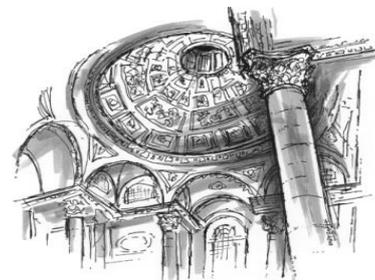


St Martin-in-the-Fields with St Stephen Walbrook

Choral Scholarships 2021-22



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 2020-21 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 **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**.

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. During the coronavirus pandemic, our Choral Scholars and St Martin's Voices recorded resources for churches across the country to use in their online worship, in partnership with the Church of England and the Royal School of Church Music which have had over 1 million downloads to date.



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. Alongside the regular pattern of music in worship, our *Sound of St Martin's* Concert Series features regular performances given by our own choral and instrumental ensembles.

We have a number of choral ensembles at St Martin-in-the-Fields:

- **St Martin's Voices** is our 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 our weekly *Great Sacred Music*. 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**, our principal voluntary liturgical choir, joins with clergy and laity in leading our worship on Sundays and at significant festivals in the church year including Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.
- **St Martin's Chorus** is a voluntary chamber choir, founded in April 2015, drawing from a pool of around thirty singers, that performs concerts of both major choral works and more intimate, small-scale works.
- **Children's Voices** 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 Community Choir** aims 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 Community Choir 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, Associate Organist, Choral Conducting Fellow, and Concerts Team**.

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.



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 highlights of the scheme include participating in *A Celebration for Ascension Day* live on BBC Radio 4 and performing the world première of Will Todd's *Passion Music*. 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 been on tour to Berlin, Manchester, Northumberland and Holy Island, and Scotland, and have sung Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral.

Schedule

The regular focus of the scholarship is on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**.

Each week, the full group of Choral Scholars will sing traditional services of **Choral Eucharist** and **Choral Evensong** at St Martin-in-the-Fields on a Wednesday afternoon. Half the group will then stay to sing for an informal service of Eucharist, **Bread for the World**.

On a Thursday, the other half of the group will sing for a recording of **Morning Song**, a service of sung Morning Prayer (broadcast the following Friday morning) at St Martin-in-the-Fields. This is followed by **Choral Classics**, a weekly sequence of words and music, and a traditional **Choral Eucharist** at St Stephen Walbrook on Thursdays with the full group.

Wednesday schedule (at St Martin-in-the-Fields)

All choral scholars

12.00pm Rehearsal
1.00pm **Choral Eucharist**

2.45pm Rehearsal
4.00pm **Choral Evensong**

Group 1

5.30pm Rehearsal
6.30pm **Bread for the World**

Thursday schedule

Group 2 (at St Martin-in-the-Fields)

8.45am Rehearsal
9.30am **Morning Song** (recorded for broadcast the following day)

All choral scholars (at St Stephen Walbrook)

10.45am Rehearsal
12.00pm **Choral Classics**
12.45pm **Choral Eucharist**

Through the pandemic, St Martin's and St Stephen's have been moving to a hybrid model of in-person and online worship. All of the Choral Scholarship services will also be either live-streamed or recorded for future broadcast on our social media channels and our digital platform, StMartins.Digital.

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**. In addition, the Choral Scholars perform approximately twice each term in the **Sound of St Martin's Concert Series**. Scholars will be notified of these additional dates in writing before the start of each scholarship term.

Term Dates

- Autumn** Wednesday 15th September – Thursday 25th November 2021
(inclusive, plus some December commitments – see above)
- Spring** Wednesday 12th January – Thursday 14th April 2022 (inclusive)
- Summer** Wednesday 4th May – Thursday 30th June 2022 (inclusive)

Honorarium

Choral Scholars receive a remuneration of **£3,000 per annum**, paid in three equal instalments at the end of each term. In addition, we will reimburse public transport costs incurred in travelling between the two churches on a Thursday morning. This will be calculated on an individual basis and added to your termly remuneration.

Choral Scholars are allowed to be absent from up to four services per term (equivalent to one week) 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 £50 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 four 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 **cathy.martin@smitf.org** or by post to: **Cathy Martin, Music Programme Manager, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ.**

The closing date for applications is **5.00pm on Friday 4 June.**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to audition, during which they 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 in-person at St Martin-in-the-Fields on:

Sunday 13 June	4.00 – 8.00pm
Monday 14 June	5.30 – 8.30pm
Tuesday 15 June	3.00 – 6.00pm
Sunday 20 June	4.00 – 8.00pm

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