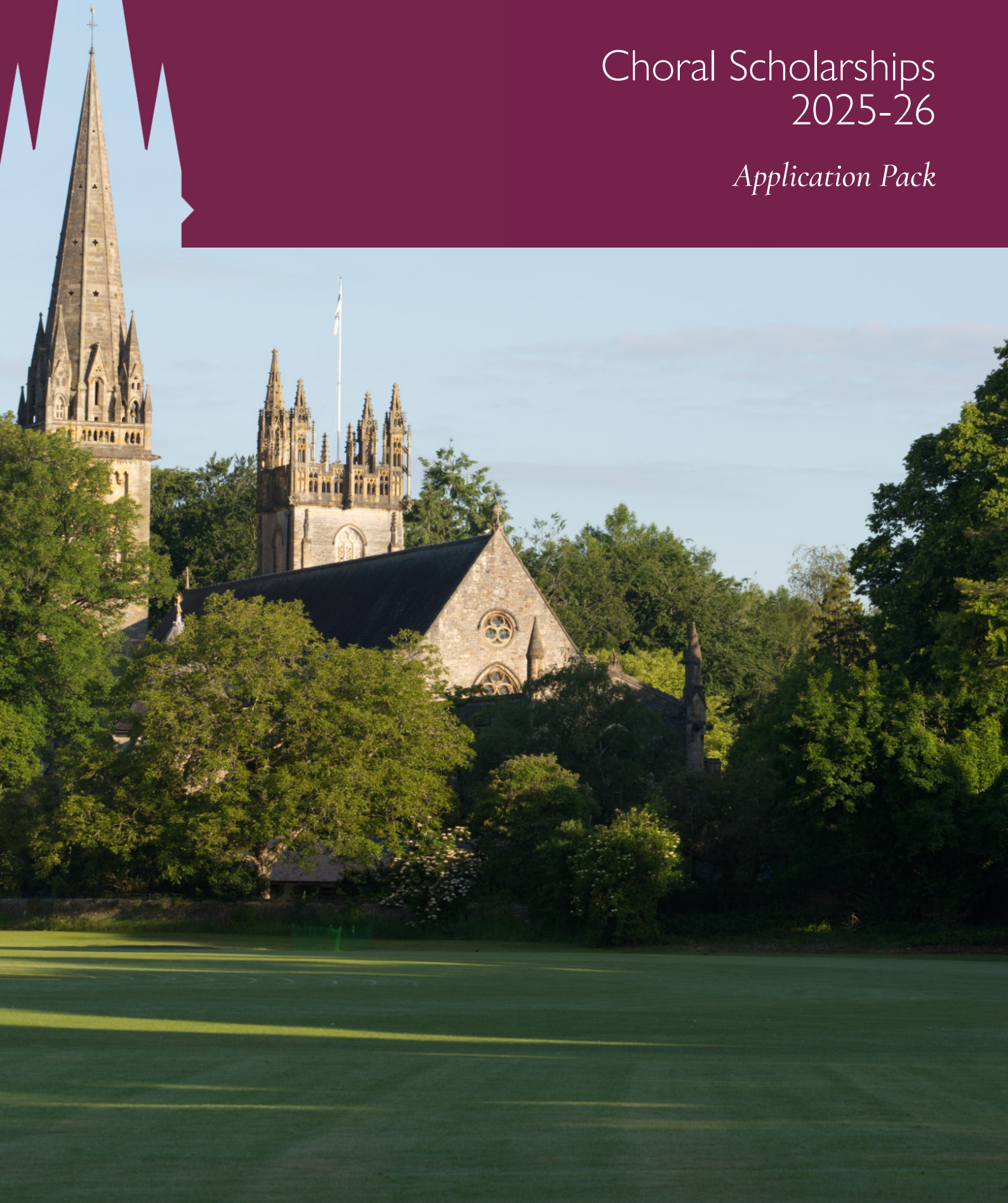


Choral Scholarships 2025-26

Application Pack



Welcome

Llandaff Cathedral is delighted to offer two (2) Choral Scholarship from September 2025. The successful applicants will join the existing Bass Choral Scholar who will remain in post for 2025/26. The purpose of the Choral Scholar scheme is to encourage young singers to become part of the longstanding tradition of Cathedral Music, which is such an important part of our national musical heritage. It is intended that this programme attracts a broad range of singers from different backgrounds, and that it will introduce and extend the opportunity offered to young musicians in this very special form of music making. Previous holders of these scholarships have gone on to hold positions in Oxford, and with Genesis Sixteen. Choral Scholarships will be offered following an audition and interview process.





LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL IN CONTEXT

Llandaff Cathedral's multifaceted role is understood in various ways. As the Mother Church, it is the focus for the corporate life of the Diocese of Llandaff, which is part of the Anglican Province of The Church in Wales. It is therefore the seat of the Bishop of Llandaff and as such supports and facilitates the bishop's sacramental and teaching ministry. The Cathedral is also its own vibrant Ministry Area, with a busy round of occasional offices and a demanding pastoral ministry.

By virtue of its place in Wales' capital, Llandaff Cathedral plays host to many national services and it is increasingly the case that its ministry and witness speaks directly into the public sphere. In September 2022, the Cathedral hosted HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla following the demise of HM Queen Elizabeth II in a service of national remembrance that was broadcast internationally.

We have principal relationships with four schools in the parish; the Cathedral School (from which our choristers are drawn), a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School; a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales High School, and to a lesser extent, Howells, an independent GDST day school for girls with co-educational sixth form. The St Padarn's Institute, the Church in Wales' ministerial training institution is close by. The Cathedral also has a thriving Sunday School of around 100 children attending on a weekly basis.

The Cathedral has an important role in the life of the Diocese, Ministry Area, City and Province, principally as a place of pastoral care, ordered liturgy, teaching and encounter with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and prayer where the house style is within the modern catholic tradition.

The Cathedral also has a thriving musical tradition. The Cathedral Choir sings seven services a week. Beyond this there are three other choirs made up from different parts of the Cathedral community, all of which also perform regularly in the Cathedral. There is also a growing outreach programme run by the Cathedral's Animateur. Strong links have been built with primary schools across Cardiff, and the programme works with nearly 1000 children per year, many from some of Cardiff's most deprived areas, and brings them to perform in the Cathedral. The Music Department also runs several concert series throughout the year.

The Llandaff Cathedral Festival takes place annually each July. The Festival brings together the local community in a wide array of events, ranging from talks and concerts through to the Family Fun Day, featuring family activities, performances and a craft fayre attended by local artists and vendors, which regularly sees almost 2000 people through the doors in a single day.

While the Cathedral's position outside the city centre means that there are fewer visitors than at many other cathedrals, we work hard to provide a welcome to those who do. It is, however, used extensively as a venue for external events – at least one a week, and in the run-up to Christmas every day will see an event of some description. We currently have longstanding arrangements with several groups including the London Concertante.

The Cathedral is, however, primarily a place of prayer and worship: from quiet prayers said by an individual pilgrim to the grandest of national occasions; from the packed-out Christmas services to the daily round of the Eucharist and the offices. This is a place where for over 1,500 years people have continued to encounter the living God, and is also the home to a series of vibrant and distinct congregations all of whom see the Cathedral as their spiritual home.



THE CATHEDRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Canon Precentor, The Reverend Canon Ian Yemm, is responsible for the worship of the Cathedral and represents the Music Department within the Chapter, the governing body of the Cathedral. Other members of the Music Department include:

- Director of Music – Stephen Moore
- Assistant Director of Music – Aaron Shilson
- Assisting Organists – David Thomas and Philip Aspden
- Animateur - Rachel Kilby

The Choral Scholars will be managed by the Director of Music who is responsible for overseeing all musical aspects of the Cathedral's life. The Cathedral has a thriving music department which will include the following choirs from September 2025:

- The Cathedral Choir (separate streams of up to 18 boys/18 girls)
- The 'Back Row' of ATB (6-10 at each service)
- Majestas Consort (an SATB voluntary choir of adults)
- Majestas Youth (a group for children aged 13-18)
- Majestas Kids (a group for children aged 6-11)
- The Llandaff Festival Chorus (in Summer Term only)

The Cathedral Choristers are all educated at The Cathedral School, Llandaff, a fully co-educational school of around 800 pupils located only a stone's throw from the Cathedral on the site of the Old Bishop's Palace. There is a busy schedule of extra services, trips, broadcasts, and tours which is constantly being developed. In the last few years this has included sold-out concerts for Christmas each year since 2022 and a concert with the City of London Sinfonia as part of their 2019 Cathedrals Tour. In 2018 the choir sang live on BBC1 Wales and S4C for a service marking the centenary of Armistice Day. Following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, a National Service of Thanksgiving was held at the cathedral which was attended by HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla and which was broadcast live across the world on television and radio. The choir has made three commercial recordings since 2018 and appeared on Songs of Praise on Easter Day 2021 and Christmas Day 2022. Live Broadcasts of BBC Radio 3 Evensong have come from Llandaff in 2023 and 2024 and the choir has also appeared in broadcasts on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Wales in the last 18 months. There have been trips to sing in many other places in recent years including the Cathedrals of St Paul's, Gloucester, Bristol, St Edmundsbury and Ely and a week-long residency at Canterbury. A highly successful tour to Belgium took place in October 2023 and a 5-day trip singing in various locations in London is planned for October 2025.

From the beginning of University or College terms in the Autumn of 2024, the minimum expectation for Choral Scholars will be to attend two Sunday services during school term time and services and events surrounding major festivals as shown on the proposed schedule below. In addition, they will be expected to sing with the Majestas Consort in rehearsals and services when they arise. A Choral Scholar schedule is produced in advance of each term.



WORSHIP AT THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral maintains a busy pattern of worship drawn from across the rites that are prescribed in the Church in Wales:

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Eucharist (Said)	Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer (1984)
9.00am	Holy Eucharist	2004 rite. <i>Sung with a congregational mass setting and hymns.</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist	2004 rite. <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i>
4.00pm	Choral Evensong	<i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i>
6.00pm	Taizé Prayer	<i>Every third Sunday of the month</i>

WEEKDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Eucharist (Said)	Daily
9.30am	Holy Eucharist (Said)	Tuesdays
9.30am	Cymun Bendigaid	Thursdays
5.30pm	Choral Evensong/Evening Prayer	Daily

This service is sung on Monday to Friday and is said on Saturdays. Outside of school term time, there may be a visiting choir, or Evening Prayer is said.



The Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral seeks to appoint one of each Alto and Tenor Choral Scholar for the academic year 2025-26 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 in full time education or looking for either gap-year or post-graduate experience, but regardless will be seeking to gain as much choral singing experience as possible. They should be good at working alongside others in a team. It may be possible to extend the scholarship for further years subject to discussion with the Director of Music.

Scholarship and Remuneration	The Choral Scholarship honorarium is £1250 for the academic year. This will be paid in six equal instalments at the end of September, November, January, March, May and July. Since this is a Scholarship, it will not be subject to HMRC. Payment for concerts and other engagements (Weddings, Funerals, Recordings and Broadcasts) in addition to the those listed in the regular duties above will be made alongside your scholarship payment at rates agreed and published by the Chapter or otherwise negotiated on your behalf. In addition, during the period of this scholarship, the Dean and Chapter will pay up to a further £250 which may be used for lessons, buying music or for other activities relating to the furtherance of the Scholar's musical career as agreed with the Director of Music. This will be paid on receipt of invoices and/or proof of expenditure.
Responsibilities	You will be responsible to the Director of Music, with oversight from the Canon Precentor on behalf of the Dean and Chapter. The Director of Music will monitor your performance and give you regular feedback.
Attendance	Regular and punctual attendance is vital to the demanding work of the Cathedral Choir. If a service or rehearsal must be missed through illness, all attempts must be made to contact the Director of Music or his Assistant.
Dress code	Cassocks and surplices will be provided by the Cathedral for your use. It is customary to wear dark trousers and formal black shoes. Jeans should not be worn under any circumstances.
Preparation	As Scholars will often be holding a part on their own, they will need to be able to sing all the notes correctly at the start of each rehearsal, as well as to have a feel for the style and shape of the music. This may need a good degree of preparation in advance and time should be allowed for this, particularly in the early days as a Scholar.
The Majestas Consort	The Majestas Consort is an adult voluntary choir who normally sing one Sunday of services each term and for other events throughout the year. Recent projects have included the Requiems of Rutter, Fauré and Duruflé, and Bob Chilcott's St John Passion as well as services for Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. A weekend residency as a visiting choir at Bath Abbey is planned for August 2025. The Choral Scholars will be required to sing with the Majestas Consort, who rehearse on Friday evenings from 7.00–8.30pm. (Choral Scholars are not required to attend ALL rehearsals.)
Holidays and Absence	Holidays should be taken outside of Choir term. A termly schedule is published in advance and follows the term dates of the Cathedral School. Leave of absence for good and sufficient reason may be sought from the Director of Music. Unless for unforeseen circumstances, such requests must be made in writing and at least 4 weeks in advance. Chapter will cover deputy fees for up to two absences each term. Above and beyond this, the Choral Scholar will be expected to pay the deputy fee. Absence without leave or without an explanation satisfactory to the Director of Music will be regarded as a breach of discipline.

Conduct

Reverent behaviour must be maintained during rehearsals and services. Mobile phones or other electronic devices should not be used in rehearsals or services. Good corporate and individual behaviour is required of all choir members in all public places and with all people whenever the choir is together either formally or informally.

Poor conduct during services or lack of discipline which brings the choir or cathedral into disrepute will be regarded as a breach of discipline.

Community

As part of the Cathedral Community, the mutual respect required between all members of the choir and all those connected with the Cathedral is important. Good relations with staff, volunteers, colleagues, and chorister families are also key to a successful partnership.

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers are expected to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults who may be vulnerable, who are involved with and/or visit the Cathedral. Choral Scholars will be expected to adhere to policies and procedures, following best practice in relation to their own behaviour and conduct and undertaking any safeguarding training commensurate with their role.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF DUTIES

1. All normal rehearsals and services will take place within the Cathedral, though Chapter may request that you sing at other locations with reasonable notice.
2. The proposed week-by-week schedule for Choral Scholars is as follows:

Friday

1900-2030 Majestas Consort Rehearsal (as indicated on the termly schedule)

Sunday

0930 *Occasional Choral Scholar Rehearsal*
 1000 Full Rehearsal (Song Room & Cathedral)
 1100-1220 Choral Eucharist
 1500 Full Rehearsal (Song Room & Cathedral)
 1600-1650 Evensong

3. On certain days, there may be different service and rehearsal times, which will be included on the dates list with reasonable advance notice.
4. Choral Scholars will also be required to sing at other Cathedral services. These will normally include such major festivals as:

Advent Procession with Carols
Cathedral Choir Christmas Concerts
2 Cathedral Carol Services
Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve
Christmas Day Eucharist
Epiphany
 Advent to Candlemas Carol Service

Candlemas
 Ash Wednesday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Eve
2 Services on Easter Day
 Ascension Day

The events in bold frequently fall outside term time but form a statutory part of this scholarship. A list of the required services and their times will be agreed each year in advance. Reasonable notice will be given for any service which falls outside the normal pattern.

5. Choral Scholars may also be asked to sing for other events which fall outside of the requirement of their Scholarship. This will be as a deputy of the lower voices and an additional fee will be paid for these. Over the 2024-25 academic year, Scholars have earned over £500 in additional fees.
6. Opportunities may arise to work with our Animateur, Rachel Kilby, as part of one of our Music Outreach projects. These projects take place once a term, and work with between 300-500 children from primary schools in Cardiff and the surrounding areas.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should consist of:

- A completed Application Form
- Your Curriculum Vitae

Please note that this can only be accepted in addition to and not instead of a completed application form.

Applications may be sent electronically or be posted to:

The Director of Music, Mr Stephen Moore
stephenmoore@llandaffcathedral.org.uk
The Administration Office,
Llandaff Cathedral,
Llandaff,
Cardiff.
CF5 2LA

The deadline for submission of applications is midday on **Friday 6th June 2025**. Shortlisting will take place immediately following the application deadline and auditions will then be arranged on an individual basis.

SAFEGUARDING

The Cathedral is committed to taking seriously its responsibilities to protect children, young children and vulnerable adults and safeguard their welfare. The Cathedral adopts the Church in Wales Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and upholds its Code of Good Practice.

Documents relating to these policies can be found on the Church in Wales website:

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/safeguarding/provincial-safeguarding-policy-and-procedures/>

EQUALITY STATEMENT

The Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral (Registered Charity No. 11569090) is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in all its activities and within the mind-set of all employees, in order to retain a positive organisational culture where everybody can achieve and prosper.

Equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of The Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral's mission and is embedded within our DNA. The Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral has a unique opportunity to affect positive change within society and we recognise that in order to reach our maximum potential as a charity, we need to foster the same ideologies within our own working practices.

This policy extends to those employed by The Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral, our trustees, volunteers, those on external/internal secondments or work placements, our customers and suppliers and all third parties carrying out operations in the name of The Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral, collectively referred to as 'our people'.

The full policy can be found on the Cathedral website.

