



## **Associate Choral Leader (London & Southwark)**

***September 2025 – June 2026***

This training programme offers an emerging choral conductor or vocal leader the opportunity to develop their conducting and directing skills with a small choral group of early-career singers.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Director and Assistant Director of Music at St Martin-in-the-Fields, gaining practical experience in churches across central London, including St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Stephen Walbrook, and St George the Martyr, Borough.

As part of this one and a half day a week training opportunity, the Associate Choral Leader will assist with the direction and programming of choral services, and will also take responsibility for leading a weekly service independently at St Stephen Walbrook. On Thursday afternoons and evenings, they will work closely with our St Martin-in-the-Fields Emerging Artists.

### **St Martin-in-the-Fields Emerging Artists**

The Emerging Artists Programme 2025–26 supports six early-career singers through a year of intensive training and development. A central part of St Martin's choral music life, the scheme offers participants the opportunity to grow as ensemble singers through a wide range of projects focused on consort repertoire, close harmony, orchestral collaboration, and solo performance.

Participants will work closely with Director of Music Andrew Earis and Assistant Director of Music Olivia Tait, as well as visiting professionals from across the choral sector. Rehearsals will take place at St George the Martyr in Southwark, with each session concluding with a short service of Compline, providing regular opportunities to develop liturgical and consort singing skills in a reflective setting.



### **Aims**

This training opportunity is intended for choral conductors or vocal amateurs who are in the early stages of a professional career and have a particular interest in working with early-career singers. The programme aims to provide meaningful leadership experience in a professional choral context, supporting the development of artistic and technical skills through structured, hands-on training. It is designed to help the participant grow in confidence and independence, particularly in rehearsing, directing, and inspiring small vocal ensembles, and to strengthen their ability to lead high-quality liturgical music-making.

## **Associate Choral Leader Training Programme**

As part of the training opportunity, the Associate Choral Leader will take part in a structured programme of professional development, delivered approximately six times per academic term. These sessions bring together Choral Leaders from across the UK, creating a supportive and inspiring learning environment.

Recent workshops have included:

- Conducting technique with Patrick Russill
- Working with children's voices with Laurel Neighbour
- Vocal health with Charlotte Mobbs
- Orchestral conducting with Alice Farnham

The training programme is led by Olivia Tait, Assistant Director of Music at St Martin-in-the-Fields, and follows a hybrid model. Each term includes around three online sessions and three in-person workshops, typically held on Tuesday afternoons.

### **Schedule**

The main schedule revolves around Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays.

- Six times a term (three online, three in person) on Tuesday afternoons between 2.00pm and 5.00pm you will be based at St Martin-in-the-Fields for development and training.
- Weekly throughout the year, you will independently direct a quartet of singers for a Eucharist service at St Stephen Walbrook at lunchtime.
- During the Emerging Artist's Term Dates on Thursday afternoons and evenings, you will be based at St George the Martyr, Borough.

### **During the Emerging Artist's term time, a typical Thursday schedule will be:**

- 11.45am rehearsal for 12.45pm service – Eucharist at St Stephen Walbrook
- 2.30pm – 4.30pm: Emerging Artist Rehearsal or Workshop at St Martin's
- 5.00pm rehearsal for 5.45pm service – Compline at St George the Martyr, Borough.

### **Emerging Artist Term Dates 2025-26**

<b>Autumn</b>	w/c 15 <sup>th</sup> September – w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> December ( <i>12 weeks</i> )
<b>Spring</b>	w/c 19 <sup>th</sup> January – w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> March ( <i>10 weeks</i> )
<b>Summer</b>	w/c 20 <sup>th</sup> April – w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> June ( <i>10 weeks</i> )

The Associate Choral Leader may occasionally be invited to engage in additional professional development activities, including performances and directing opportunities. These may occur approximately 3–4 times per term, with dates confirmed in writing before the start of each term.

Through and since the pandemic, St Martin's and Diocese of Manchester have established a hybrid model of in-person and online worship. All services and events may also be either live-streamed or recorded for future broadcast on our social media channels.

## **Conditions**

We envisage this being a one and a half day a week training opportunity on average from September 2025 – June 2026. The Associate Choral Leader (London and Southwark) will receive £5000 paid in six equal instalments throughout the academic year.

Throughout this period, you will be an Associate Choral Leader and considered to be a freelancer and not an employee. Nothing in this document is intended to create a relationship of employer and employee between you and St Martin-in-the-Fields or the Diocese of Manchester.

The Associate Choral Leader programme will be renewed in exceptional circumstances subject to re-interview. You will work under the supervision of the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

## **Eligibility**

The scheme is aimed at choral conductors who are in the first stage of a professional career and wish to develop their skills to a high level, particularly in working with early-career singers. In particular, we are looking for:

- Relevant vocal leading experience, and some choral conducting experience
- Ability to work with and develop singers at the early stages of a professional music career
- Enthusiasm for working as a member of a team, together with a willingness to develop their own musical talent
- Experience in administration and organization
- Able to work in sympathy with the aims and the ethos of the Church of England
- Desirable: A basic level of keyboard skills is required (e.g. to be able to lead a rehearsal from the keyboard)

## **Safeguarding**

The Associate Choral Leader will work within the Church of England's safeguarding framework. They will need to adhere to the safeguarding requirements of the Diocese of London, including undertaking all training required by the diocese and co-operating with the clergy and safeguarding officers.

Our ambition is to work together to promote a more inclusive environment, which attracts all candidates and signals our commitment to celebrate and promote diversity. We particularly encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented within choral music.

## **To apply**

Please return the application form, along with a **current CV**, by email to Alicia Hinchliffe, Music Programme Manager at [Alicia.hinchliffe@smitf.org](mailto:Alicia.hinchliffe@smitf.org) by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July** at the latest.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to direct a short choral rehearsal, and undertake an interview. Auditions will take place on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 3-5pm (London)** or **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 5-7.30pm (Manchester)**.