

St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Conducting Fellowship

September 2021 – June 2022

The **St Martin's Choral Conducting Fellowship** provides an opportunity for a choral conductor to work with a number of the St Martin's choral ensembles in services, concerts and rehearsals and is an integral part of the exciting choral music programme at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Fellowship is aimed at choral conductors who are in the first stage of a professional career, and wish to develop their skills to a high level.

The main focus of the scheme is on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**, working with the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Martin's Chorus. There are also occasional concert commitments, including the opportunity to work with our professional choir, St Martin's Voices and instrumentalists, St Martin's Players.

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. 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 one of London's finest and most flexible vocal ensembles. As the flagship professional choral ensemble of St Martin-in-the-Fields, they sing for concerts, broadcasts and special services at St Martin's and beyond. Recent years have seen tours to the USA and South Africa and performances alongside the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, London Mozart Players, Southbank Sinfonia and Will Todd Ensemble. 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 are appointed to sing at midweek services at St Martin's and St Stephen Walbrook 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.



Schedule

The schedule for the Choral Conducting Fellow revolves around a Wednesday and Thursday. You will work closely with the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields on Wednesday afternoons, directing either **Choral Eucharist** or **Choral Evensong** on an alternating basis, and **Choral Classics** and **Choral Eucharist** on Thursday lunchtimes at St Stephen Walbrook, as well as leading **rehearsals for St Martin's Chorus** on a Thursday evening.

The weekly schedule will be as follows:

Wednesdays

either

12.00pm	Rehearsal
1.00pm	Choral Eucharist

or

2.45pm	Rehearsal
4.00pm	Choral Evensong

Thursdays

10.45am	Rehearsal
12.00pm	Choral Classics
12.45pm	Choral Eucharist

7.00pm **St Martin's Chorus** Rehearsal

In addition, there will be the opportunity to contribute to our evening concerts programme, through directing parts of evening concerts with St Martin's Chorus, and gaining experience in instrumental conducting through directing occasional parts of our *Sound of St Martin's* concerts series.

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 may also be either live-streamed or recorded for future broadcast on our social media channels and our digital platform, StMartins.Digital.

Term Dates

Autumn Wednesday 15th September – Thursday 25th November 2021
(plus some potential December commitments around Advent and Christmas)

Spring Wednesday 12th January – Thursday 14th April 2022 (inclusive)

Summer Wednesday 4th May – Thursday 30th June 2022 (inclusive)

Honorarium

The Choral Conducting Fellow receives a remuneration of **£6,000**, paid in three equal instalments in December, April and July.

Throughout the Fellowship period, you will be a Fellow 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

The scheme is aimed at choral conductors who are in the first stage of a professional career and wish to develop their skills to a high level. Enthusiasm for working as a member of a team, together with a willingness to develop their musical talent, will be determining factors. Candidates should be able to demonstrate relevant choral conducting experience. A basic level of keyboard skills is desirable but not essential.

To apply

Please send the following documents 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**

- Covering letter, detailing your reasons for applying, relevant experience and what you hope to gain from the Fellowship
- A current CV

The closing date for applications is **Friday 16th July at 12.00noon.**

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to direct a short choral rehearsal, and undertake an interview. Auditions will take place on **Wednesday 21st July** or **Thursday 22nd July**. Please indicate your availability for these dates when submitting your application.

