



Information for Applicants for Music Scholarships 2025-26

(Pages 1 to 3 for singing scholarships and pages 3 to 5 for organ scholarship)

Refer www.sjp.org.uk for details about St James's

Singing Scholarships – 4 scholarships each worth £2800 pa. The scholarships will be paid in 4-monthly installments. These may be of particular interest to students currently studying and so payments will be made in termly installments.

We are looking to appoint 4 singers for the academic year October 2025-July 2026, applications are invited from Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses.

Singers should show ease and competence in singing traditional liturgical choral music and leading the singing of hymns and psalms. St James's Church uses a wide range of different musical styles which singers should be prepared to learn and take part in from time to time.

Singers should be good sight-readers and should be able to hold a vocal line alone. Previous singing or choral experience is essential. Singers should be fluent readers of the written word.

Successful candidates will be given training as liturgical Cantor, leading Responsorial Psalms and other Eucharistic music.

Singing Scholars will be encouraged to develop their skills as instrumentalists, conductors and composers.

Duties

Singing Scholars will be required to sing at rehearsals and services as directed by the Director of Music. This will normally involve singing at 44 Sunday morning service and 10 Sunday afternoon/evening services in the year and main church Festivals including All Souls Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Midnight Mass, Christmas Day Morning, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Day services and our Patronal Festival. There is a weekly Eucharist on Tuesday Evening; each Singing Scholar will be required to sing at approximately 6 of these. Rehearsals will generally take place immediately before services. Services will involve singing solos, in ensembles with other singing scholars, and chorally with both amateurs and professionals. If you are unavailable for a particular date, you will be financially responsible for your deputy.

It is anticipated that Singing and Organ scholars will take featured roles in two or three concerts in the church during the year.

Essential Skills

Have strong, developed singing voice of a quality to inspire and lead the church congregation.

Experience in singing in choirs.

Have strong sight-singing skills.

Able to hold their own vocal line in harmonically and rhythmically complex music.

Able to sing in time and in tune.

Have a strong and clear speaking voice and be able to communicate effectively.

Able to demonstrate their enthusiasm for music in church.

Desirable Skills

Experience in singing in choirs to a high level.

A vocal quality of range and flexibility to adapt to different musical styles and choral sound.

Proficiency on one or more musical instruments from any tradition.

Skills as a musical leader.

Experience in conducting vocal and instrumental groups.

It is important that we are representative of people and communities from across society. We actively welcome applications from people who are currently underrepresented in our

community including people with global majority heritage, people with lived experience of poverty and people who identify as LGBTQ+.

Candidates do not need to identify as Christian or belong to a religious faith, however we are looking for candidates who connect with St James's ethos and values.

Auditions

Auditions will be held in person at St James's Church, Piccadilly between Thursday 3rd July and Saturday 5th July 2025. Candidates should bring a prepared solo song with piano accompaniment and they will be given tests including sight-singing, aural, and improvisation.

Applications

St James's scholarship application form to be completed refer www.sjp.org.uk/music-scholarships You are welcome to include a CV however the application form is essential for the scholarship application process - it includes a section regarding your personal statement.

Closing date for applications 2pm Friday, 27th June 2025.

Refer www.sjp.org.uk for information about St James's Church, Piccadilly.

Organ Scholarship – 1 scholarships worth £2800 pa. The scholarship will be paid in 4-monthly installments. This may be of particular interest to students currently studying and so payments will be made in termly installments.

We are looking to appoint 1 organ scholar for the academic year October 2025-July 2026.

Candidates should show ease and competence in playing solos and accompanying singers in traditional liturgical music but additionally should be able to embrace a wide range of musical styles and genre and be comfortable with playing the piano.

Candidates should be good sight-readers.

Successful candidates will be offered experience in acting as music director and lead accompanist.

Instrumental Scholars will be encouraged to develop their skills as singers, conductors and composers.

Duties

The Organ Scholar will be required to play at rehearsals and services as directed by the Director of Music. This will normally involve 30 services on Sunday morning and Sunday Choral Evensong in the year and main church Festivals including All Souls Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Midnight Mass, Christmas Day Morning, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Day services and our Patronal Festival. Some commitment is envisaged for weekday services. Rehearsals will generally take place immediately before services. Services will involve playing solos, in ensembles with the other instrumental scholar and other instrumentalists both amateur and professional, and accompanying singers.

It is anticipated that the Singing and Organ scholars will take featured roles in two or three concerts in the church during the year.

Essential Skills

Have strong, developed skills on the organ and competence on the piano
Experience in playing in music ensembles and accompanying choirs and soloists.
Have strong sight-reading skills.
Able to play rhythmically and accurately.
Have a strong and clear speaking voice and be able to communicate effectively.
Able to demonstrate their enthusiasm for music in Christian worship.

Desirable Skills

Experience in playing in music groups or ensembles to a high level.
A wide range and flexibility of skills to adapt to different musical styles and instrumental sounds.
Proficiency in singing.
Skills as a musical leader.
Experience in conducting vocal and instrumental groups.

It is important that we are representative of people and communities from across society. We actively welcome applications from people who are currently underrepresented in our community including people with global majority heritage, people with lived experience of poverty and people who identify as LGBTQ+.

Candidates do not need to identify as Christian or belong to a religious faith, however we are looking for candidates who connect with St James's ethos and values.

Auditions

Auditions will be held in person at St Pancras Church, Euston Road from Thursday 3rd July to Saturday 5th July 2025. Candidates should bring a prepared solo organ piece and they will be given tests including sight-reading, transposition and improvisation.

Applications

St James's scholarship application form to be completed refer www.sjp.org.uk/music-scholarships You are welcome to include a CV however the application form is essential for the scholarship application process - it includes a section regarding your personal statement.

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