

THE YORK ORATORY



St Wilfrid's Catholic Church, Duncombe Place

Choral Scholarships 2021-2

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, Animuccia, and Victoria knew St Philip and provided music for the early Oratorian meetings.

In the nineteenth century the Oratory was brought to England by St John Henry Newman, the founder of the Oratory in Birmingham. 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*.

Since 2019 the York Oratory is established as the fifth English Oratory, the others being Birmingham, London, Oxford, and Manchester. We maintain the Oratorian tradition of excellence in liturgical music, and to this end we are looking to appoint four Choral Scholars (SATB) from October 2021. The repertoire ranges from Gregorian chant, through polyphony and the Viennese School, to the early 20th Century. These positions are open to non-Catholics, but a respect for Catholic teaching and tradition is essential.

Each scholarship is worth £1,300 per annum and the duties are as follows:

- A weekly rehearsal of 90 minutes (at a time convenient to all)
- Sunday: 10:30 rehearsal
- 12 noon sung Latin Mass
- 4pm Latin Vespers & Benediction (preceded by a short rehearsal)
- Occasional mid-week services

There are three terms of 10 weeks. Choral Scholars are not expected to stay at Christmas, but must be available during Holy Week and Easter (Palm Sunday to Easter Day inclusive). Auditions are expected to be held during the first week of the new academic year.

For more details please contact the Master of Music, Dr John Ridgeway-Wood:

music@yorkoratory.com ; 07511 618929