

# **St. Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen**

## **CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications are invited for Choral Scholarships in Alto, Tenor and Bass within the choir of St Machar's Cathedral (Church of Scotland), Old Aberdeen.

The Cathedral Choir sings at Sunday morning services and on other occasions during a 42 week season from September until mid June. Choir rehearsals are held in the Cathedral each Friday from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. throughout the season.

The Cathedral's morning worship follows the pattern of the Church Of Scotland's Book Of Common Order and older Scottish tradition in moving through prayer, reading, preaching and intercession to a climax in thanksgiving. The congregational element of the service music consists of hymns, metrical psalms, prose psalms and canticles appropriate to theme and to the Christian year. Generally the choir sings two anthems per Sunday - one in association with the Scripture readings appropriate to that Sunday and one leading to the climax of worship, of thanksgiving and dedication. Communion is celebrated on the last Sunday of every month and at major church festivals. On these and other occasions further anthems may be sung. Choral repertoire ranges from the Renaissance period to the present day.

Choral Scholarships are suitable both for the more experienced singer who would like to be part of the Cathedral's music making and for the younger singer, who will be in a position to benefit through experience in performing and through general development of vocal and music reading skills.

## REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for a Choral Scholar are

- (a) proficiency at music reading
- (b) vocal qualities suitable for ensemble singing
- (c) commitment to regular attendance

## FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of Choral Scholars are

- (a) to form a nucleus of proficient singers and readers within the choir
- (b) to act as soloist as required
- (c) to work in smaller ensembles with other Choral Scholars as required
- (d) any other duties as agreed from time to time

## REQUIRED ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential at

- (a) Sunday morning services throughout the choir season and in particular at church festivals – ie. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday
- (b) Friday evening rehearsals

Time involved per week in service and rehearsal will total approximately three hours.

Availability at times outwith the above (eg. for occasional special services and performances) would be desirable - extra remuneration for this is a possibility.

## LEAVE

There is a paid leave entitlement of 4 weekends in any one choir season, outwith church festivals etc.

## PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP AND SALARY

Period is in the first instance of one season, reviewed thereafter and extendable by a further two years. Remuneration is .750 per season, payable either monthly or at other intervals by arrangement.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR AT GENERAL VOLUNTARY LEVEL IS ALSO OPEN TO ANYONE WHO CAN ATTAIN SOME LEVEL OF VOCAL AND MUSIC READING PROFICIENCY AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART IN THE MUSIC OF ST. MACHAR'S.

All applications or queries regarding choral scholarships or general choir membership to

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