**Organ Scholar**

**The Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral** seek to appoint an Organ Scholar for a fixed term of one academic year, starting in September 2026 and ending August 2027. They will play a key role in the Cathedral Music Department, working closely with Adrian Partington (Director of Music), Jonathan Hope (Assistant Director of Music), Nia Llewelyn Jones (Assistant Conductor) and Helena Downton (Music Department Manager). The post is open to gap year or postgraduate organists of exceptional ability.

**Duties**

The Organ Scholar will play for Evensong every Thursdays and other weekdays as required; in addition, they will play the organ or direct the Cathedral Choir as necessary, when the Director of Music or the Assistant Director of Music is away. They will also play for many of the special services which take place in the Cathedral, for which additional fees are paid (see remuneration details below).

The Organ Scholar will be fully involved with the training of both Boy and Girl Choristers, Trinity Singers, St. Benedict’s Singers and Junior Choir.

They will also be expected to help with the general administration of the music department, to attend a weekly meeting on each Wednesday morning, and to assist other members of the department with chorister chaperoning.

The Organ Scholar will be required to work during the academic term (and not during school holidays) and will have one day off each week : every Friday.

**Gloucester Cathedral Choir**

Today’s choir is the successor to the choir of boys and monks of the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter, who sang for daily worship nine centuries ago. The choir of today stems from that established by Henry VIII in 1539, and now consists of 16 boy choristers, 16 girl choristers, and 9 lay clerks.

The choir plays a major part in the internationally renowned Three Choirs Festival, the world’s oldest Music Festival, which dates back to 1715. This is held annually in Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford in rotation. The Festival in 2027 will be held in Worcester. See [www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org) for more details.

In addition to the main work of the daily Cathedral services, the choir receives many invitations for outside engagements.

**Gloucester Cathedral Boy and Girl Choristers (age 7-13 years)**

The boy and girl choristers attend the King’s School, and sing the majority of the services alongside the adult members of the choir.

**Gloucester Cathedral Trinity Singers (14-18 years)**

Gloucester Cathedral Trinity Singers was founded in 1999 as the Cathedral Youth Choir, and consists of girls and boys from across Gloucestershire. Directed by the Director of Music, the choir rehearses on Monday evenings and sings Evensong every Thursday. The Trinity Singers also join with the Cathedral Choir for services on the major festivals of the church year. The Organ Scholar is accompanist to the TS.

**Gloucester Cathedral St. Benedict’s Singers (9-14 years)**

The St Benedict’s singers (formerly known as the Cathedral Middle Choir) was founded in September 2019. The SBS sings Saturday Evensongs every week, and at certain other regular services. The Choir is directed by the Assistant Conductor.

**Gloucester Cathedral Junior Choir (6-9 years)**
The Organ Scholar is accompanist to the Cathedral’s Junior Choir, which is conducted by the Assistant Conductor. The Junior Choir rehearses on Saturday mornings (term-time only).

**Junior Voices Project (JVP)/Teenage Voices (TVP)**
The Cathedral’s Junior and Teenage Voices Projects will involve the Organ Scholar in visiting three local schools per term, as part of the Cathedral’s programme of outreach. The Assistant Conductor (JVP) or Director of Music (TVP) arrange and lead these initiatives, and the Organ Scholar is the accompanist for these visits. Four visits are paid per term to each school and culminate in a concert in the cathedral.

***Owing to the work stated above, safeguarding training (provided by the Diocese of Gloucester) will need to be undertaken and successfully completed, to gain an advanced understanding of working with young people and vulnerable adults.***

**Accommodation and remuneration**

The Organ Scholar receives a salary of £6,000 per annum this is payable in arrears in monthly instalments.

Accommodation, including all utilities is provided for the Organ Scholar within the Cathedral Green.

There is also the opportunity to earn a considerable amount from fees for the many special services that take place in the Cathedral.

**Freelance work**

It is recognised that the successful candidate will wish to pursue freelance engagements outside his/her work at the Cathedral, and there is ample opportunity in the local area to do so. Cathedral engagements and rehearsals must take precedence and outside engagements must be discussed with the Director of Music.

In the past, the Organ Scholar has held the role of organist for the King’s School, Gloucester. This role is outside of the Organ Scholar’s Cathedral remit, and separate renumeration would be available for this role.

**APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 ENTRY**

Applicants should complete the application form and submit to recruitment@glosdioc.org.uk to arrive by 9am on Friday, 26th September 2025***.*** Auditions and interviews for shortlisted candidates will be on Friday, 3rd October 2025. Rehearsal time will be allocated for all shortlisted candidates on the evening of Thursday, 2nd October**.**

Invited candidates will be auditioned as follows.

1. ***Playing:***
* two contrasting pieces (one of which must be a movement by J. S. Bach)
* the Magnificat from Noble in B minor
* candidates will be asked to demonstrate skills of sightreading, improvisation and simple transposition
1. ***Interview***
* a 20-minute interview with the Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Assistant Conductor and a member of the Cathedral Clergy.

Reasonable travel and one-night hotel accommodation expenses will be considered for attendance at audition.

Please do not hesitate to email Helena Bibby, HR Advisor, for further information. Email: hbibby@glosdioc.org.uk

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attributes** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| General | The successful candidate will:* have knowledge of the Church of England’s teachings, musical traditions and practices
* be sympathetic to the ethos of the Cathedral’s mission within the City and Diocese of Gloucester
 |  |
| Qualifications and Training | The successful candidate will:* have studied the organ for at least 2 years
* got to a standard of Grade 8 organ and preferably passed the Grade 8 exam
 | * have completed ARCO or an equivalent qualification
 |
| Experience | The successful candidate will:* have experience of playing the organ for choral services
* have experience of working with and training young singers
* have experience of being a rehearsal pianist
* have some knowledge of the breadth of repertoire in the Anglican choral tradition
 | * have experience of working with amateur singers
 |
| Knowledge, skills and abilities | The successful candidate will: * be a team player
* have an ability to enthuse young children
* be able to prioritise workload effectively
* be an efficient user of Microsoft Office and Sibelius software
 |  |
| Personal Qualities | The successful candidate will:* demonstrate a respect for the different musical genres and breadth of churchmanship required in the Cathedral Music Department
* have a willingness to actively contribute to a forward-thinking music department
* show calmness under pressure, and be able to problem-solve
* be willing to take instructions and advice
* show commitment to personal and professional development
 |  |

*The appointment of the successful candidate is subject to an enhanced DBS check*