

Job Description

Job Title: Organ Scholarship

Department: Music **Salary:** £22,176 per annum

Line Manager: Organist

The job description is an operational document that does not form part of the contract of employment.

It may be that from time to time an individual is expected to perform tasks that may not be expressly in the job description but are nonetheless necessary in the day to day performance of their duties.

St Paul's Cathedral reserves the right to amend the job description as may from time to time be necessary to meet the changing needs of the organisation.

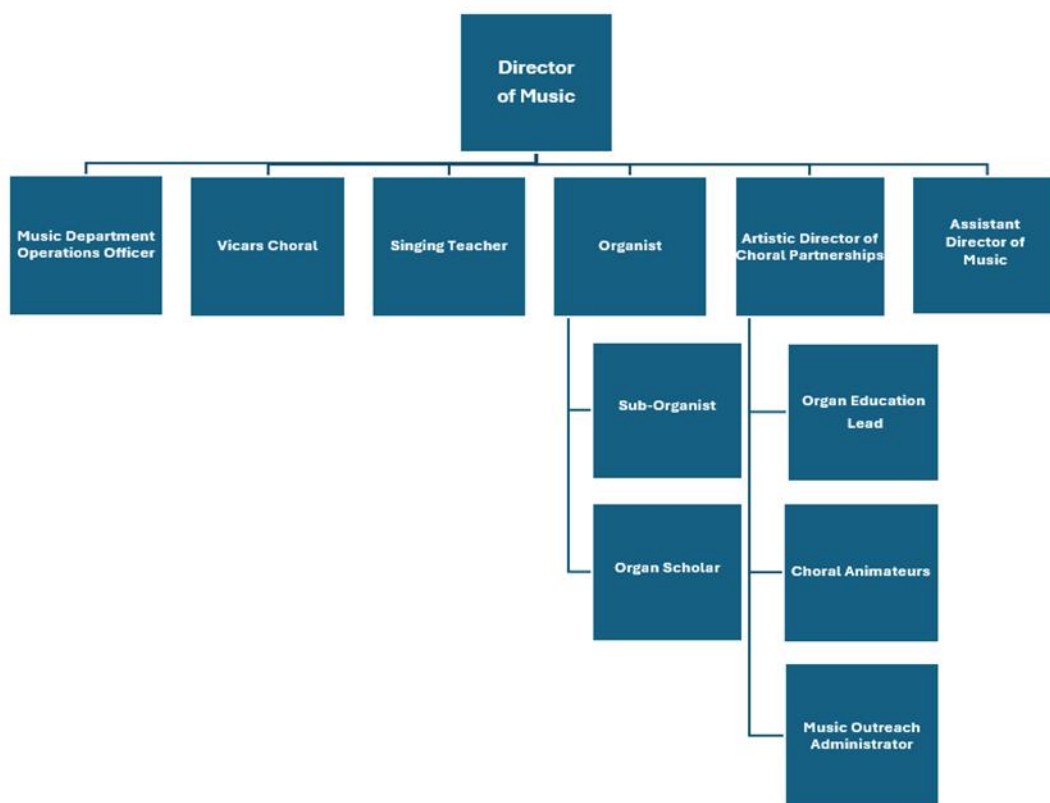
The Music Department

Worship, liturgy and music are central to the life of St Paul's Cathedral, whose core purpose is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

The Cathedral Choir currently consists of a top line of Choristers and a team of 12 Vicars Choral. Through the ambitious Girls Voices Programme, which was launched in September 2023, the Cathedral are aiming to create the world's largest and busiest choral programme, with two top lines, one of girls and one of boys, working separately but coming together for various important or historic services and events.

Music is one of four departments (alongside Liturgy, Virgins and Special Events) which fall under the Precentor's Directorate. The Precentor is a member of the Executive Leadership Team and is also a Chapter member with responsibility for this area of work.

Department Structure



The Organs

The Cathedral has five pipe-organs.

The Grand Organ is generally considered to be one of the finest instruments in the world. It began life in 1694, when ‘Father’ Bernard Smith built an organ that occupied a screen in the Quire. In 1872, ‘Father’ Henry Willis completed what was essentially a new instrument for the Cathedral. The original Wren case was divided in half, modified, and placed against the pillars supporting the Dome on either side of the Quire, where it remains today. Numerous additions and alterations were made to this instrument throughout the first two-thirds of the twentieth-century, particularly by Henry Willis III.

From 1972-77 N.P. Mander Ltd reconstructed the whole of the organ, preserving and returning the character of Father Willis’ organ in the Chancel, whilst also making it more versatile with the provision of a new North Choir division. The present incarnation of the Dome and West divisions also dates from then and they provide muscular support in the accompaniment of congregations, together with a number of powerful solo reed stops for dramatic effects. With careful use, the Dome Organ can also supplement the resources of the Chancel Organ in repertoire, assisting the instrument’s westward projection. In 2007-08 the organ was completely restored by Mander Organs Ltd, consolidating the work of 1972-77, but also replacing the Dome reeds and providing a second, mobile console for use under the Dome (identical to the static Quire console). The transmission system was replaced in 2017, and at the same time the opportunity was taken to rationalise the overall philosophy of the instrument, with resulting changes to the stop layout, the provision of 10000 levels of general piston memory and a playback system that enables the organists to hear their own performances from all parts of the building.

There are two other organs that are used regularly on the Cathedral floor. The 'Willis on Wheels', a two-manual mobile organ built by Henry Willis in 1881, is a masterpiece of its time. There is also a Continuo Organ built in 1997 by Kenneth Tickell.

In the crypt, an outstanding new two-manual organ by William Drake that takes its inspiration from English instruments of the 18th century was installed in St Faith's Chapel (also known as the OBE Chapel) in 2012.

In early 2024 the Cathedral will take delivery of a new bespoke practice organ made by Klop Organs which will be available for regular use by the organists in the Triforium.

Purpose of the Job

The role of Organ Scholar provides an opportunity to work alongside leading musicians in a high profile Cathedral Music Department.

The Organ Scholar

- is expected to continue the development of their musical expertise through practice, performance and observation;
- will receive advice and support in choir training and conducting, liturgical accompaniment, solo playing and improvisation;
- will have the opportunity to conduct in the Cathedral which includes working with the fully professional ensemble of Vicars Choral as well as the Choristers and the professional mixed voice Cathedral Consort;
- will become familiar with the musical and liturgical life of a great Cathedral, together with the daily routines of the musical function within that life and will have the opportunity to assist with the planning for liturgies and special services; and
- will develop team working and pastoral skills through interaction with colleagues within the Music Department and the Cathedral, and with Vicars Choral and Choristers.

Main Duties

The Organ Scholar will be expected to undertake the following duties:

- accompany the Cathedral Choir at Evensong at least once a week.
- play for some "non-choral" services - including the 5.30pm services on a Sunday.
- provide 25 minutes of music before Sunday Evensong, or before the morning services, as a prelude to the liturgies.
- provide voluntaries after some services as required.
- perform 3 recitals in the Sunday organ recital series.

- play for visiting choirs on some weekdays and on some Sundays when the Cathedral Choir is on holiday (in rotation with the other organists).
- greet visiting organists and assist them when required.
- assist the other Cathedral organists at the console for services.
- assist in the training of probationary and other choristers.
- play for Cathedral School assemblies (once a week during term time).
- share in the administrative workload of the Music Department, including typesetting of manuscripts, copying of hymn tune booklets, assisting with the administration for visiting choirs, proofreading and attendance at the weekly music department meeting.
- act as Assistant Choir Librarian (approx. 3 hours a week).

Additional Opportunities

Additional work opportunities, which are separately remunerated, are as follows:

- playing at weddings and baptisms;
- playing in short organ and choral recitals for the Corporate Events Department which take place in the evenings;
- playing at special services from time to time; and
- accompanying the St Paul's Cathedral Chorus in rehearsals.

Responsibilities

The Organ Scholar is responsible for:

- their own musical development;
- taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by this placement;
- taking a share in the administration of the music department;
- sharing in St Paul's Cathedral's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- adherence to Cathedral Safeguarding Policies and willingness to attend Safeguarding training and report any Safeguarding concerns through appropriate channels; and
- familiarity and compliance with all Cathedral policies but in particular the Cathedral's Health & Safety Policy.

Person Specification

The Cathedral Chapter are committed to finding an Organ Scholar who:

- wishes to become an exceptional performer on the organ, both as accompanist and soloist;
- has a lively interest in and proven experience of working within the English choral tradition;
- is enthusiastic about working with children;
- has an enthusiastic and positive demeanour;
- has an awareness of the rich liturgical and musical heritage of the Church of England;
- is a graduate or will be a graduate by September 2026. Exceptional final year undergraduate students may be considered;
- displays an enterprising and imaginative approach to personal musical development;
- is able to work calmly, particularly when performing at high profile, pressured occasions;
- is able to work as part of a close-knit team in the Music Department, and also engage with the wider cathedral community; and
- has experience and knowledge of safeguarding requirements and procedures.

The successful candidate will be in sympathy with, and in their work support, the Christian aims and mission of St Paul's Cathedral.