



St Martin-in-the-Fields

Choral Scholarships 2024-25

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 up to 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.

Alongside singing services, concerts and events at St Martin's, exploring a huge range of repertoire from the Renaissance to the present day, choral scholars will receive regular opportunities for learning, including a series of workshops with members of staff at St Martin's and external professional musicians. The main focus of the scholarship will be **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**.

With thanks to The Arts Society, The Golsoncott Foundation, the Pilling Trust and donors to the St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust for supporting the 2024/25 Choral Scholarship programme at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

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 programme of services 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 concert series features regular performances given by our own choral and instrumental ensembles.



As well as the Choral Scholarship programme, St Martin's has a number of other choral ensembles:

- **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 **St Martin's Voices Emerging Artists** scheme provides an opportunity for six singers to enjoy an intensive, focused period of training with others of a similar standard and interests and is aimed at choral singers who are in the first few years of a professional career in singing who wish to develop their skills as choral and consort singers to a high level.
- The **Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields**, our 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. Members have a wide range of professions including medical students, lawyers and teachers, and they come from different musical backgrounds with some having trained in cathedral and chapel choirs, youth choirs and some who have read music at university.
- **St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Choir** is a voluntary 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. The Chamber Choir are a project-based choir, participating in six events throughout the year and rehearse on Thursday evenings. They are looking forward to their tour to Utrecht in June 2024.
- **St Martin-in-the-Fields Junior Choir** 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.

Recent Choral Scholar projects

In addition to their regular pattern of sung choral services at St Martin's, the choral scholars perform concerts both at St Martin's and across London including projects with *I Fagiolini*, *The Gesualdo Six* and at the *Brunel Museum*. They have also sung for BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong broadcasts and recorded for the Church of England. This year, highlights have included recording for *Classic FM*, leading community workshops and a performance of Bach's *St John Passion*, and they are looking forward to their upcoming tour to Oslo in June 2024.

Schedule

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

Each Monday, the full group of Choral Scholars will sing a lunchtime words and music event, **World Choral Classics**, which explores choral music from around the world. Each Wednesday, Choral Scholars will participate in a **rehearsal or workshop** and sing a traditional service of **Choral Evensong**.

In addition, half the group will sing **Morning Song**, a modern language service of morning prayer involving anthems, chants and plainsong, on a Monday, and the other half will sing **Bread for the World**, an informal Eucharist service accompanied on the piano, on a Wednesday. The half group services give the opportunity to develop skills in one-per-part singing. The groups are allocated by the Music team and are different each week.

Monday

- 12.00 for 1.00** World Choral Classics – *All*
- 2.30 for 3.15** Morning Song Recording – *Half*

Wednesday

- 1.00 – 2.30** General rehearsal/workshop – *All*
- 3.00 for 4.00** Choral Evensong – *All*
- 5.30 for 6.30** Bread for the World – *Half*

The term dates for the 2024-2025 academic year are:

- Autumn** Monday 30th September – Wednesday 27th November – 9 weeks
(inclusive, plus some December commitments – see below)
- Spring** Monday 20th January – Wednesday 9th April 2025 *(inclusive)* – 12 weeks
- Summer** Monday 5th May – Wednesday 2nd July 2024 *(inclusive)* – 9 weeks

There are also occasional events outside the normal schedule – lunchtime and evening concerts, services with our junior choir, broadcasts, trips and additional services – for which the Choral Scholars will be required. This generally numbers between 4 and 6 per term.

This includes two December commitments, both of which are high profile significant events in the life of St Martin's: the **Community Carol Service**, and a **Christmas concert**. Scholars will be notified of these additional dates in writing before the start of each scholarship term.

St Martin's has been moving to a hybrid model of in-person and online worship. Many 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.

Honorarium

Choral Scholars receive a remuneration of **£3250 per annum** paid in three equal instalments at the end of each term.

Choral Scholars are allowed to be absent from up to four services (or standalone rehearsals or other events) per term with no money deducted from their Choral Scholarship, providing these dates are agreed in advance in writing. Suitable deputies will be organised by the Music Department and a deduction will be made 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.

Our ambition is to work together to promote a more inclusive environment, which attracts all candidates and signals our commitment to celebrate and promote diversity. We particularly encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented within choral music.

To apply

Please complete the application form and send, along with a current CV, by email to Alicia Hill, Music Programme Manager at alicia.hill@smitf.org by **Tuesday 21st May** at the latest.

Auditions will take place during the following times:

- Friday 31st May, 10-1pm
- Sunday 2nd June, 4-6pm
- Friday 7th June, 2-6pm
- Monday 10th June, 2-4.30pm