

# DURHAM CATHEDRAL

## ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP – ENTRY IN OCTOBER 2008

The Chapter of Durham offers an Organ Scholarship at the Cathedral. It is normally held by a student member of Durham University (undergraduate or postgraduate); election may be for one, two or three academic years. The value of the Scholarship is currently £1430 in the first year, £1720 in the second year and £2010 in the third year and any subsequent years (due for review in October 2006). It is partly funded by a generous grant from the Michael James Music Trust. It may be held in conjunction with local authority or other similar awards. 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 the Organ Scholarship. It is generally not possible to combine the duties of a Organ Scholar with certain academic subjects (the Sciences, and those Social Sciences which involve laboratory work).

The duties of the Organ Scholar are to assist the Organist and the Sub-Organist in the performance of their duties. Duties are tailored by mutual agreement to meet the capacity and experience of the Organ Scholar. The chief duty in a normal week is to assist the Sub-Organist by accompanying Evensong on the Organist's day off (normally Tuesday). The Organ Scholar may also accompany services in the absence of the Organist or Sub-Organist at other times, and may (dependent on ability) have the opportunity of taking practices with the probationers, the choristers, the gentlemen, or the full choir; and on occasion of directing the choir in services. He or she may also be asked to play for special services in the cathedral and to undertake some administrative tasks in the running of the music; and he or she will also be expected to observe at Chorister choir practices, in the role of a second adult; and to assist and observe in the organ-loft, so as to gain experience.

While there is no specific requirement relating to Church membership, it is nevertheless expected that the Organ Scholar will be in sympathy with the worship and mission of the cathedral and will want to identify with the common life of the community.

The Organ Scholar is expected to be in residence for the duration of the three University terms, together with those periods outside University Term when the Choral Scholars remain in residence (i.e. up to and including Christmas Day, up to and including Easter Sunday, and up to and including the third or fourth Sunday in July; exact dates vary from year to year, partly dependent on the date of Easter). During these periods the Chapter reimburses the cost of accommodation, heat and light, and pays a daily allowance, currently £17.70 with effect from the end of September 2007). A free weekend (Friday-Monday) is arranged in the course of each of the terms.

The Scholarship will next fall vacant in October 2008, and applications are now sought: the closing date is Monday 14 January 2008. Applications (attaching a c.v. and the names and addresses of two referees, one at least of whom should be able to write about the candidate's musical abilities and one at least of whom should be able to testify to his or her suitability to work with children) and further enquiries should be sent to James Lancelot, Master of the Choristers and Organist, 6 The College, Durham DH1 3EQ; [Organist@durhamcathedral.co.uk](mailto:Organist@durhamcathedral.co.uk) (In addition, application to the University should be made on a UCAS form in the normal way.)

Auditions will be held early in 2008. Candidates will be required to play two prepared pieces, one of them by J S Bach; and to perform keyboard-skills tests broadly at ARCO level – sight-reading, score-reading, transposition and improvisation. Other skills may be tested at interview, but it is not anticipated that candidates will be required to take a choir practice. Some preparation time on the cathedral organ will be arranged.

Evensong is normally sung every day except Monday, and on Sunday mornings Matins and Holy Communion are also sung (see the timetable below). 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. Recordings and broadcasts and concerts within the Cathedral itself take place from time to time, sometimes but not always involving the Organ Scholar; if so, these are separately remunerated.

The normal weekly schedule is as follows:

<b>Sunday</b>	9.05 – 9.50	Full practice (boys only until 9.20)
	10.00	Matins
	11.15	Holy Communion
	3.00 – 3.20	Boys' practice (boys only)
	3.30	Evensong
<b>Monday</b>	Normally free, except 8.10 – 8.55 Boys' practice	
<b>Tues &amp; Wed</b>	8.10 – 8.55	Boys' practice
	4.15 – 5.00	Full practice (boys only until 4.30)
	5.15	Evensong
<b>Thursday</b>	8.10 – 8.55	Boys' practice
	4.30 – 5.00	Men's practice
	5.15	Evensong (men's voices)
<b>Friday</b>	8.10 – 8.55	Boys' practice
	1.15 – 1.45	Boys' practice
	4.15 – 5.00	Full practice (boys only until 4.30)
	5.15	Evensong
	6.00 – 7.00	Durham Cathedral Consort of Singers' practice
<b>Saturday</b>	8.30 – 9.30	Boys' practice
	4.15 – 5.00	Full practice
	5.15	Evensong

The Organ Scholar will be given a full day off from Cathedral duties each week, by mutual agreement.

The Organ Scholar has the right to make formal representation to the Chapter; general pastoral oversight is carried out on his or her behalf by the Canon Precentor, Canon David Kennedy, who will always be prepared to see the Scholar on any matter.

The Organ Scholarship is terminable at three months' notice in writing either by the Chapter or by the Scholar.

The successful candidate 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. He or she will also be required to obtain enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance through the Chapter's normal procedures.

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 Organ Scholarship candidates will have been made before the date of the Organ Scholarship interviews. It is expected that applicants for the Organ Scholarship called for interview in early 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. Given that University decisions will normally be made first, it is unavoidable that Organ Scholarship candidates will usually have to come to Durham for interview on two separate occasions.

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

Enquiries relating to the terms of the Organ Scholarship or to the examination should be referred to the Cathedral Organist, who will be pleased to help.

The Cathedral Choir, of which the Organ Scholar is very much part, is a young and enthusiastic team with a thriving musical tradition. There are 20 boy Choristers, five Lay Clerks and seven Choral Scholars. It 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. It tours from time to time, and visited Lübeck and Brazil in 2000. Besides all this, the adults of the choir are a sociable team who play a unique part in music-making in Durham both inside and outside the Cathedral.

The organ, by Henry Willis (1877) and Harrison & Harrison (1905, 1936, and 1970) is a magnificent example of its type. It has six divisions (spread over four keyboards and pedal), with 98 speaking stops. Adequate practice time is available, within the constraints of a busy and much-visited building.

The Organ Scholar is customarily invited to give a recital in the Cathedral's summer series; this is separately remunerated.

All in all this is an golden opportunity for a student who wishes to share in the life of a happy Christian community and to develop organ-playing and choir-training skills at a high level.

August 2007