



SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

The Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral

The Choir consists of eight Lay Vicars, plus a number of men (commonly called 'Sunday Men') who augment the Choir on Sundays and other special occasions, Choral Scholars and Choristers. The Choristers are educated in the Cathedral School (founded 1432) in the Close. Services are sung twice a day except Saturdays. Weekday morning services are sung by the boys alone. Saint Patrick's is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland and many of the major national Church of Ireland events take place here. It is a fine medieval gothic building, and contains a glorious Willis Organ.

Daily practices are at 17.00 with evensong at 17.30. In addition, there are rehearsals on Fridays after evensong and Sundays at 10.30 and 14.30. Sunday Services are at 11.15 and 15.15. Saturdays are free. The stipend is €11,187.96 per annum. There are many opportunities for solo singing in Dublin. In the city there are three universities, three Cathedrals, two full-time orchestras, scores of choirs and the National Concert Hall.

Application should be made to the Master of the Music, and should include the names and addresses of two referees, as well as a brief account of solo and choral experience. Overleaf you will find further background information on the Cathedral Choir. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information – music@stpatickscathedral.ie.

Stuart Nicholson
Master of the Music

Timetable

Monday – Thursday	17.00-17.25 rehearsal 17.30-18-10 service
Friday	17.00-17.25 rehearsal 17.30-18-10 service 18.15-19.00 rehearsal
Sunday	10.30-11.10 rehearsal 11.15-12.15 service 14.30-15.10 rehearsal 15.15-16-15 service

Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Music has played an integral part of the daily life of Saint Patrick's cathedral since its foundation in the thirteenth century. Henri de Londres (consecrated archbishop of Dublin in 1213) created a college of sixteen vicars choral who lived within the precincts of the cathedral. Archbishop Richard Talbot (archbishop of Dublin from 1418-49) endowed a college of six minor canons and six boy choristers in 1431. His purpose was to ensure the provision of polyphonic choral music in the cathedral. The choir remains one of the few choirs of men and boys in Ireland. The choir was reorganised at the Guinness restoration in 1865 and put on a more secure financial footing.

The main function of the choir is similar to that of other Anglican cathedral choirs: to adorn the daily offices with hymns, psalms, canticles and anthems. It sings two services daily during school terms – the only cathedral choir to do so in these islands. No longer restricted to music of the Anglican tradition, it is not unusual to hear classical or Tudor Latin masses, plainchant and continental languages included in the liturgy. The choir has also taken part in major concert events in Ireland, including most notably the first performance of Handel's oratorio *Messiah* on 13th of April 1742. In the last 4 years the choir have made 3 commercial recordings with Regent Records, the latest of which *A Year at Saint Patrick's* is due for release in September. The choir is also well known for its annual broadcast of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve nationally on RTÉ radio.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Girls' Choir was founded (in its present form) in September 2000 with the intention of providing girls with an opportunity to benefit from the experience of singing in a cathedral choir, an opportunity available to boys for many centuries. Since the first service at which the girls sang in November 2000 they have taken an increasing role in the musical and liturgical life of the cathedral. They now sing evensong with the gentlemen of the choir on every Monday and on every second Thursday during term time, as well as a number of Sunday services. Recently the girls have been involved in performances of Vaughan Williams *Hodie* with the University of Dublin Choral Society, Duruflé's *Requiem* with the Gaudete Singers and Handel's *Messiah* (part one) the choir of with Christ Church Cathedral. Throughout the year they also joined forces with the boys' choir, most recently for a broadcast on RTÉ radio for Remembrance Sunday, the annual Advent Procession and Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with harpist Dianne Marshall.

Touring has become an increasingly important aspect of the choir's activities outside the regular service commitments. Over the years the choir have toured extensively throughout Ireland and the UK, there have also been visits to Paris, where they sang in the Sacré Cœur, Notre Dame, the American Church and La Trinité and a trip to Denmark where they sang in Roskilde Cathedral.