The St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Scholarships are among the most stimulating and educative choral programmes available in London. The scheme is aimed at choral singers who are wishing to embark on a professional career in singing. The Choral Scholarships provide an opportunity for ten singers to enjoy an intensive, focused period of training with others of a similar standard and interests and are an integral part of an exciting choral music programme.

For 2019-20 we are delighted to continue our partnership with St Stephen Walbrook in the City of London. The Choral Scholars will sing at services, concerts and events at both St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Stephen’s. The main focus of the scholarship will be regular services on Monday afternoons, Wednesday evenings and Thursday lunchtimes.

St Martin-in-the-Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields is a hospitable, vibrant and forward-thinking church, which has a long history of opening its doors to people from all walks of life and from all faiths or no faith at all. The first religious broadcast was made from St Martin’s and we regularly broadcast church services as well as the annual BBC Radio 4 St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas Appeal. Pioneering work with homeless people started in the First World War and continues today with the Connection at St Martin’s. Amnesty International was conceived at St Martin’s and Shelter and the Big Issue were launched on the church steps.

Music has always played a central part in the life of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Academy of St Martin in the Fields was founded here in 1958 by Sir Neville Marriner and the then Master of Music, John Churchill. The breadth of musical activity at St Martin’s is astonishing. In addition to the regular pattern of music in worship, St Martin’s hosts three lunchtime concerts a week, the longest running free recital programme in the UK, and at least three ticketed evening concerts each week.

The Music Department at St Martin’s embraces both music in worship and commercial music making. Alongside the regular pattern of choral worship, we have recently launched the Sound of St Martin’s Concert Series, thirty concerts each year given by our own choral and instrumental ensembles. In addition, St Martin’s has a wide and varied liturgical programme covering a range of styles from traditional Choral Evensong to contemporary services which combine music and liturgy in creative ways.

We have a number of choral ensembles at St Martin-in-the-Fields:
• **St Martin’s Voices** is our flagship professional ensemble of talented singers who come together to sing world-class concerts and special services at St Martin-in-the-Fields and beyond. As well as their extensive concert and broadcasting programme, St Martin’s Voices explore the great classical music of our religious heritage at Great Sacred Music, a free event every Thursday at 1pm. The newest development to the music programme at St Martin-in-the-Fields is the **St Martin’s Voices Fellowship**, an advanced training programme for emerging professional singers.

• The **Choral Scholars** have an essential musical role at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Each year up to ten scholars – many of whom are music college students or graduates – are appointed to sing at midweek services at St Martin’s during term time. They also gain concert experience through our lunchtime and evening concert series, and benefit from an extensive programme of training in different aspects of church and choral music.

• The **Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields** is an outstanding liturgical voluntary choir of 25 singers, rooted in Sunday worship at St Martin’s. In addition, they sing for the worship services at all the major church festivals, including Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. The Choir is well known for its broadcasts on BBC Radio and TV recordings, tours and concerts.

• **St Martin’s Chorus** is the newest choral ensemble at St Martin-in-the-Fields, founded in April 2015. It is a voluntary chamber choir, drawing from a pool of around thirty singers, that performs concerts of both major choral works and more intimate, small-scale works.

• The **Children’s Voices of St Martin-in-the-Fields** was formed in 2014 and has quickly become an integral part of the St Martin’s musical community. This choir of 7-13 year-olds has joined our existing ensembles to regularly enhance our music-making at church services and concerts whilst providing invaluable musical training for its young singers.

• **St Martin’s Occasional Singers** aim to advance the culture of enthusiastic participatory congregational music at St Martin’s, worshipping and gaining enjoyment in a pressure-free environment. Drawn from the St Martin’s community and beyond, the Occasional Singers sing two or three services a term, plus occasional choral workshops and other activities.

The Music Department is led by the **Director of Music, Andrew Earis**, who oversees all the musical activity at St Martin’s – both liturgical music and concerts – supported by a **Music Programme Manager, Assistant Director of Liturgical Music, Assistant Organist, Choral Conducting Fellow, Music and Worship Coordinator, Concerts Manager** and a number of other administrative support staff.

**St Stephen Walbrook**

With its impressive dome, St Stephen Walbrook church stands by Mansion House in the heart of the City of London. The present building was erected to the designs of Sir Christopher Wren following the destruction of its medieval predecessor in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

In 1953 the Samaritans charity was founded by the rector of St Stephen’s, Dr Chad Varah. The first Samaritans branch operated from a crypt beneath the church. In tribute to this, a telephone is preserved in a glass box in the church. St Stephen’s, with its glorious acoustic, has a vibrant musical tradition with two lunchtime concerts each week, as well as numerous choral services.
Recent Choral Scholar projects

In addition to their regular pattern of sung choral services at St Martin’s and St Stephen’s, the Choral Scholars have been to Manchester to broadcast on BBC Radio 4 Daily Service and BBC TV Songs of Praise and sung a live broadcast of Radio 3 Choral Evensong from St Martin’s. Other recent highlights of the scheme include participating in A Celebration for Ascension Day live on BBC Radio 4 and performing the world premiere of Will Todd’s Passion Music in Holy Week 2018. They have performed in a number of concerts at St Martin’s including Fauré’s Requiem, Kodaly’s Missa Brevis and Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas. The Choral Scholars have also recently been on tour to Berlin, Manchester and Scotland, and have sung Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral and St Paul’s Cathedral.

Schedule

The main focus of the scholarship is on Mondays, Wednesday evenings and Thursday lunchtimes.

The Monday programme runs from 12.00pm to 5.30pm. Each week, the full group of Choral Scholars will sing two services:
- **Choral Classics**, a weekly sequence of words and music at St Stephen Walbrook
- A traditional service of **Choral Evensong** at St Martin’s

Later in the week, the choral scholars split into two groups, with one group singing **Bread for the World**, the main midweek community Eucharist at St Martin’s, at 6.30pm on Wednesday, and the other group singing a traditional **Choral Eucharist** at St Stephen Walbrook on Thursday at 12.45pm. This will swap on a weekly basis and it is expected that scholars will sing in roughly the same number of evening and lunchtime services across the year.

**Monday schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Rehearsal at St Stephen Walbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Choral Classics</strong> at St Stephen Walbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Lunch <em>(provided by St Martin’s in the Café in the Crypt)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.45pm</td>
<td>Rehearsal (for future music)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>Evensong rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10pm</td>
<td>Tea break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Choral Evensong</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday/Thursday schedule:**

**Group 1 (Wednesday evening at St Martin’s)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Bread for the World</strong> <em>(Informal Eucharist)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group 2 (Thursday lunchtime at St Stephen Walbrook)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td><strong>Choral Eucharist</strong> <em>(Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei from a Choral Mass, plus an introit and communion motet)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the regular Monday, Wednesday and Thursday services, the Choral Scholars perform approximately one lunchtime and one evening concert each term in the Sound of St Martin’s Concert Series. Occasional Wednesday evening services at St Martin’s are replaced with Choral Evensong at St Stephen’s. There are also occasional events outside the normal schedule – broadcasts, trips and special services – for which the Choral Scholars will be required. This will include two December commitments, both of which are high profile significant events in the life of St Martin’s: the Community Carol Service and St Stephen Walbrook Parish Carol Service. Scholars will be notified of these additional dates in writing before the start of each scholarship term.
Term Dates

**Autumn**  
Monday 16th September – Thursday 28th November 2019  
(inclusive, plus some December commitments – see above)

**Spring**  
Monday 13th January – Thursday 9th April 2020 (inclusive)

**Summer**  
Monday 20th April – Monday 6th July 2020 (inclusive)

Honorarium

Choral Scholars receive a remuneration of £2,500 per annum, paid in three equal instalments at the end of each term. In addition, they receive a contribution towards travel expenses of £90 per annum to assist in costs incurred in travelling between the two churches each Monday. This will be paid in three equal instalments at the start of each term.

Choral Scholars are allowed to be absent from up to five services per term with no money deducted from their choral scholarship, providing these dates are agreed in advance in writing. If it is necessary to arrange any additional absences, these must be agreed as far ahead as possible. Suitable deputies will be organised by the Church Music Department and will be paid £45 per service. This amount will be deducted from the Choral Scholarship remuneration at the end of each term for any absences exceeding the allowance of five per term.

Choral Scholarships will be tenable for one year only, and will only be renewed in exceptional circumstances.

Throughout the scholarship period, you will be a scholar at St Martin’s and not an employee. Nothing in this document is intended to create a relationship of employer and employee between you and St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Eligibility and requirements

Candidates for Choral Scholarships should have a confident singing voice and good standard of sight-singing ability. Enthusiasm for singing as a member of a team, together with a willingness to develop their musical talent, will be determining factors in the appointment of Choral Scholars. Applications are welcome from all singers at the beginning of their choral music careers; our Choral Scholarships are particularly aimed at bridging the gap between university- and professional-level choral experience.

To apply

Please complete the application form and send, along with a current CV, by email to music.assistant@smitf.org or by post to: Ellie Sperling, Music Programme Assistant, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ.

The closing date for applications is Friday 7th June at 12 noon.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to perform a solo piece of up to 5 minutes in length and undertake sight-reading, aural tests and a short interview. Auditions for shortlisted applicants will take place on:

- Friday 14th June 2.30 – 6.30pm  
- Monday 17th June 5.30 – 8.00pm  
- Saturday 15th June 2.30 – 6.30pm  
- Wednesday 19th June 10.30am – 1.30pm

Please indicate your availability for these dates on the application form.