

A group of young boys, the choristers of St Paul's Cathedral, are captured in a candid moment. They are dressed in traditional white robes with blue stoles. Some are wearing colorful sashes (red, yellow, and blue) and gold medallions. They are walking on a black and white checkered floor, likely in a cathedral or church. The background is softly blurred, showing other people and architectural details.

# ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL - CHORISTER REPORT

Prepared for

The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

August 2023

---

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

St Paul's Cathedral offers places in its world-famous Choir to talented young singers, which includes a first-class education at the Cathedral School and music tuition not only in vocal studies but also two orchestral instruments and music theory.

These young candidates need to possess strong musical instincts and the strength of character to cope with the demands of being a Chorister whilst enjoying a fulfilling and successful academic education in the School.

St Paul's is committed to ensuring that this incredible opportunity is open to young people from a wide variety of backgrounds and that there is no financial barrier to joining the Choir. For this reason, it is vital that the costs of this programme, including the school fees and music tuition, which amount to over £30K a year, are not passed onto the families of the young Choristers.

It is only with the assistance of generous supporters, amongst which we are proud to count the Pattenmakers' Company – who in 2022-23 provided a total grant of £7,000 – that St Paul's is able to realise this commitment. The Company's support is associated with one of our Probationers – Taryn Moffat-Collins.

The following report provides an insight into the life of the Choristers, a review of some of the highlights over the past year, and an update on Taryn's progress in the Choir.



# ST PAUL'S CHORISTERS

In the 2022-23 academic year, we had 21 Choristers and 6 Probationers training under the baton of our renowned Director of Music, Andrew Carwood MBE. Our total Chorister numbers are still somewhat lower than the full capacity of 30, as a result of recruitment having ground to a halt during the Covid pandemic. However, over the past year much work has been undertaken to enhance Chorister recruitment, including accessing an ever-broader reach of applicants which in turn has been reflected in the very high number of Probationers that we have taken on over the past year.

Much of this recruitment success can be attributed to the online resources which have been developed to help support candidates prepare for the audition process, and our online recruitment workshops, run by Tom Daggett and Andrew Carwood, which have been easily accessible for potential candidates.

Most new recruits join as Probationers in Year 3 or 4 and once made up to full Choristers, they remain in the School and the Choir until the end of Year 8 when they move on to their next school.

The Choristers have a busy schedule and take a very active role in the Cathedral's sung worship, singing daily in the Cathedral (except Mondays and Thursdays) as well as taking part in services and events of national importance and of course many rehearsals.

Each weekday starts with an early morning rehearsal at 7:50am, followed by a full academic day, including instrumental lessons; the Choristers then return to the Cathedral for a rehearsal at 4:10pm before Evensong at 5pm. On Sundays, there are three services – Mattins at 10am, Eucharist at 11:15am and Evensong at 3pm. This busy schedule means that it is necessary for the Choristers to be on hand and board at the adjacent Cathedral School. There, they are part of a special and vibrant community where the Choristers have excellent pastoral care and learn, live, and work together.



An inspiring part of our work has been the success of our revitalised recruitment process which has seen a considerable increase in our engagement with young people throughout London.

Andrew Carwood MBE, Director of Music



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022-23

Within 24 hours of the Choristers arriving back in September after the summer holidays in 2022, the sad news came through of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the following day, on the 9th September, St Paul's held a special service of Prayer and Reflection for our late Queen, which was broadcast live by the BBC to a worldwide audience. This Service took place before the boys had even sung a hymn in the Cathedral, let alone a service, and is a tribute to not only their musicianship but also to their professionalism. The service was very well received, with the music and the singing receiving particular commendations. The Choristers rose brilliantly to the occasion, which provided a taster for the younger boys of some of the extraordinary experiences that they can expect to encounter as a St Paul's Chorister.

Special highlights of the autumn term included the Installation Service for our new Dean, the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett; an Evensong for the Worshipful Company of Musicians; an Evensong for the Society of St Michael and St George; a special Ceremonial Service for the Order of the British Empire; the annual blessing of the new Lord Mayor in November; and the St Cecilia Service with the Choirs of Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral.

The Christmas Season was particularly busy this year and included a performance of Handel's Messiah, charity concerts for Water Aid and Guide Dogs for the Blind (which was broadcast on Classic FM), Britten's Ceremony of Carols, the Celebration of Christmas Orchestral Concert, and our popular Advent and Christmas Carol Services, which both enjoyed full capacity congregations.

The highlight of the Lent term was the return of Bach's St John's Passion for the first time since the Covid pandemic. The Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Chorus, and a period instrument orchestra under the direction of Andrew Carwood, produced a magnificent and moving performance of this superb work to a packed Cathedral. The solo roles were taken by our own Vicars Choral and Choristers.

This summer term, we have held a Service of Thanksgiving for the Coronation of HM King Charles III on 7th May; the 368th Festival of The Clergy Support Trust on 9th May, in which St Paul's joined with choirs from Leicester and Llandaff Cathedrals, and on 24th May, we broadcast a Choral Evensong live on BBC Radio 3.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022-23

Then on 23rd June we held a Special Service to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Sir Christopher Wren, which was attended by many City dignitaries and the Livery community. In July, the Cathedral Choir partnered with the City of London Sinfonia performed Haydn's Nelson Mass as part of a Sunday Eucharist in the Cathedral. The busy summer term drew to a close with the ever-popular annual Friends Festival and a Chorister recital which was attended by HRH Duchess of Gloucester, who is Patron of the Friends of St Paul's.

As the School summer holidays begin, the Choristers are embarking on their first tour abroad since 2019 with a four-day visit to the Netherlands with performances in Amsterdam, Deventer and Wijk Bij Duurstede.

“

Every year is a busy one for the St Paul's Cathedral Choir and the young Choristers do a truly remarkable job on a daily basis. Being able to perform Bach's St John Passion with orchestra before Easter was an absolute highlight for us, where the Choristers not only sang all of the choruses but also took the solo parts as well.

Andrew Carwood MBE, Director of Music

”

# FUNDING

St Paul's is committed to ensuring that no candidate of the right talent should miss out on the opportunity of a Choristership on financial grounds. Therefore, Chapter covers the full cost of the academic education, whilst means-tested bursaries are available for boarding fees, instrumental tuition, and associated costs from the St Paul's Cathedral Chorister Trust (founded in 1984 to provide financial assistance with the education of our Choristers.)

The full cost of sustaining one Chorister in the 2022-23 academic year was just over £33K – including academic fees (£17,277) choral training (£4,329), instrumental tuition (£2,131) and the boarding fees (£9,706) This is shown in the table below, along with the set fees for the forthcoming 2023-24 academic year:

	2022/23	2023/24
Academic Tuition Fees	17,277	18,270
Choral Training	4,329	4,459
Subtotal	21,606	22,729
Boarding Fees	9,706	10,264
Instrumental Tuition	2,131	2,544
Subtotal	11,837	12,808
Grand Total	£33,443	£35,537

To realise this financial commitment, St Paul's is reliant on the generosity of a number of Livery Companies and organisations who help to offset tuition fee costs or provide boarding bursaries.

# CHORISTER SUPPORT & TARYN MOFFAT-COLLINS

For the 2022-23 academic year, the Pattenmakers' Company has generously provided a Chorister grant of £7,000 to St Paul's Cathedral Chorister Trust. This support is linked with one of our Probationers – Taryn Moffat-Collins.

In September 2022, Taryn joined the Cathedral School as a Year 4 pupil and began his Chorister training as a Probationer with the Choir. Having successfully completed his probationary period, Taryn will now be made-up to a full Chorister at the start of the new academic year, which is testament of his hard work and dedication to the programme. His vocal skills have improved significantly, and he has already started to sing in the regular weekly services that take place inside the Cathedral.

Taryn has shown great dedication to his musical studies. His eagerness to learn and his consistent practice has led to considerable improvement in his clarinet and piano playing.

Taryn's academic performance has also been outstanding. He has scored consistently high marks in his end of year assessments. In recognition of his hard work, he was awarded the Year 4 Cathedral Endeavour Prize at the School's end of year prize giving.

Since joining the school, Taryn has also shown himself to be a valued member of the Cathedral School community. He has made a positive impression on both his peers and teachers, displaying a level of maturity and kindness that is commendable for his age.

Taryn will transition into Year 5 this September and he has four more years ahead with our Chorister programme.

# A LOOK AHEAD...

Looking ahead to the new academic year this September, we look forward to welcoming our new Head of the Cathedral School, Judith Fremont-Barnes and to taking the first step towards our goal of establishing a girls Chorister programme, with the appointment of our first girls to our Probationer Programme.

During the next two academic years, of 2023-24 and 2024-25, the girls will undertake their training alongside the boys and will be day pupils until we have the boarding facilities in place. At the start of the 2025-26 academic year, we should have a full cohort of girls to allow the establishment of a separate choir of equal size and profile to our current one for the boys.

We have launched a Girls' Voices fundraising campaign which will allow us to make the necessary infrastructure changes, both at the Cathedral School (including creating a new boarding house) and in the Cathedral, and will also provide the girls with exactly the same financial support of a full scholarship programme.

Our intention is that the girls too will wear the Livery Company supporters' medals and we will be seeking new Chorister funders from the Livery Community.



Judith Fremont-Barnes, incoming Head of Cathedral School

# A LOOK BACK...



Chorister rehearsals in the Cathedral (December 2022)



The Choir singing at the Advent Carol Service (November 2022)

# A LOOK BACK...



Choristers and supporters at Evensong prior to the Dean's Reception (November 2022)



Clergy Support Trust (May 2023)

# A LOOK BACK...



Easter chorister outing to HMS Belfast (April 2023)



Choristers on tour in the Netherlands (July 2023)