



CHORAL SCHOLAR

TEWKESBURY ABBEY SCHOLA CANTORUM and DEAN CLOSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, CHELTENHAM CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP

For Counter-Tenor, Tenor or Bass Voice

Fixed Term September 2015 – August 2016

The Choir

Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum, the choir of men and boys which sings the weekday services in the Abbey, was formed in September 2006 when The Abbey School, Tewkesbury closed. The boy choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum are educated at Dean Close Preparatory School, which is a full member of The Choir Schools' Association.

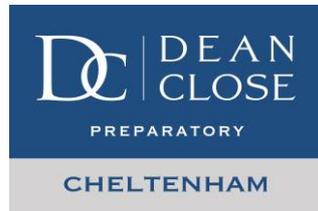
Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum enjoys a busy schedule of engagements. The choir has undertaken regular live Radio 3 broadcasts and international tours. It has also sung in performances of Bach's St Matthew Passion in Gloucester Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey, Mahler's 3rd Symphony, Bach's St John Passion and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. In addition to regular concerts in the Abbey, the choir appears regularly at the Pittville Pump Rooms in Cheltenham.

The choir tours abroad frequently; engagements abroad have included concerts in Italy (including performances in Venice), Germany (to the monks at Neresheim), the USA (including St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York), France (Paris and the Alps), and the Netherlands this coming summer

The discography of the choir includes discs for Delphian, Guild, Hyperion, Naxos, Priory, Regent and Signum. At the heart of the choir's work is the service of Evensong, sung on weekdays, at 5.30pm, in Tewkesbury Abbey. The choir's repertoire is large ranging from motets by John Sheppard and Thomas Tallis to masses by Mozart and anthems by James MacMillan and John Tavener. For further information of the choir's work, please visit: www.scholacantorum.org.uk and www.deanclose.co.uk/prep/choristers.asp

The Choral Scholar

The Choral Scholar sings with the Lay Clerks (the professional altos, tenors and basses of the choir) at the Abbey. Previous holders of the post have gone on to St John's, Trinity and Kings Colleges at Cambridge and New College, Oxford, or on to post-graduate studies at music college. The Choral Scholar will have time for their own individual singing practice, and also help with junior chorister rehearsals every morning. The Choral Scholar will be responsible for the choir library. The choristers rehearse in the Song School at Dean Close, and the full choir rehearses in the Abbey prior to each service. The most important aspect of the choir's work is the day to day singing of Evensong (on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), although there are concerts and special services on some weekends. The Abbey's Parish Choir sings the services on a Sunday and at Christmas and Easter.



The School

The Choral Scholar will join the team of gap students in the prep school (there is a team of up to ten 'gappers' each year). The Choral Scholar will exercise an important pastoral role over the choristers, alongside the Chorister tutor and Schola Cantorum manager, Jane Lyons. This involves liaising with staff across the school and chaperoning the choristers at the Abbey and on the chorister bus. They will also have a particular responsibility to the prep school music department and will work under the direction of the Director of Music. The Choral Scholar role is also known as "Music Gapper" which involves various musical and administrative tasks, support of concerts and utilising any musical skills or interests that they may have. The successful candidate will be expected to take part in daily life at DCPS, from duties to lesson support and he will be available to the Boarding Housemaster and Deputy Headmaster to assist with various duties, although never in conflict with choir commitments. The Choral Scholar will also, from time to time, sing with the senior school choirs.

Music Staff

Mr Tim McVittie is currently Director of Music at Dean Close Preparatory School. He is also a professional singer and performs with many ensembles. Mr Simon Bell is Director of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum. He was formerly Assistant Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral, having also held posts at Southwell Minster and Westminster Abbey. The Choristers' Singing Teacher is Mr Ben Sawyer, a highly respected singing teacher. He is available to teach the Choral Scholar, should that be appropriate.

The Post

We are looking for a candidate who displays excellent potential as a singer and who also has a willingness to immerse themselves in the life of Dean Close Preparatory School. This is a fixed term post and runs from September 2015 to August 2016, although official duties rarely go beyond July. The Choral Scholar will be expected to sing and travel with the choir on any tours that may take place during the year. Accommodation and food are provided during term time. The post requires a full commitment during term time. There are substantial holidays at Christmas and Easter and over exeat weekends, although occasionally there will be choir commitments at these times. This post attracts a salary circa £9600

Application Process

Dean Close School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Completed application forms and a CV, together with a covering letter should be returned to:

HR Manager, Dean Close School, Shelburne Road, Cheltenham, GL51 6HE.

Tel 01242 258086, Email: hr@deanclose.org.uk by 12.00pm on the closing date.

Closing Date: 12.00pm noon Friday 7 November 2014.

Interviews and auditions will be held on Wednesday 19th November 2014

If you would like an informal conversation about this post, please contact Simon Bell (Director of Choral Music & Director of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum). He can be reached by phone (01242 258091/ 258000) or email (sabell@deanclose.org.uk).