

Director of Music | Job Profile

Nottingham Cathedral, within the Diocese of Nottingham, is looking to recruit an outstanding Director of Music to continue the development of our Music Foundation.

Job Description

A key member of the Cathedral staff team, the Director of Music will be responsible to the Cathedral Dean for the management and provision of music at the Cathedral, including, but not limited to:

- The planning and preparation for music at all Diocesan and Cathedral Parish liturgies.
- Working with the Cathedral Dean and Diocesan colleagues to ensure major Diocesan celebrations are supported musically, particularly around Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.
- Leading services for users external to the Cathedral, such as special Masses, weddings and funerals.
- The recruitment and training Cathedral Choir members, including cantors and Choral Scholars, to profile high quality choral music rooted deeply within the Catholic liturgy.
- Working closely with colleagues to develop the Music Foundation of Nottingham Cathedral built on the Youth Choir and provide opportunities for young singers to grow in confidence and expertise.
- Develop the current outreach work of the Cathedral through work with local schools and music organisations in the city.
- Explore opportunities to develop the work of the Cathedral Choir, through concerts and workshops.
- Undertaking line management responsibilities for the Assistant Director of Music and Cathedral Organist, as well as supervising the activities of all other musicians.
- Preparing and publishing regular music lists.
- Ensuring the Music Department website is kept up to date.
- Contributing to the Cathedral Music Blog and Newsletter to provide up to date information about the activities of the Music Department.

Person Specification

- Highly qualified, versatile, professional musician with experience in choral leadership
- Good knowledge of Catholic Liturgical Music, including Gregorian Chant
- A team player with an enthusiastic, positive and inclusive approach to music-making
- Ambition and energy to develop high standards of music-making
- Experience of working with young people
- Excellent interpersonal skills and confidence in communicating with people of all ages
- Educated to degree level or equivalent in any subject (but should have music qualifications)
- Understanding of best practice in safeguarding children
- Ability to prioritise and manage time efficiently and to work flexibly
- Excellent, reliable administrative skills
- Ability to work independently when required, to take initiative
- Sensitive to the Christian ethos and worship of the Catholic Church. Applications are also welcome from non-Catholics

Some experience as an organist would be welcome but is not a specific requirement of the post.

The Music Department

The **Assistant Director of Music** was appointed in September 2017 initially as our Youth Choir Director but reappointed as our Assistant Director of Music since January 2019. They work closely with the Director of Music in cultivating the young talent within our Cathedral Youth Choir and in our work with Nottingham Music Hub, delivering singing workshops in city schools and running the Robin Hood Youth Choir for the Hub, based at the Cathedral.

The **Cathedral Organist** was appointed in September 2019 and is our primary Organist for major services as well as accompanist for the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Youth Choir.

The **Organist Emeritus** has been an integral part of the Music Department for over 30 years and plays for our Sunday 10am Mass as well as for non-choral Masses throughout the year.

Various members of the Cathedral Admin Team provide administrative support to the Music Department as required.

The successful candidate will succeed Alex Patterson, who leaves the post in June 2020.

Cathedral Choirs

Nottingham Cathedral Choir is a combination of auditioned, local singers and our Choral Scholars. They rehearse each Friday from 7.30-9pm and sing for the 11.15am Solemn Mass each Sunday, occasional Choral Vespers and major Diocesan events. Plainsong remains at the core of our liturgy, complemented by a wide ranging choral repertoire, from Hildegard of Bingen and music by the great Renaissance masters (Palestrina, Lassus, Byrd, etc.) through to Haydn, Mozart, and Schubert, and French music by Duruflé, Fauré and Widor, through to Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Britten and contemporary music by Becky McGlade, Cecilia McDowall, Howard Skempton and Amy Summers.

In addition to performing music to enhance the liturgy, the Cathedral Choir maintains a lively concert schedule throughout the year. Recent highlights have included J.S. Bach's *St John Passion* and *Mass in B Minor*, *Spem in Alium*, the 40-part motet by Tallis, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. They have recorded numerous CDs and have toured overseas.

The Cathedral Youth Choir rehearses on Fridays from 6-7pm and currently comprises over 30 children and young people aged 7-18 who sing together in a fun and relaxed musical atmosphere. They sing a range of music and led the music for Sunday 6pm Masses, usually once a month, as well as joining with the Cathedral Choir for major occasions. They also give their own concerts. Their most recent was at Lincoln Cathedral, and in June 2018, they joined with the Cathedral Choir to provide roles in the community opera, *Tobias and the Angel*, by Jonathan Dove and David Lan. The Senior Youth Choir rehearse from 5-6pm on Fridays to sing more challenging repertoire.

For more information about the Cathedral Choirs please visit:

www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com

Organ

The Organ, a large 3-manual 1913 Norman and Beard, has been well maintained and is in good order (though slightly under pitch). The specification is given on our website. The Director of Music will have free access to the Organ at suitable times for practice and teaching purposes (if required).

The Cathedral Hall is used regularly for ABRSM exams and is home to two upright pianos and a good quality seven-foot grand piano.

Weekend Schedule

Friday

5 – 5.50pm	Senior Youth Choir rehearsal (Hall)
6 – 7pm	Youth Choir rehearsal (Hall)
7.30 – 9pm	Cathedral Choir rehearsal (Hall/Cathedral)

Saturday

6.30pm	Vigil Mass (hymns only, played by volunteer organists or Organist Emeritus)
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Sunday

8am	Mass (said, no music)
9.30am	Parish Singers rehearsal (taken by the Organist Emeritus)
10am	Parish Mass (played by the Organist Emeritus)
10.15 – 10.55am	Cathedral Choir rehearsal (Hall)
11.15am	Sung Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)
1 – 1.30pm	Song Recital (during term time)
5 – 5.50pm	Rehearsal
6pm	Mass (choral duties on rota between Choral Scholars, Youth Choir, & Music Group)

The Cathedral Choirs sing from September through to July each year and have a short break for up to two weeks after Christmas and Easter. During the choir's absence, the 11.15am Solemn Mass is animated by a cantor, with organ accompaniment.

Contract

This is a permanent position, starting in July 2020, or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful applicant will be subject to a probationary period of six months.

The salary for the position is £28,500 (pro rata) per annum, payable monthly. This is a part time post, with the successful candidate expected to work 16 hours per week.

Additional fees will be available for directing weddings, funerals and additional services throughout the year. No accommodation will be provided by the Cathedral.

How to apply

To apply for this position, please send the following:

- Your **CV**
- A **covering letter** detailing how your skills and experience match the requirements of the post
- Details of **two referees** (name, telephone number, postal address and email address), including a musician of professional standing. Referees will only be contacted if you are shortlisted for the post.

All applications should be sent to Alison Lokes (Music Administrator) musicatthecathedral@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 17 April 2020, 12 noon

An enhanced DBS check will be required for this role.