



# St Martin-in-the-Fields

## Alto Choral Scholarship 2025-26

The St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Scholarships are among the most stimulating and educative choral programmes available in London. The scheme is aimed at choral singers who are wishing to embark on a professional career in singing. The Choral Scholarships provide an opportunity for up to ten singers to enjoy an intensive, focused period of training with others of a similar standard and interests and are an integral part of an exciting choral music programme. **We are looking for one more alto to join our programme for 2025-26.**

Alongside singing services, concerts and events at St Martin's and at St Stephen Walbrook, exploring a huge range of repertoire from the Renaissance to the present day, choral scholars will receive regular opportunities for learning, including a series of workshops with members of staff at St Martin's and external professional musicians. The main focus of the scholarship will be **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**.

With thanks to The Scops Arts Trust and donors to St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust for supporting the 2025/26 Choral Scholarship programme.

## 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 programme of services 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 Stephen Walbrook

With its impressive dome, St Stephen Walbrook church stands by Mansion House in the heart of the City of London. The present building was erected to the designs of Sir Christopher Wren following the destruction of its medieval predecessor in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

In 1953 the Samaritans charity was founded by the rector of St Stephen's, Dr Chad Varah. The first Samaritans branch operated from a crypt beneath the church. In tribute to this, a telephone is preserved in a glass box in the church. St Stephen's, with its glorious acoustic, has a vibrant musical tradition.



As well as the Choral Scholarship programme, St Martin's has a number of other choral ensembles:

- **St Martin's Voices** is our professional ensemble of talented singers who come together to sing world-class concerts and special services at St Martin-in-the-Fields and beyond. As well as their extensive concert and broadcasting programme, St Martin's Voices explore the great classical music of our religious heritage at our weekly *Great Sacred Music*.
- The **St Martin's Voices Emerging Artists** scheme provides an opportunity for six singers to enjoy an intensive, focused period of training with others of a similar standard and interests and is aimed at choral singers who are in the first few years of a professional career in singing who wish to develop their skills as choral and consort singers to a high level.
- We also have three voluntary choirs: the **Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields**, our voluntary liturgical choir who leads workshop on Sundays; the **Chamber Choir**, who are a project based choir and perform concerts at St Martin's and externally throughout the year; and the **Junior Choir** for children aged 7-13 who from September 2025 will be leading our second Sunday service at midday each week.

## Recent Choral Scholar projects

In addition to their regular pattern of sung choral services at St Martin's, the choral scholars perform concerts both at St Martin's and across London including projects with *I Fagiolini*, *The Gesualdo Six* and at the *Brunel Museum*. They have also sung for BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong broadcasts and recorded for the Church of England. Highlights of the past year have included a concert with *I Fagiolini*, recording for *Classic FM* and a tour to Oslo.



## Schedule

The regular focus of the scholarship is on **Mondays and Wednesdays**.

Each Monday and Wednesday, all Choral Scholars will sing **In Every Corner Sing** at St Martin's and **Choral Classics** at St Stephen's, both being short, lunchtime words and music events with different themes each week. On a Monday afternoon, all choral scholars will also attend a **general rehearsal or workshop** at St Martin's. On a Wednesday afternoon, all choral scholars will also sing a traditional service of **Choral Evensong**.

As well as the full group events, we also have two half group events each week. On a Monday, half the group will sing **Morning Song**, a modern language service of morning prayer involving anthems, chants and plainsong, and the other half will sing **Bread for the World**, an informal Eucharist service accompanied on the piano, on a Wednesday. The half group services give the opportunity to develop skills in one-per-part singing. The groups are allocated by the Music team and are different each week.

### Monday

<b>10.15 for 11.00</b>	Morning Song Recording – <i>Half</i>
<b>12.00 for 1.00</b>	In Every Corner Sing – <i>All</i>
<b>2.30 – 3.30</b>	General rehearsal / workshop - <i>All</i>

### Wednesday

<b>11.45 for 12.45</b>	Choral Classics at St Stephen Walbrook – <i>All</i>
<b>2.45 for 4.00</b>	Choral Evensong – <i>All</i>
<b>5.30 for 6.30</b>	Bread for the World – <i>Half</i>

### **The term dates for the 2025-26 academic year are:**

<b>Autumn</b>	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September – Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December – 10 weeks ( <i>inclusive, plus some December commitments – see below</i> )
<b>Spring</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 ( <i>inclusive</i> ) – 10 weeks
<b>Summer</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026 ( <i>inclusive</i> ) – 10 weeks

There are also occasional events outside the normal schedule – lunchtime and evening concerts, broadcasts, trips and additional services – for which the Choral Scholars will be required. This generally numbers between 4 and 6 per term.

This includes two December commitments, both of which are high profile significant events in the life of St Martin's: the **Community Carol Service**, and a **Christmas concert**. Scholars will be notified of these additional dates in writing before the start of each scholarship term.

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

## Honorarium

Choral Scholars receive a remuneration of **£4000 per annum** paid in six instalments throughout the year (two per term).

Choral Scholars are allowed to be absent from up to four services (or standalone rehearsals or other events) per term with no money deducted from their Choral Scholarship, providing these dates are agreed in advance in writing. Suitable deputies will be organised by the Music Department and a deduction will be made from the Choral Scholarship remuneration at the end of each term for any absences exceeding the allowance of four per term.

Choral Scholarships will be tenable for **one year only** and will only be renewed in exceptional circumstances. Throughout the scholarship period, you 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

Candidates for the Alto Choral Scholarship should have a confident singing voice and good standard of sight-singing ability. Enthusiasm for singing as a member of a team, together with a willingness to develop their musical talent, will be determining factors in the appointment of Choral Scholars. Applications are welcome from all singers at the beginning of their choral music careers; our Choral Scholarships are particularly aimed at bridging the gap between university and professional-level choral experience.

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 complete the application form and send, along with a current CV, by email to Alicia Hinchliffe, Music Programme Manager at [alicia.hinchliffe@smitf.org](mailto:alicia.hinchliffe@smitf.org) by **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August** at the latest.

Auditions will take place during the following times:

- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2-4pm
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm