

Information for Applicants for Music Scholarships 2026-27

(pages 1 to 3 for singing scholarships and
pages 3 to 5 for instrumental scholarships)

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

19 June 2026

Singing Scholarships – 4 scholarships each worth £3000pa. The scholarships will be paid in three instalments. These may be of particular interest to students currently studying and so payments will be made in termly instalments.

We are looking to appoint 4 singers for the academic year October 2026-July 2027, 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, Ascension Day and our Patronal Festival. There is a weekly Eucharist on Tuesday Evening; each Singing Scholar will be required to sing at approximately 4 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 Instrumental 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 Tuesday, 21st July and Saturday, 25th July, 2026. Invited 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/about-music-arts-ideas/music-scholars/

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, Wednesday 15th July 2026

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

Instrumental Scholarships – 2 scholarships each worth £1500 pa. The scholarship will be paid in three instalments. This may be of particular interest to students currently studying and so payments will be made in termly instalments.

We are looking to appoint 2 instrumental scholar for the academic year October 2026-July 2027.

All instruments will be considered but preference for one of the scholarships will be given to a player of a brass or wind instrument. Facility on more than one instrument, especially of different instrument groups e.g. Trumpet and Flute, Violin and Piano, will be considered an advantage.

Instrumentalists 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.

Instrumentalists should be good sight-readers. Previous experience playing in ensembles with singers is desirable.

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

Duties

Instrumental Scholars will be expected to play at rehearsals and services as directed by the Director of Music. This will normally involve 15 Sunday morning 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, Ascension Day and our Patronal Festival (Sunday, 25th July, 2027). 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 Instrumental scholars will take featured roles in two or three concerts in the church during the year.

Essential Skills

Have strong, developed skills on one or more musical instruments.

Experience in playing in music groups or ensembles.

Have strong sight-reading skills.

Able to hold their own instrumental part in harmonically and rhythmically complex music.

Able to play rhythmically and, where appropriate, in tune.

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 James's Church, Piccadilly between Tuesday, 21st July and Saturday, 25th July, 2026. Invited candidates should bring a prepared solo organ piece and they will be given tests including aural, sight-reading, and improvisation.

Applications

St James's scholarship application form to be completed refer

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