



HeartEdge Manchester

Choral Scholarships 2023-24

working with the music team from St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

The **HeartEdge Manchester Choral Scholarships 2023-24** are a programme of stimulating and educative choral training, working across churches in the Diocese of Manchester with the music team from St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The scheme is aimed at choral singers wishing to embark on a professional career in singing. The Choral Scholarships provide an opportunity for nine singers to enjoy an intensive, focused period of development alongside others of a similar standard and interests whilst building on a tradition of musical excellence in churches in the city centre and beyond.

The Choral Scholarships are part of a collaborative project between the Diocese of Manchester and the St Martin-in-the-Fields HeartEdge Network, supported by the Church of England Strategic Development Fund. The wider project involves a number of initiatives aimed at growing church, community, culture and social outreach in churches across Manchester. Music is at the heart of this through the development of a new church music programme involving choral education, community choirs and children's music making activity.

The Choral Scholarship programme is led by **Andrew Earis**, Director of Music at St Martin-in-the-Fields, **Olivia Tait**, St Martin's Choral Conducting Fellow, alongside a range of guest directors and expert choral workshop leaders.

The main focus of the choral scholarship are regular events on **Saturdays** during term-time, as well as other musical activities at churches in the Diocese of Manchester.

Over the past year, as well as their Saturday commitments, choral scholars have sung for multiple broadcasts on Choral Evensong and Compline services on BBC Radio 3, taken part in Church of England online services for Christmas and the Platinum Jubilee, travelled to London to sing for the UK Parliament carol services, and participated in concerts in London and Manchester, including a collaboration with vocal ensemble *I Fagiolini*. They have taken part in workshops with choral leaders including Neil Ferris, Jamie Wright, Robert Hollingworth and Stuart Overington.

Term Dates

Autumn Saturday 30th September – Saturday, 2nd December 2023 (inclusive)

Spring Saturday 20th January – Saturday 23rd March 2024 (inclusive)

Summer Saturday 13th April – Saturday 22nd June 2024 (inclusive)

Schedule

The regular focus of the scholarship is **Saturdays** during term time.

On **Saturday lunchtimes**, the Choral Scholars sing for **Great Sacred Music**, a weekly sequence of words and music exploring a variety of themes and repertoire. This takes place across a number of churches in the Diocese of Manchester.

In the afternoon, there is a session which allows for a range of musical activities, including services, workshops with leading choral experts and recordings.

Typical Saturday Schedule

11am	Rehearsal
1.00pm	Great Sacred Music
1.45pm	Lunch Break
2.30pm	Afternoon session (workshop, service, recording or other musical activity)
5.15pm	Finish

Each term also includes approximately three additional events outside the normal Saturday schedule – e.g. concerts and recordings – for which the Choral Scholars will be required. Scholars will be notified of the full schedule, including these additional dates, in writing before the start of each scholarship term.

Since the pandemic, churches have been moving to a hybrid model of in- person and online worship and other events. All of the Choral Scholarship events may also be either live-streamed or recorded for future broadcast on our social media channels and other digital platforms.

Honorarium

Choral Scholars receive a remuneration of **£1750 per annum**, paid in three equal instalments at the end of each term.

Choral Scholars are allowed to be absent from one Saturday (or other agreed date) per term with no money deducted from their Choral Scholarship remuneration, providing this absence is agreed in advance in writing. If it is necessary to arrange any additional absences, these must be requested and agreed in writing as far ahead as possible. For any absences exceeding the allowance of one date per term, a deputy fee of £50/£75 (one service/full day) will be deducted from the Choral Scholarship remuneration at the end of term.

Choral Scholarships will be tenable for one year only and will only be renewed in exceptional circumstances. Throughout the scholarship period, you will be a scholar at HeartEdge Manchester and not an employee. Nothing in this document is intended to create a relationship of employer and employee between you and HeartEdge Manchester.

Eligibility and requirements

Candidates for Choral Scholarships must be aged 18 and over and should have a confident singing voice and good standard of sight-singing ability. Enthusiasm for singing as a member of a team, together with a willingness to develop their musical talent, will be determining factors in the appointment of Choral Scholars. Applications are welcome from all singers at the beginning of their choral music careers, including current students, graduates and singers with an equivalent level of choral experience.

Our ambition is to work together to promote a more inclusive environment, which attracts all candidates and signals our commitment to celebrate and promote diversity. We particularly encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented within choral music.

To apply

Please complete the application form and send, along with a current CV, by email to Ailsa Campbell (HeartEdge Manchester Choral Scholarships Coordinator) at music@heartedgemanchester.org.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday, 26th May 2023**.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an audition, during which they will be asked to perform a solo piece of up to 5 minutes in length and undertake sight-reading, aural tests and a short interview.

Auditions for shortlisted applicants will take place either in-person in Manchester or in exceptional circumstances online via Zoom. The planned audition dates are:

Friday 9th June, 13:00 – 19:00

Saturday 10th June, 09:00 – 11:00 & 17:00 – 20:30

Tuesday 13th June, 13:00 – 19:00

Please indicate your availability for these dates on your application form. It may be possible to arrange an alternative audition date, so please do apply even if you cannot attend on the dates listed above.