays. The choir sings on a Saturday from time to time for the Friends' Festival (once a year) and at ordinations. Occasionally there are weddings, funerals and memorial services requiring singers to whom extra 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 Mattins 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 & Tours

The Cathedral Choir has made six CDs in the past ten years with Priory Records, Regent Records and York Ambisonic. The choir frequently broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and BBC television. The choir has toured in Ireland, France, Germany, Spain, Holland, Australia, Italy and the USA. The Cathedral Singers has recently toured Ireland and Germany.

## St Davids Cathedral Festival

The Festival takes place annually at the end of May attracting audiences and artists from all over the world. The Festival Chorus sings a large-scale oratorio each year: Mozart's Requiem & Haydn's Nelson Mass (2014), Handel's Dixit Dominus (2015) Mozart's Mass in C minor (2016). The Cathedral Choir takes a leading role in the Festival and in recent years has given concerts with The Corelli Orchestra, Florilegium, Charivari Agreeable Simfonie, Onyx Brass, the King's Singers and British Sinfonietta. It has commissioned music by Giles Swayne, Paul Edwards, David Briggs, Neil Cox, Francis Grier, Matthew Martin, Howard Goodall, Paul Mealor and Robert Walker. BBC Choral Evensong is usually broadcast live from the Cathedral every year during the Festival.

## The Music Department

Oliver Waterer *Organist & Master of the Choristers*

Simon Pearce *Assistant Director of Music*

Rupert Jackson *Organ Scholar*

Heidi Tims *Administrative Assistant (volunteer)*

[currently vacant] *Singing Teacher*

## Remuneration & Accommodation

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.



## Duties

A Choral Scholar is responsible to the Organist and Master of the Choristers.

His/her duties will include:

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

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

- i) Cathedral Office Assistant
- ii) Cathedral Shops/Tower Assistant
- iii) Working with the cathedral's Education & Pilgrimage Department

*There are sometimes opportunities to earn extra income by taking on further hours in these areas.*

### **Schools**

There are two schools in St Davids, Ysgol Bro Dewi (primary school) and Ysgol Dewi Sant (senior school). There are opportunities for Choral Scholars to be involved in the musical life of both schools which might include assisting with choirs and orchestras and school productions.

During the Lent and Summer terms the choral scholars assist with the musical outreach project to local schools from which the Children's Festival Chorus is formed.

### **Enquiries & Applications:**

Enquiries are welcome at any time.

A letter of application, together with *curriculum vitae* and the names and contact details of *two referees* should be emailed to Oliver Waterer: **[stdavidsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsmusic@gmail.com)**

The closing date for applications is  
**Wednesday 16th May.**  
Auditions will take place on 22 May.

If you have further questions please telephone Oliver Waterer on 01437 720202 or email [stdavidsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsmusic@gmail.com)

[www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk)

