



Choir Vacancies

Alto & Tenor

St Mary's, Bourne Street is an Anglican church near Sloane Square in London. It was built 'quickly and cheaply' in 1874, with the intention of providing ministry to the poor living around Pimlico.

St Mary's seeks to achieve spiritual excellence by combining carefully thought out and well-honed ceremonial with appropriately fitting music, combining traditional liturgical plainsong with settings of the mass, anthems, and motets from a wide range of composers, from all musical periods. The principal act of worship on Sundays and on Solemn Feast Days, at which the professional octet will sing, is a traditional High Mass (a form of the interim rite) but with significant concessions to Vatican II and using the Common Worship readings. There are occasional services sung by a smaller group or by a single cantor. The ceremonial is rich and traditional. The church has been beautified by successive generations and remains strangely simple and peaceful...despite the gentle rumble of the trains underneath.

St Mary's has a distinguished team of musicians led by the current Director of Music, Richard Pinel, supported by the Organist, Richard Hills, and an organ scholar.

Much experience has been gleaned by the music staff over the years in shrine and parish churches, cathedrals, and collegiate institutions. The autonomy afforded by this experience as expressed at St Mary's is greatly valued. This relationship is expressed joyfully in friendship with the congregation, and music of high quality is seen as a powerful binding force in this Eucharistic community.

We are looking for two confident and versatile singers (alto and tenor) to join our choir. Strong sightreading skills, musical initiative, punctuality and professionalism are rewarded with a high degree of flexibility, friendship and community.

Regular Services*:

Sunday High Mass: £70

Midnight Mass and Easter Vigil: £105

Special Services (weddings, funerals, memorials): £120

Occasionally there is Sunday evensong with a cantor (£70).

*fees are due to rise from 1st July

In addition, other choral services include (but are not limited to):

High Mass: Christ the King, All Saints, All Souls, Immaculate Conception, Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Holy Family, Epiphany, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, The Annunciation, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, Ascension, Feast of Title, Corpus Christi, (including evening procession and evensong), SS Peter & Paul, Requiem for Founders & Benefactors, Dedication Festival with procession, Assumption.

Sung Mass: St Joseph, St John the Baptist, Sacred Heart, Transfiguration, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Others:

The Advent Carol Service

Livestreaming: Most of our services are livestreamed for the benefit of parishioners who are unable to attend in person. These remain online for a limited amount of time and are unavailable for download. No additional fees are payable for livestreaming.

Deputies: Our singers are engaged on a freelance, per-service, basis rather than on a regular contract of employment. They are responsible for paying their own income tax and national insurance contributions. There is an approved list from which choir members may book a deputy should they be unable to attend. We ask our singers to make every effort to attend Midnight Mass, Christmas Morning and the Easter Triduum services. Aside from this there is no minimum attendance quota, allowing our singers to undertake other freelance work. We endeavor to balance this level of flexibility with the need for a stable and coherent ensemble. Should periods of absence be deemed to be too long or frequent we may ask the singer to step back from the choir.

Auditions:

1. Please prepare a sacred aria (in English, Latin or German).
2. We may additionally ask to hear the *Agnus Dei* from Bm Mass – J.S. Bach (altos) or *If with all your heart* from Elijah - Mendelssohn (tenors)
3. Sight reading from our regular repertoire

NB: we will not expect applicants to sight read Gregorian chant, however the successful applicant will need to display a proactive attitude towards learning this skill.

Applications:

Please send a CV with covering note to Kathy Redington (office@stmarysbournest.org) along with details of two referees by Friday 31st March. Auditions (after shortlisting) will be held on Thursday 13th April.