

DURHAM CATHEDRAL

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS – ENTRY IN OCTOBER 2008

General Information

Choral Scholarships are offered by the Chapter of Durham Cathedral to male students who obtain admission to one of the Colleges of the University. It is essential that candidates should be academically equipped to follow their chosen course of study at Durham, and those who seem unlikely to meet the Colleges' academic requirements for admission will not be accepted as candidates for a Choral Scholarship. It is generally not possible to combine the duties of a Choral Scholar with certain academic subjects (the Sciences, and those Social Sciences which involve laboratory work). Choral Scholarships only remain tenable on condition that the holder retains his University place for the duration of the Scholarship. Auditions will be held during February 2008.

Candidates are advised to check in advance that there is likely to be a vacancy in their particular vocal range.

Conditions of Choral Scholarships

The following details are provided for your information:

1. The emolument of a Choral Scholarship is currently (from October 2007) £1430 in the first year, £1720 in the second year and £2010 in the third year and any subsequent years. It may be held in conjunction with local authority or other similar awards.
2. Choral Scholars keep the following terms (referred to as "Choir terms"):
 - (a) The day before Michaelmas Term until 25 December;
 - (b) The first day of the Epiphany Term until Easter Sunday;
 - (c) The Sunday before the Easter Term (adjusted according to the date of Easter) until the third or fourth Sunday of July.

A free weekend (Friday-Monday) is arranged in the course of each of the terms.

3. During these terms Choral Scholars are required to take part in the musical services of the Cathedral and to attend choir practices under the direction of the Organist as shown in the timetable below. Evensong is normally sung every day except Monday, and on Sunday mornings Matins and Holy Communion are also sung. There are occasional extra services, a few arranged at short notice, over and above the regular services. In addition, the Choir normally goes into the Diocese twice a year to sing a service or a concert. It also takes part in the Northern Cathedrals Festival each year and combined-choir Evensongs with the choirs of Newcastle Cathedral and St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. There is no additional remuneration for these occasions, except for weddings and funerals. Recordings and broadcasts and concerts within the Cathedral itself take place from time to time and these are separately remunerated.

The normal weekly schedule is as follows:

Sundays	9.20 – 9.50 10.00 11.15 3.30	Practice Matins Sung Eucharist Evensong	
Mondays	Normally free		
Tuesdays to Fridays	4.30 – 5.00 5.15	Practice Evensong	(Men's voices only on Thursdays)
Saturdays	4.15 – 5.00 5.15	Practice Evensong	

4. Special requests for permission to be absent from any service or rehearsal should be made to the Organist and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.
5. Contracts relating to recordings, broadcasts or outside engagements of the Choir are made with the Chapter. Any fees arising from these are paid to the Chapter and remitted to those taking part.
6. The Chapter, on the recommendation of the Organist, will arrange singing lessons, free of charge, for Choral Scholars during their periods of residence.
7. The normal practice is for Choral Scholars to live in their College during their first year. During the period of “choir term” which follows the end of the University term the Chapter undertakes to pay the cost of residence in the College.
8. The Chapter will pay a maintenance allowance (£17.70 per day) during the periods of “choir term” which fall before and after University term.
9. Choral Scholars have the right to make formal representations to the Chapter; general pastoral oversight is carried out on their behalf by the Canon Precentor, Canon David Kennedy, who will always be prepared to see them on any matter.

A Choral Scholarship is terminable at three months’ notice in writing either by the Chapter or by the Choral Scholar.

The Cathedral Choir (which consists of Choristers, Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars) plays a unique part in the life of the Cathedral, which dates from 1093. This building, with its shrines to Saints Cuthbert and Bede, is a powerful and historic symbol at the heart of City, County and Diocese. Its worship has gone on continuously for nine centuries, and for almost all of that time music has been an integral part of that worship. The choir sings a wide, varied and constantly changing repertoire of music which spans most of the centuries; music has been written specially for the Cathedral by John Tavener, Francis Grier, John Casken, John Rutter and others. Besides all this, the gentlemen of the choir are a sociable team who play a unique part in music-making in Durham both inside and outside the Cathedral.

This is a golden opportunity for good musicians who have fine voices, first-class sight-reading skills and the commitment and ability to form part of a close-knit team.

Successful candidates will be required to sign a declaration under the terms of the Children Act 1989 before the Scholarship takes effect and before joining the choir. They will also be required to obtain enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance through the Chapter’s normal procedures.

Application Procedures

Applicants for a Choral Scholarship must make two applications, one for a Choral Scholarship and one for admission to the University (unless admission has already been gained); the applications will be dealt with separately as set out below, though with close liaison between the offices concerned.

Application for a Choral Scholarship is made on a special form which may be obtained from Mrs M Wressell, Academic Office, University Office, Durham DH1 3HP and is returnable by **Monday 14 January 2008**: later applications will be considered if practicable. Candidates are examined in ear tests and sight-reading, including 16th-century polyphonic music in either English or Latin. They should also prepare a solo which would be suitable for singing in the Cathedral and bring two copies of their music with them. They will be interviewed by the Organists of the Cathedral and a member of the Cathedral Chapter. Interview arrangements will be made by the Registrar's Office of the University.

Application for University admission should be made on a UCAS form in the usual way. Attention is drawn to the following points.

1. Applicants should indicate on the UCAS forms that application is also being made for a Choral Scholarship. Any candidate who has already returned his UCAS form should inform the College of his first choice of the application for a Choral Scholarship.
2. **Those applying now for deferred University admission in October 2009 should not apply for a Choral Scholarship until the Autumn of 2008.**
3. Candidates applying to the University through a route other than UCAS, e.g. Graduate Teacher Training Registry, should inform their College and Department of the Choral Scholarship application.

As far as University admission is concerned applications will be considered by colleges and departments in the usual way and it is likely that decisions on the University applications of most Choral Scholarship candidates will have been made before the date of Choral Scholarship interviews. It is expected that applicants for Choral Scholarships called for interview in Epiphany 2008 will include those to whom offers of University admission have been made (whether conditional or otherwise) together with any others on whom the University has not yet made a decision. If the University has decided by then not to make an offer of a University place, any application for a Choral Scholarship will be regarded as lapsing, and the candidate will be so notified. Given that University decisions will normally be made first, it is unavoidable that Choral Scholarship candidates will usually have to come to Durham for interview on two separate occasions.

Applications for Choral Scholarships will also be considered from students already in residence. They will be required to attend the interviews for the Scholarship at the same time as other applicants.

Enquiries relating to the terms of Choral Scholarships or to the examination should be referred to the Cathedral Organist, Mr James Lancelot, 6 The College, Durham DH1 3EQ, who will be pleased to help. Any enquiry about general arrangements for interviews should be addressed to Mrs M Wressell, Academic Office, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP.

August 2007

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Application form: Entry in October 2008

Please attach
passport-sized
photograph here

This form must be returned to Mrs M Wressell, Academic Office, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, *no later than Monday 14 January 2008.*

Name (in full) _____

Home address _____

_____ Tel. No. _____

Place and date of birth _____

School presently attended _____

University application (Durham) UCAS No. _____

College or Society (give preference as on UCAS form) _____

Degree and subjects to be taken at Durham _____

GCSE/GCE (or equivalent) EXAMINATIONS (Note: if **equivalent** examination, please state title etc.)

GCSE/O LEVELS		A LEVELS incl. to be taken	
Examining Board and year	Subject and Grade	Examining Board and year	Subject and Grade

Voice [Alto, Tenor or Bass:] _____

Other relevant information (eg choral experience): *please continue overleaf if necessary* _____

Enclosures: Please enclose with your application, the following:

1. A reference written by a trained musician who has experience of your singing (the referee may, if he or she prefers, send the reply directly to the University (to Mrs M Wressell at the address shown above) **stating clearly** that it is in connection with an application for a Choral Scholarship).
2. A recent photograph (passport size).

NOTE: Applicants are advised to read carefully the information sheet on Choral Scholarships before completing the application form.

Signature of candidate _____

Date _____