

THE YORK ORATORY OF ST PHILIP NERI

St Wilfrid's Catholic Church, Duncombe Place

Choral Scholarships

The newly-formed York Oratory is seeking to appoint four choral scholars (SATB) from January 2020. This is an excellent opportunity for young singers looking to develop their experience and confidence with church music in a one-to-a-part choir. In the course of the scholarship, singers can expect to gain experience of a wide range of sacred music, including Gregorian chant, polyphony, classical mass settings and other repertoire up to the early twentieth century.

The Oratorian contribution to the history of sacred music began during the lifetime of St Philip Neri in Rome in the 16th Century. The great Renaissance composers Palestrina and Victoria knew St Philip and provided music for the early Oratorian meetings. The Oratory was brought to the English-speaking world by St John Henry Newman. Newman was a gifted musician and hymn writer, and his poetry has continued to inspire works by major composers (including Elgar's masterpiece *The Dream of Gerontius*). It is a great privilege to be a part of a tradition with such an illustrious history.

Successful applicants will receive £1,300 per annum. In return they will be expected to commit to the following:

A weekly rehearsal of 90 minutes (at a time convenient to all)

Sunday: 10:30 rehearsal followed by 12:00 Latin High Mass

16:00 Latin Vespers & Benediction (usually preceded by a short rehearsal)

Occasional midweek Masses and Musical Oratorios

Occasional weddings and funerals (these are paid extra to the scholarship)

There are 10 Sundays per term. Choral Scholars are not required at Christmas, but must be available during Holy Week and Easter (Palm Sunday to Easter Day inclusive), even if this falls during Spring Break. A certain amount of flexibility is necessary regarding rehearsals and services.

The appointment is initially for two terms (pro rata payment), with a possibility for renewal. Applicants should be in full-time or part-time education, but not necessarily studying music. The positions are open to non-Catholics.

Please direct expressions of interest to the Master of Music, Dr John Ridgeway-Wood (john@jr-w.me.uk), by Friday, 3rd January, 2020. Auditions will take place at the Oratory on the 9th & 10th January.