

INTRODUCTION

Bradford Cathedral has long been a place of music.

We are proud to continue that tradition and music continues to flourish today with a large and thriving choir of boys, girls and adults.

The Choir plays an integral part in the life of the Cathedral, providing regular choral worship throughout the year, as well as making an important contribution to major Church and Civic Festivals.

Having a son or daughter who is a chorister is a commitment for the whole family but there are great rewards.

The Choirs are lively, enthusiastic and friendly groups which foster a great sense of teamwork. We hope this leaflet provides an enticing flavour of our activities.



WHAT DOES THE CHOIR OFFER?

- The chance for boys and girls to sing as Cathedral Choristers without being tied to any one school and irrespective of family, financial or religious background.
- Receiving a free, first-class education in singing and musicianship from our staff of professional musicians. Alongside choir rehearsals, help is available with music theory, Royal School of Church Music awards and instrumental lessons.
- Amazing performance opportunities: our Choirs have recently sung in some of Britain's most famous buildings, including St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.
- The chance to undertake regular foreign tours: in recent years to Germany (2008) and Barcelona (2010)
- Occasional broadcasts and recordings: the Choir has just released a CD entitled 'A Very Yorkshire Christmas'
- Making friends and having fun: apart from singing, the choristers regularly enjoy other activities, such as trips to the cinema, bowling, swimming, football and days out.

Belonging to the Cathedral Choir is a deeply worthwhile extra-curricular activity. Bradford Cathedral has produced many successful musicians. Whatever they go on to do in later life, the choir helps to develop crucial life-skills, such as self-discipline, initiative, teamwork and an expectation of high standards.

WHEN DO THE CHOIRS SING?

If accepted, boys or girls begin a probationary course and over a period of a couple of terms or so (depending on age) they take up more of the choristers' responsibilities. As a full chorister, a boy or girl will be expected to attend several times a week as outlined below during choir term time. We understand that the children undertake other activities and try to be as flexible as possible about these, asking that parents give as much notice as possible of clashes with choir commitments.

Probationers (boy or girl)

Saturday 9.30am - 11.15am

Boy Choristers

Tuesday 4.00pm Toast / 4.30pm Rehearsal for
5.30pm Choral Evensong (finish 6.15pm)

Thursday 6.45pm - 8.15pm Rehearsal

Saturday 9.30am - Noon

Rehearsal and Workshops

Girl Choristers

Monday 4.00pm Toast / 4.30pm Rehearsal for
5.30pm Choral Evensong (finish 6.15pm)

Thursday 6.45pm - 8.15pm Rehearsal

Saturday 9.30am - Noon

Rehearsal and Workshops

Sundays

The morning and evening services on Sunday are split between the various groups to ensure a manageable commitment and balance with family life, schoolwork or sport..

9.30am Rehearsal for
10.15am Choral Eucharist (finish 11.30am)

3.00pm Rehearsal for
4.00pm Choral Evensong (finish 5.00pm)

DOES IT MATTER WHICH SCHOOL MY CHILD ATTENDS?

No. Choristers are drawn from many different schools across the region and the Cathedral maintains close links with them.

IS THERE A COST INVOLVED?

Bradford Cathedral Choir costs nothing to join! In fact, all choristers receive a payment each term proportional to their attendance and level of progress. They benefit from a free, first-rate musical education as well as making great friendships and enjoying a vibrant social calendar. Choristers are, in effect, rewarded for good work and commitment.



COULD YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER BE A CATHEDRAL CHORISTER?

Joining the Choir is by invitation following an informal audition. We will be looking for boys from Year 3 and upwards and girls from Year 6 and upwards who show musical and vocal potential, interest and enthusiasm. Your child does not need to play an instrument or to have any previous musical experience, but does need to be keen to sing, eager to learn, and ready to commit to a demanding but rewarding schedule.



WHERE DO I TAKE IT FROM HERE?

Alex Woodrow, the Director of Music, is always pleased to meet prospective candidates at any time. He also makes visits to local schools. Why not get in touch and arrange a meeting?

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The Choir of Bradford Cathedral



Could your
Son or Daughter
be a Cathedral Chorister?