



Choral Training Bursaries

St John's Church is delighted to announce the launch of a new bursary scheme for young singers between the ages of 14 and 21 in full time education (or undertaking a "gap" year prior to University"). There is a strong and thriving choral tradition at this historic church where four bursaries of £250 per annum are available by short audition.

Background

St John's Church, Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the four ancient churches of the city. Music has been central to its worship for well over one hundred years and it boasts a fine choir with a repertoire ranging from Plainsong to contemporary music. Modelled on the English Cathedral tradition, at the centre of our worship each week is the main Sunday service of Choral Eucharist-that is one in which the choir alone sings the Office of Holy Communion (unlike the vast majority of choirs in the region who favour a simpler congregational setting). Within Newcastle upon Tyne, St John's is one of only two choirs that affords the opportunity to sing such services each week.

Bursaries

- The awards are currently worth £250 per annum and it is intended that successful applicants will use this to offset (in whole or in part) the cost of singing tuition with a tutor of their choice.
- Recipients of the Training Bursaries will join the choir of St John's and would sing with them and join them in the weekly services during School or University term time (as applicable).
- The normal pattern of Sunday service is 10am Mass (9am rehearsal) each week and Choral Evensong on one Sunday per month. There are short sectional rehearsals when necessary, arranged to be as mutually convenient as possible.

The Choir

We are a thriving choir encompassing a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Our broad repertoire contains over thirty settings of the Eucharist includes all three Byrd Masses and others by Haydn, Palestrina and Howells to make mention on only a fraction. We have an impressive range of Evensong settings and a repertoire of over 100 anthems. The choir performs to a high standard at least once a week. There are frequent opportunities for members of the choir to sing solos in addition to their work with the full choir. The frequency of our services means that those joining our choir all strengthen their fundamental skills- all new entrants to the choir find that their sight reading in particular improves exponentially in the first year of their membership. Particular mention must be made of our "special services" such as the Advent and Christmas Carol services and the chances to sing larger scale music in joint services with other choirs. In addition we make regular trips further afield to sing in some of the UK's most outstanding churches (in 2011/2012 the Choir of St John's has been invited to sing services in Durham and Chester Cathedral). For further details please see the attached leaflet.

If this is of interest and you would like to join us, please contact the Director of Music, Charles Wooler on 07970 470 143 or charleswooler@hotmail.com by **15th October 2011**. Please note that Charles is always willing to hear from potential singers even if they do not wish to apply for a Choral Training Bursary.