



The
Catholic
Diocese of
Nottingham

CHORAL DIRECTOR

Application Pack



Nottingham
Cathedral Music



INTRODUCTION

Gregory Treloar Director of Music

Thank you for your interest in the role of Choral Director within the Diocese of Nottingham. We are at an exciting phase of development as we continue to roll out our schools' programme and explore new ways of engaging the faithful within our diocese, especially young people, with the Church through music.

Thanks to the generous support of the Vinehill Trust, the National Schools' Singing Programme, and the Diocese of Nottingham, we are delighted to have been able work across 15 schools over the past 3 years providing high quality music provision with a faith based focus for 1000 children per week. Since September 2021, we have been gradually expanding the project which has already seen great rewards in take up of our children's choirs and links with the parish and Cathedral through music. We are now looking to go further and expand to Derbyshire so more children can access this programme.

The strength of this programme is that it allows children from across the diocese to gain access to high-quality sacred music and to deepen links with their faith and parishes regardless of background. We hope that, eventually, all children throughout the diocese will be able to develop musical skills both within the classroom and beyond; particularly those in disadvantaged areas.

We are excited to be expanding this programme further, offering provision to schools across the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi-Academy Trust as well continuing the work in the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. We are looking for an innovative and dynamic musician able to join our team in developing this programme so we can bring high-quality music making to more children in the diocese.

I hope this application pack will provide you with information and background to the diocese and the work that you will be undertaking with us if successful in your application. If you have any questions or would like to discuss things further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All good wishes,

Gregory Treloar

Director of Music for the Diocese of Nottingham





THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

The Diocese of Nottingham is the largest in the country covering a geographical area of over 13,000 square miles. It takes in Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Glossop, Buxton all the way over to Scunthorpe and Grimsby. Consequently, the people of the diocese come from all backgrounds imaginable, giving the diocese a rich and varied life. Under the leadership of our current bishop, Bishop Patrick McKinney, the priests, deacons and lay people of the diocese seek to live as missionary disciples to bring society into a place of encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Within the diocese, there are 86 schools educating just under 30,000 children. Our schools are grouped into three Multi-Academy Trusts each with their own region.

The Diocese of Nottingham



The Cathedral Church of St Barnabas in Nottingham is the mother church at the heart of the diocese and is the seat of our bishop. It is a building and place rich in beauty and culture, built by Pugin between 1841 and 1844. It forms an integral part of civic life whilst also functioning as a parish catering for the diverse population of Nottingham. Open daily, it seeks to be a space and safe haven where all people can come in order to find peace and spend time in prayer.



NOTTINGHAM CATHEDRAL MUSIC

The Schools' Singing Programme forms a central part of the Diocesan and Cathedral Music programme in which each supports and upbuilds the other to evangelise and engage people through music.

Since its foundation, the Cathedral has enjoyed a long history of music-making to support the liturgy of both the Cathedral parish and diocese. In recent years, it has gone from strength to strength thanks to the support of the Cathedral Dean and Bishop Patrick.

The Music department currently consists of the Director of Music, Choral Director and 3 organists who lead the Cathedral Choir, Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir and the Mansfield Children's Choir.

The Cathedral Choir is made up of experienced volunteers, Lay Clerks, Choral Scholars studying in the local universities, and Junior Scholars trained through our Youth Choir. It boasts an ambitious programme of music and undertakes concerts of large scale works as well as recordings and tours. Plainsong remains at the core of our liturgy, complemented by a wide ranging choral repertoire, from Hildegard of Bingen and music by the great Renaissance masters (Palestrina, Lassus, Byrd, etc.) through to Haydn, Mozart, and Schubert, and French music by Duruflé, Fauré and Widor, through to Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Britten and contemporary music by James Macmillan, Cecilia McDowall, and Howard Skempton.

In addition to performing music to enhance the liturgy, the Cathedral Choir maintains a lively concert schedule throughout the year. Recent highlights have included Handel's Messiah, Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri, celebrations for HM The King's Coronation, J.S. Bach's St John Passion and Mass in B Minor, Tallis' wondrous 40 part motet Spem in Alium, Handel's Dixit Dominus, and Monteverdi's Vespers. The choir has recorded numerous CDs and has toured overseas.

The Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir, and the Mansfield Children's Choir formed over the past 3 years have been growing in strength and confidence forming a solid foundation for further growth and expansion. These choirs are an integral part of the singing programme providing some 60 children with further musical and liturgical formation in the hope that they may become, one day, the singers and leaders in church music of the future.





Organ

The Cathedral organ, a large 3-manual 1913 Norman and Beard, has been well maintained and is in good order (though slightly under pitch). The specification is given on our website (see next page). The Choral Director will have free access to the organ at suitable times for practice and teaching purposes (if required).

The Cathedral Hall is used regularly for ABRSM exams and is home to two upright pianos and a good quality seven-foot grand piano.

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday	4.30pm – 6pm	Boys' Choir Rehearsal (Hall)
	7:15–8:45pm	Cathedral Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	4.30pm – 6pm	Girls' Choir Rehearsal (Hall)
	4:30pm – 6pm	Mansfield Children Choir (St Philip Neri)
Saturday	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – played by volunteer organists or Organist Emeritus
Sunday	8.00am	Mass (said, no music)
	9.30am	Parish Singers' rehearsal (taken by the Organist Emeritus)
	10.00am	Parish Mass (played by the Organist Emeritus)
	10.15am – 10.55am	Cathedral Choir rehearsal (Hall)
	11.15am	Sung Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)
	5.00pm – 5.50pm	Rehearsal if required
	6pm	Evening Mass sung by Cantor, International Choir, Boys' or Girls' Choir

The Cathedral Choirs sing from September through to July each year excluding school holidays including a short break for up to two weeks after Christmas and Easter. During the choirs' absence, the 11.15am Solemn Mass is animated by a cantor, with organ accompaniment.



The Music Department

The **Director of Music** was appointed in November 2020 and has responsibility for the Cathedral Choir, Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir, whilst also managing and directing the Schools' Singing Programme.

Our first **Choral Director** was appointed in 2022 to work closely with the Regional Choirs and Youth Choirs and take on some responsibility for the provision of the Schools' Singing Programme.

The **Cathedral Organist** was appointed in November 2020 and is our primary organist for major services as well as accompanist for the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Youth Choir. The current holder of this post was Director of Music at Nottingham Cathedral from 2003–2014.

The **Organist Emeritus** has been an integral part of the Music Department for over 30 years and plays for our Sunday 10am Mass as well as for non-choral Masses throughout the year.

For more information about the Cathedral Choirs and Music Department please visit:

www.nottinghamcathedral.co.uk



JOB PROFILE

CHORAL DIRECTOR FOR THE DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM SCHOOLS' SINGING PROGRAMME

The Choral Director will be a key member of the Diocesan Music Department team responsible for delivering the Schools' Singing Programme across six schools in The St Ralph Sherwin Trust. As part of their role they will also undertake the direction of 2 choral projects in Burton and Mickleover. These responsibilities include but are not limited to:

The Diocesan Schools' Singing Programme, and Cathedral

- Delivering the Schools' Singing Programme (SSP) in diocesan schools in the St Ralph Sherwin CMAT.
- Running, directing and training the children's choirs in Burton and Mickleover.
- Assisting in the organisation and running of the Singing Programme performance events including the Schools' Singing Programme Carol Services in December.
- Taking an active role in fundraising for the Schools' Singing Programme.
- Recruiting new members to the children's choirs through the schools involved in the Programme.
- Planning and preparing the music at liturgies and events involving the Burton and Mickleover choirs.
- Assisting the Director of Music with website content and department communications.
- Working with the Director of Music and other Choral Directors to ensure a unified musical offering across the parishes and schools involved in the Schools' Singing Programme.

Person Specification

- An experienced trainer of young voices, with the ability to motivate and inspire young singers.
- Experience of working with young people in an inclusive atmosphere.
- Ambition and energy to develop high standards of music making.
- Confident keyboard skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and confidence in communicating with people of all ages, children and their parents.
- Educated to degree level or equivalent in any subject (but should have music qualifications).
- Understanding of best practice in safeguarding children.
- Ability to prioritise and manage time efficiently and to work flexibly.
- Excellent and reliable administrative skills.
- A team player also with the ability to take initiative and think strategically.
- Preferably some knowledge of Catholic liturgical music and Gregorian chant.
- Sensitive to the Christian ethos and worship of the Catholic Church. Applications are also welcome from non-Catholics.

See page 9 for full person specification breakdown

Contract

This is a part time, 2 year part-time fixed term position, commencing in September 2024. The successful applicant will be subject to a probationary period of six months.

The salary for the position is £24,000–27,000 per annum pro-rata, payable monthly. The normal working pattern is 2 days per week 9–6pm and 2 Sundays per month.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Post	Choral Director – Diocese of Nottingham
Salary	£24,000–27,000 PA pro rata (plus mileage & pension scheme)
Location	TBC, Predominantly Derbyshire with connections to Nottingham Cathedral
Accountable to	Diocesan Director of Music
Hours	20 hours per week, 2 year fixed term contract
Holidays	25 days per year plus bank holidays, to be taken outside term time
Start date	September 2024

The Diocese of Nottingham seeks to appoint an outstanding Choral Director to assist the Diocesan Director of Music in the establishment and delivery of the Diocesan Schools' Singing Programme, and to continue the development of sacred music in the Cathedral and throughout the Diocese of Nottingham.

Responsibilities

- To develop singing in schools through the delivery of high-quality weekly curriculum-time singing sessions.
- To establish, recruit and direct after-school choirs in the diocese preparing them for Masses and liturgies.
- To provide CPD to teachers, allowing a supported integration from the weekly Schools' Singing Programme sessions into everyday school life.
- To foster links between schools and parishes, liaising with clergy to facilitate singing opportunities for after-school choirs.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	• Educated to degree level.	• Educated to degree level in music. • Qualified teacher status.
Experience	• Experience of working with choirs within a secular or sacred setting. • Experience of directing and encouraging young singers.	• Experience of planning and directing music within a liturgical setting. • Experience of working in a classroom environment.
Knowledge & Skills	• Knowledge of a wide variety of choral music, both sacred and secular. • Knowledge of engaging choral direction techniques and effective warm ups. • A passion for working with children and fostering young voices. • Good communication skills, the ability to liaise with a wide range of people. • A good working knowledge of current IT, as well as music notation software. • Knowledge of safeguarding protocols within the Catholic Church in England and Wales. • A valid UK driving licence.	• Confident keyboard skills. • knowledge and understanding of Catholic liturgical music including Gregorian chant.
Personal	• Friendly and approachable manner. • A team player and a willingness to continue professional development. • The ability to prioritise and manage time effectively, and to work flexibly. • Ambition and energy to develop high standards of music making. • Sensitive to the Christian ethos and worship of the Catholic Church.	

The Diocese of Nottingham is committed to the safeguarding of adults and children and upholds the safeguarding policies of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This post will be subject to the Disclosure and Barring Service Checks.



HOW TO APPLY

For informal information about this post please contact:

gregory.treloar@dioceseofnottingham.uk

For application forms for this role visit:

www.dioceseofnottingham.co.uk/careers

Applicants are asked to send completed applications to

cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk

The closing date for applications is the 13th April 2024 at 12 noon

Interviews are provisionally scheduled for the 24th April 2024.

