



SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

The Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral

The main function of the choir today is the same as it has always been: to adorn the daily offices with hymns, psalms, canticles and anthems. The choir is made up of 24 boy choristers, who like their predecessors, are educated at the Cathedral Choir School, which, founded in 1432, is the only school of its kind in the country. The choir also consists of the girls choir (24 choristers and 16 scholars), 8 lay vicars choral and a number of choral scholars and Sunday men.

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. There are many opportunities for solo singing in Dublin as well as broadcasting for RTÉ. 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@stpatrikscathedral.ie.

Stuart Nicholson
Master of the Music

Salary and Timetable

€12,282.24

Monday – Thursday

17.00-18.10 rehearsal and Evensong

Fridays

17.00-18.10 rehearsal and Evensong

18.10-19.00 LVC rehearsal (as and when needed)

Sundays

10.30-12.30 rehearsal and Eucharist/Matins

14.30-16.15 rehearsal and Evensong

[No regular duties on Saturdays]

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 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.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Girls' Choir was founded 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 Lay Vicars on every Monday and on every second Thursday during term time, as well as a number of Sunday services. In 2016, the girls choir was split in two to form a senior girls' choir (Schola Patricii) and junior girls' choir (Girl Choristers).

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 France, Denmark & Sweden.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral

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