



DURHAM CATHEDRAL

APPOINTMENT OF TENOR LAY CLERK

There will be a vacancy for a Tenor Lay Clerk from September 2010.

Durham Cathedral Choir consists of 20 Boy Choristers, 20 Girl Choristers (the boys and girls sing in alternation), and 12 men - 7 Choral Scholars and 5 Lay Clerks. It sings the daily Cathedral services during Choir term, as given in the timetable below. The Choir performs a wide, exciting and varying repertoire extending from plainsong works written in Durham eight centuries ago to works written in the last ten years, including works commissioned especially for the Cathedral. It also appears regularly in concerts both in the Cathedral and elsewhere. It tours from time to time: in 2008 and 2009 it visited France, and it will do so again in 2011.

Undergraduate students are not normally eligible for Lay Clerkship; they are welcome to apply for Choral Scholarships as and when such Scholarships become available.

The salary for a Lay Clerk is £7,613.58 currently in the first year, rising to £8,306.69 thereafter.

The appointment may be terminated on either side on giving three months' notice in writing.

The Chapter also operates a Stakeholder Pension Scheme (4% employee-contributory) which he is entitled to join on the sixth day of the month following three months' employment.

The normal weekly timetable is as follows:

Sunday	9.20 – 9.50 a.m.	Rehearsal	10.00	Matins
	11.15	Sung Eucharist	3.30 p.m.	Evensong

Monday This is normally a free day for Lay Clerks, Evensong being said
(it will in due course be sung by Boy or Girl Choristers)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

4.30 - 5.00 p.m. Rehearsal 5.15 Evensong
(Evensong on Thursday is sung by men's voices only)

Saturday 4.15 - 5.00 p.m. Rehearsal 5.15 Evensong

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, and takes part in the Northern Cathedrals Festival, and joint Evensongs with cathedral choirs in Newcastle and Edinburgh. There is no additional remuneration for these occasions.

Recordings and broadcasts, and concerts within the cathedral itself, take place from time to time, and these are separately remunerated.

There are normally no commitments for Lay Clerks outside Choir terms, which are the Chorister School term-times together with extensions up to Easter Sunday, to the penultimate or last Sunday in July, and to Evensong on Christmas Day. In addition, there is occasionally a period of a few days before the start of the Chorister School Epiphany term during which services are sung by men's voices. Depending on the date of Easter, it is sometimes necessary to divide the Easter holiday into two separate periods. The Choral Scholars are not normally present in September, and sometimes also at the start of the Epiphany and Easter Terms, depending on the date of University Terms. The Choral Scholars do however stay in residence until the end of each choir term. There is a half-term break (normally a long week-end) during each term.

Durham, with its thriving University, its magnificent setting, and its historic background has much to offer as a place to settle: a busy musical and cultural life, with Newcastle very close (14 miles), and such centres as York, Edinburgh and London all quickly reached by train. The Cathedral Choir is a happy and sociable team whose comradeship extends well outside the Choir stalls.

The closing date for applications is Saturday 20 March 2010. Applications (with a handwritten signature) should be sent to The Organist, 6 The College, Durham, DH1 3EQ (0191 386 4766 in case of enquiry) enclosing a full curriculum vitae,

and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, one of whom should be a qualified musician, and one of whom should be an employer, tutor, priest or similar. Referees will be asked to provide comment on the applicant's suitability to work in conjunction with children. They will be asked to state the capacity in which they know the applicant; failure to provide such information will be taken into account when assessing the applicant.

It is intended that interviews will be held in May or June 2010. Candidates should bring a prepared piece, and be ready to do some simple ear tests, to sight read extracts from two contrasted pieces (which may be in English or Latin), and to sing a portion of a psalm at sight. Importance will be attached to sight-reading ability. The interviews will be conducted by the Canon Precentor, Canon David Kennedy, the Organist, James Lancelot, the Sub Organist, Keith Wright, and the Assistant Organist, Oliver Brett; the appointment itself is made by the Cathedral Chapter.

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 will also be required to obtain enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance through the Chapter's normal procedures.

A typical fortnightly cathedral music-list is attached or enclosed.

February 2010