

ORGAN

ST JOHN'S
Notting Hill



SCHOLARSHIP

for 2024-2025



An organ scholar is sought to join the musicians at St John the Evangelist, Notting Hill in September 2024.

St John's maintains a rich musical culture which plays a central role in the ministry of the church. A friendly choir of five Choral Scholars and an Organ Scholar work with the Director of Music in performing high-quality liturgical music taken from the Anglican and Catholic choral repertoires, and instrumental musicians in residence enrich the worship at important feasts. Outside of the liturgy, the church is busy with concerts and recitals, and a popular Silent Film series accompanied by our recently-restored historic organ.

Now in its 12th year, the organ and choral scholarships scheme is open to all ages and stages of career (gap year, undergraduate, postgraduate etc.) and typically attracts musicians from London universities and conservatoires, and those beginning freelance careers.

Previous organ scholars have subsequently gained organist or director of music posts at major London churches, whilst gap-year scholars have gone on to pursue organ activities at university and conservatoire level.

THE ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Organ Scholar plays a vital role in the musical life of the church. The primary responsibility is to accompany the weekly Parish Eucharist, and to accompany Choral Evensong once a month. The Organ Scholar will have the chance to develop their skills as an organist, choral accompanist, and improviser, being exposed to a wide range of repertoire and music, typically including Renaissance polyphony, Viennese masses, and 19th and 20th Century Anglican Choral music. Typical music lists can be found on the church website. There are also potential opportunities to develop skills as a conductor under the supervision of the Director of Music, and to work with our instrumental musicians in residence including The Orfeas String Quartet, Big Smoke Brass, and Cat's Cradle Collective.

The Organ Scholar will be expected to be present at all services and rehearsals during term time, as well as major services that fall out of term (outlined below). In addition, five absences from the normal term-time schedule are permitted during the year, and must be arranged in advance with the Director of Music. From time to time the Director of Music may ask the Organ Scholar to deputise for them for non-choral services during the holiday periods, for which services off in lieu will be given during full term.

The Organ Scholar will have ample opportunity to perform throughout the year, and it is expected that they will perform at least one recital per year at the church.

The successful candidate will be expected to be post grade 8 standard on the organ. Previous experience of accompaniment is desirable, as is previous experience of working within a Parish Church setting. A competent level of sight reading is also expected. Most importantly, an enthusiasm for music is essential and the successful candidates will have a desire to immerse themselves fully in the musical life of the church.

TYPICAL WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Weekly Sunday morning Eucharist & one Sunday evensong per month during university term time only (approx. 40 Sundays a year), but there is no midweek rehearsal.

Sunday Parish Eucharist: Rehearsal 9.30am; Service 10.30am - 11.45am

*Sunday Choral Evensong: Rehearsal 5.30pm; Service 6.30pm - 7.30pm (BST)
Rehearsal 4.30pm; Service 5.30pm - 6.30pm (DST)*

Additional major feast days and services at which the organ scholar is required:

Advent Sunday Carol Service

Christmas Carol Service (typically the Sunday before Christmas)

Ash Wednesday

Services during Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

Easter Day

Ascension Day

The organ and choral scholars are not required on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

FEES AND PERKS

The remuneration for the Organ Scholar is **£2,100** per annum depending on experience. Weddings, funerals and memorial services will attract additional fees of **£120** per service, and in the event of acting in the place of Director of Music, **£230**.

Alongside the fees, the Organ Scholar will have free use of the church for practice, rehearsals, concerts and teaching, subject to advance booking and availability.

Additionally, there are occasional Organ Workshops for schools which attract a fee of £100.

TO APPLY

The Church would be very interested to hear as soon as possible from any potential candidates.

Please send a CV, or description of your musical experience to James Speakman, directorofmusic@stjohnsnottinghill.com

by Monday 18th March.

Auditions will be held at the end of March, or earlier by arrangement.

Candidates will be asked to prepare a piece of music of their own choice, and will be given sight reading as well as general musicianship tests.



For further information about the organ scholarship, please don't hesitate to contact the Director of Music, James Speakman: directorofmusic@stjohnsnottinghill.com

and visit the church website here: <https://stjohnsnottinghill.com/music>

For information about the St John's organ please visit: <http://www.stjohnsorganproject.org.uk/the-organ.html>

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