



Simon Harper *music director*

Choral Scholarship Scheme

INTRODUCTION

Hereford Chamber Choir was founded in 1983, and currently consists of around 25 mixed voices. Under the direction of Simon Harper, the choir rehearses weekly, and has a busy and active schedule, performing about six concerts per year in venues across Herefordshire, and occasional cathedral services around the country (recently in Bristol, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester, and Tewkesbury Abbey). The choir generally performs programmes of a cappella music, or with piano or organ accompaniment, but sometimes joins forces with a professional chamber orchestra and soloists to perform larger scale choral works. The choir recorded a CD of English sacred and secular music, with Blair Music Productions, which was launched in May 2016. More recently, the choir has performed newly commissioned works as part of the Three Choirs Festival, the Hay Festival, and the Ledbury Poetry Festival.

The choir is seeking to appoint talented singers between the ages of 14 and 21 to participate in the choir as choral scholars. Appointments will be made subject to an audition with the music director, which will include a performance of prepared solo and choral pieces, a range test, and some sightreading. Sponsorship of £100 per term (£300 per annum) will be given to each successful applicant.

AIMS OF THE SCHEME FOR CHORAL SCHOLARS

- To gain valuable experience singing in an SATB choir, participating in professionally led rehearsals, and performing regular concerts and cathedral services of varied music from the choral repertoire (sacred and secular from the Renaissance to the present day)
- To grow in confidence and reliability as a choral singer, gaining valuable musicianship skills
- To have possible opportunities to perform solo parts in the choir's repertoire

EXPECTATIONS OF CHORAL SCHOLARS

- Choral scholars must participate in all choir performances (concerts and cathedral services) and attend all rehearsals for any given performance, as specified on the schedule distributed by the music director, unless granted permission for any reasonable absence by the music director, and decisions on this will be made at his/her discretion, in consultation with the choir committee as necessary
- Choral scholars must sing to the best of their ability in all rehearsals and performances, upholding the choir's high standard and reputation
- Choral scholars must be diligent about learning music between rehearsals, and be well prepared and equipped for each rehearsal
- Choral scholars must take good care of music and other property belonging to the choir, and return all music as instructed after each performance
- Choral scholars must be disciplined and well behaved in rehearsals, following instructions and guidance from the music director, and treating other choir members with respect

INFORMATION FOR CHORAL SCHOLARS

- Weekly rehearsals are on Tuesdays during term time from 7.15 to 9.15 pm at Holmer Parish Church Centre, A49, Hereford HR4 9RG
- The choir gives approximately six performances per year, including cathedral services and special performances as part of music festivals etc. The schedule will vary each season, but the outline below gives a guide:
 - Autumn concert (October/November)
 - Advent/Christmas concert (December)
 - Choral workshop (early February)
 - Spring concert (March/April)
 - Cathedral service(s) out of term time
 - Summer concert (June/July)
- Dress code for concerts and services:
 - Ladies – all black, with black shoes
 - Men – plain black trousers, smart black shirt, black shoes (dark suit, white shirt, tie for services)

CHORAL SCHOLAR DECLARATION

Name:

Voice:

As a choral scholar in Hereford Chamber Choir, I agree to abide by the points detailed in the expectations and information document, and understand that failure to do so may result in non-payment of my sponsorship money, or termination of my scholarship.

Signed: Choral Scholar
 Parent (if choral scholar under age of 18)
 Music Director
 Committee Member

Date: