



St Martin-in-the-Fields With St George-the-Martyr, Borough Organ Scholarship 2025-2026



St Martin-in-the-Fields, working in partnership with St George-the-Martyr in Borough, is seeking to appoint an **Organ Scholar** for the academic year 2025-26. The Organ Scholar will work with the Organist and Assistant Director of Music, accompanying our various choral ensembles at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Organ Scholarship commitment is Monday, Wednesday and Sunday services and rehearsals at St Martin-in-the-Fields or St George the Martyr, Borough.

St Martin-in-the-Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields is a hospitable, vibrant and forward-thinking church, which has a long history of opening its doors to people from all walks of life and from all faiths or no faith at all. The first religious broadcast was made from St Martin's and we regularly broadcast church services as well as the annual BBC Radio 4 St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas Appeal. Pioneering work with homeless people started in the First World War and continues today with the Connection at St Martin's. Amnesty International was conceived at St Martin's and Shelter and the Big Issue were launched on the church steps.

Music has always played a central part in the life of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields was founded here in 1958 by Sir Neville Marriner and the then Master of Music, John Churchill. The breadth of musical activity at St Martin's is astonishing. During the coronavirus pandemic, our Choral Scholars and St Martin's Voices recorded resources for churches across the country to use in their online worship, in partnership with the Church of England and the Royal School of Church Music which have had over 1 million downloads to date.



St Martin's has a wide and varied liturgical programme covering a range of styles from traditional Choral Evensong to contemporary services which combine music and liturgy in creative ways. Alongside the regular pattern of music in worship, our concert series features regular performances given by our own choral and instrumental ensembles.



St George the Martyr, Borough

St George the Martyr, Borough, is a historic Anglican church in Southwark, London, originally founded in the 12th century and rebuilt in the 18th century by architect John Price in a classical style. The church is closely associated with Charles Dickens' *Little Dorrit*, whose character was baptised and married there, and it sits prominently near Borough High Street and St George's Circus. It has served as a spiritual and community hub for centuries and remains a Grade II listed building, reflecting its architectural and cultural significance.

The Organ Scholar will predominantly work with two of St Martin's choral ensembles:

- The **Choral Scholars** have an essential musical role at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Each year up to ten scholars – many of whom are music college students or graduates – are appointed to sing midweek services at St Martin's during term time. They also gain concert experience through our evening concert series, and benefit from an extensive programme of training in different aspects of church and choral music.
- **St Martin-in-the-Fields Junior Choir** was formed in 2022 and has quickly become an integral part of the St Martin's musical community. This choir of 7-13 year-olds has joined our existing ensembles to regularly enhance our music-making at church services and concerts whilst providing invaluable musical training for its young singers.

Organ Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship is an exciting opportunity for an undergraduate or recent graduate to work in the professional music department of a busy and thriving London church. It also offers the chance to collaborate closely with the team at St George-the-Martyr, supporting the development of the church's Sunday music provision.

The successful candidate will have the chance to develop their skills in accompaniment on both organ and piano in a large variety of repertoire. The organ scholar will have access to the superb Walker & Sons organ (1990) and the Steinway Model D grand piano at St Martin's. There has been an organ at St Martin's since 1500, and our current organ is used daily in services and concerts. It has won many awards and is considered one of the finest in London.

Schedule

The Organ Scholarship commitment is Monday, Wednesday and Sunday services and rehearsals at St Martin-in-the-Fields or St George the Martyr, Borough.

St Martin's has been moving to a hybrid model of in-person and online worship. Many of the services will be either live-streamed or recorded for future broadcast on our social media channels and our digital platform, StMartins.Digital.

Monday

12.00 for 1.00pm

2.00 – 3.30pm

5.00 - 6.30pm

In Every Corner Sing (CS term dates only)

Choral Scholar Rehearsal or Workshop (CS term dates only)

Junior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday

12.00 pm for 1.00 pm

2.45pm for 4.00pm

Sung Eucharist with soloist (CS term dates only)

Choral Evensong (CS term dates only)

Sunday

11.00 am for 12.00pm

Noon Service with Junior Choir at SMTIF
(2nd Sunday of month)

OR

10.00 for 11.00am

Sung Parish Mass at St George the Martyr
(every Sunday not at SMITF within OS term dates)

Term Dates 2025-26

Where the schedule above lists 'CS term dates only', this will match the Choral Scholar term dates which are shorter and only span 30 weeks of the year (see below).

Organ Scholar Term Dates

For Junior Choir Rehearsals (Mon) and Sunday Services

Autumn	Sunday 7 th September – Sunday 14 th December
Spring	Sunday 4 th January – Sunday 29 th March
Summer	Sunday 12 th April – Sunday 12 th July

Choral Scholar Term Dates

For In Every Corner Sing (Mon), Choral Scholar Rehearsals or Workshops (Mon), Sung Eucharist (Wed) and Choral Evensong (Wed)

Autumn	Monday 29 th September – Wednesday 3 rd December (10 weeks)
Spring	Monday 19 th January – Wednesday 25 th March (10 weeks)
Summer	Monday 20 th April – Wednesday 24 th June (10 weeks)

The organ scholar will occasionally be asked to accompany special events such as the community carol service, but this will be within the organ scholar term dates and will be agreed in writing before the start of term.

Associate Choral Leader Training Programme

Although not a requirement of the position, we also encourage the successful candidate to take part in our associate choral leader training programme whenever they are available. This is 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.

Honorarium

The Organ Scholarship offers an annual remuneration of £10,000, distributed in six equal instalments throughout the academic year (twice per term). The Organ Scholar is required to attend all agreed termly events, with any absences needing prior approval from the Music Programme Manager; approved absences will result in proportional deductions in pay. The scholarship is tenable for one year only and will be renewed solely in exceptional cases.

Throughout the scholarship period, the successful candidate will be a scholar at St Martin's 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.

Eligibility and requirements

The successful candidate will be an aspiring organist with some experience of accompanying on both organ and piano, and able to use our instruments to the full as a soloist and accompanist. The Organ Scholar will be willing to work with both traditional and new liturgies, and be open to performing a wide range of choral repertoire from early to contemporary in all its guises.

Good organisational skills will be required, along with a good sense of prioritising and the ability to perform well under pressure. We are looking for a team player who will enjoy working within a large and varied organisation, and is in sympathy with the particular aims and ethos of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

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.

Candidates must have the right to work in the UK; sponsorship is not available for this position.

To apply

Please send your current CV, along with a supporting statement explaining why you are applying for the Organ Scholarship, to **Alicia Hinchliffe, Music Programme Manager**, by email to Alicia.hinchliffe@smittf.org or by post to: **Alicia Hinchliffe, Music Programme Manager, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JH.**

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 17th July 2025**. Auditions will take place on Saturday 26th July 2025.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to perform an organ solo piece of up to 5 minutes in length, along with a few standard keyboard tests, and undertake an interview.