St John the Divine, Kennington

Organ Scholar 2016-17

Aims & Outcomes

The aim of the Organ Scholarship is to provide a supported development opportunity for an aspiring young church musician.

By the end of the year the Organ Scholar will:

\* Have developed skills in the rehearsal and performance of church music

\* Have become part of a highly professional church music team

\* Undertake the preparation, rehearsal and direction and/or playing for a Sunday morning Parish Mass.

\* Be ready and prepared to take the next step in working as a church musician (e.g. to apply for a cathedral or university Organ Scholarship)

Role & Responsibilities

The Organ Scholar will be responsible to the Organist & Director of Music.

The Organ Scholar will be given the opportunity to participate in and contribute to:

\* Weekly Sunday morning 10am Parish Mass and preceding rehearsal

\* One of the weekday rehearsals and/or services for boys, girls, or chamber choirs

\* Sunday afternoon Evensong & Benediction as required, plus carol services

\* Services for major feasts, including Christmas and Easter

\* Cathedral trips and children’s choirs summer residential course

The tasks and duties of the organ scholar will be tailored toward developing individual strengths and widening their skills.  These may include some of the following as appropriate:

\* Liturgical playing

\* Accompanying in rehearsal and services

\* Rehearsing adult and children’s choirs

\* Conducting in services

\* Singing with the adult choir

\* Assisting with managing the choir library

\* Setting up and preparing ahead of rehearsals and services

\* Administration

\* Attending staff meetings as required

\* Composing and/or arranging

\* Assisting members of the music team as directed by the DoM

The Organ Scholar will receive appropriate help, support and guidance in these tasks from members of the music team.

The Organ Scholar will be supervised directly by the DoM and they will have no less than 3 supervision meetings per term.

For any non-contracted services for which the Organ Scholar may play, (e.g. weddings, funerals, memorial services etc) the appropriate fee will be paid.  An additional fee will also be paid at times when the Organ Scholar is the sole musician (e.g. when the DoM and choir are on holiday).

Reasonable absences can be arranged in advance with the DoM.

Remuneration & Benefits

Stipend - £2000 p/a, to be paid each term or monthly by arrangement

Further allowance - £500 budget available – to be used for external day courses (e.g. RCO and RSCM), or towards regular lessons etc

Financial support for cathedral trips and annual children’s choirs summer residential course (travel and accommodation)

Coaching under the guidance of the DoM in:

\* Accompanying

\* Choral conducting

\* Liturgical extemporisation

\* Composing and arranging

Skills and Qualities

Candidates for the organ scholarship will be able to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

\* Organ playing to approximately grade 7 or 8 standard

\* Some experience of playing for church services

\* Willingness to work with children

\* Ability to take instruction

\* Be able to demonstrate initiative

\* Enthusiasm for working as a church musician

\* Ability to work in a team with musicians, clergy and volunteers

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure

Summary

St John the Divine is committed to the development of church music and musicians, and sees the organ scholarship as a post that will both strengthen the choral tradition in the parish and also give a young aspirational organist the opportunity to flourish as a church musician. Within an existing staff team of three, the organ scholar will have ample opportunity to learn and develop, with sufficient space and support to reflect and grow.

1st June 2016