



Bury St Edmunds  
County Upper

St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



**Cathedral Choral Scholar and School Musician in Residence**  
***An exciting and challenging opportunity for an alto, tenor or bass***  
***offered jointly by the Cathedral and County Upper School***  
**Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**

An excellent gap-year opportunity is available in the vibrant Cathedral and market town of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, for someone with fine musical skills who wishes to broaden their experience and contribute to the working life of the Cathedral and secondary school music departments.

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School is a highly-regarded and inclusive secondary school, with a strong tradition of musical and performing arts excellence and with links with the Cathedral and wishes to appoint a Musician in Residence.

The joint award is initially for one year, though it may be extended depending on individual circumstances.

**St Edmundsbury Cathedral Music Department**

The Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund, Bury St Edmunds, was created in 1914 when the existing St James's Church was selected as the seat of the new Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The building was enlarged by Stephen Dykes Bower in the 1960s and its central tower was opened by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in 2005. New cloisters, chapels and other building works were consecrated in 2009 and the vaulted ceiling and new organ were dedicated in March 2011. St Edmundsbury Cathedral maintains a daily round of worship with the Anglican choral tradition of music at its heart. The Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship are used on a daily basis for services and there is a vast range of special services of celebration, thanksgiving and commemoration when local and national bodies and individuals attend. In addition, there is a significant number of secular events such as concerts and art exhibitions on an almost weekly basis. The Cathedral is also a principal destination in East Anglia for tourists and other visitors and also provides a significant educational programme for schools visits.

The Cathedral Choir is the Cathedral's principal choir, and currently numbers eleven choristers, five probationers and ten gentlemen singers (eight Lay Clerks and two Choral Scholars). The Cathedral Choir sings five regular services a week but also undertakes special services, termly diocesan visits, radio and television broadcasts, and recordings. There is an international tour every two years, most recently to Lisbon, Fatima and Coimbra in Portugal. In addition, the Cathedral's musical life is supported by the St Edmundsbury Singers (the ladies' choir), the St Cecilia Chorale (the youth choir), the Colts Choir (junior boys) and the St Cecilia Juniors (junior girls).

## **Bury St Edmunds County Upper School Music Department**

Music is very strong at this well-renowned 13-18 upper school which has an enviable reputation for the Arts. It was selected by the BBC for a national feature last autumn because of its support for, and programme of, Arts education at a time of decline across the country.

Music is a popular and highly successful subject, achieving consistently excellent results. Our musicians regularly go to further study at specialist conservatories or universities, including Oxbridge colleges.

We have strong links with the County Music Service whose Western Area Hub is based within our school and we train music teachers from a variety of ITT providers. Our school is part of an all-through trust with two middle schools and a primary. We provide support and additional musical experiences to these pupils and there is an annual trust performance at The Apex.

The music department runs a rich extra-curricular programme of ensembles and activities. Our Chamber Choir is highly regarded and, like many of our ensembles, performs widely by request. It was selected to perform a specially-composed piece at the Britten Centenary Concert in Snape Maltings which was broadcast around the world. Recent music tours have included Venice and Suffolk Virginia, USA.



### **Duties at the Cathedral**

The Cathedral's Music Department aims to enable the Choral Scholar to gain experience of singing at all the choral services which require the Cathedral Choir to participate.

### **Duties**

The weekly routine for the Choral Scholars during choir term is as follows:



#### Sundays

9.15 am	Rehearsal
10.00 am	Eucharist (CW)
11.30 am	Mattins (BCP) or rehearsal
2.45 pm	Rehearsal
3.30 pm	Evensong (BCP)

#### Wednesdays

4.45 pm	Rehearsal
5.30 pm	Evensong (BCP) (Men's Voices)

#### Fridays

4.45 pm	Rehearsal
5.30 pm	Evensong (BCP)
6.15 – 7.30 pm	Full choir rehearsal followed by Lay Clerks' rehearsal

Choir term currently numbers approximately 38 weeks per year. The Choir is not required during most school holidays, and the first Sunday of each half term holiday is free.

There are occasional services on Saturday afternoons (Ordinations, Bishop's Chorister Awards service, Diocesan Choirs' Festival), for which plenty of notice will be given. Occasional events such as concerts, tours, recordings and broadcasts are similarly advertised well in advance, and full choir attendance is expected at these. Choral Scholars may also be asked to sing for weddings, broadcasts and occasional services for which extra fees are usually payable.

### **Duties at Bury St Edmunds County Upper School**

Our aim is to find someone who will;

- Direct our Chamber Choir
- Work alongside the music team rehearsing our other choirs
- Act as a vocal specialist – especially for examination recitals
- Other duties may include supporting/accompanying students with ABRSM examinations, Grade 5 theory and conducting/accompanying/playing in other musical ensembles in the school.



We hope that this gives you a strong sense of how important music is to us. The successful candidate will join an ambitious, forward-thinking school that is determined to keep music at its heart. If you find yourself excited at the prospect of joining us, then we'd love you to apply.

## Person specification

The successful candidate is likely to be:

- An outstanding practicing musician who is a confident and competent conductor, able to lead rehearsals with good keyboard facility.
- Positive, with high expectations for student achievement.
- Sociable and keen to work in a well-motivated team.
- Musically ambitious, helping us to develop our reputation for the quality, breadth and ambition of our musical provision.

### Essential

- The ability to sing alto, tenor or bass
- Excellent choral skills (at least Grade 8)
- A commitment to the musical traditions that underpin Cathedral life
- A proven track record of being able to work within a team and on own initiative
- A confident conductor with experience of having directed choirs containing children and young adults
- The ability to remain calm under pressure
- Experience in using Microsoft Office (such as Word, Excel, Publisher, etc)
- Good time management
- A positive outlook with high expectations

### Desirable

- A music diploma
- Experience of using Sibelius music writing software.
- Good keyboard skills

## **Safeguarding**

The appointed candidate will need to have an enhanced DBS check (including barred list check) before commencing work.

Safeguarding training will be supplied.

The appointed candidate will be required to adhere to the Safeguarding Policy and all other Policies of the cathedral and school when working.

## **Remuneration**

A scale between £6,000-£9,000pa is available, depending on experience and qualifications.

## **Accommodation**

Modest accommodation is provided, near to the Cathedral, at minimal cost as part of the package. The post holder will be responsible for the cost of utilities (such as gas/electricity/broadband).

## **Tuition**

Termly singing lessons with a local professional singer will be offered

## **How to apply**

We want you to know about us before deciding whether to apply. Potential applicants are welcome to contact the cathedral or school by email or to have a telephone conversation about the post. Please contact James Thomas (Cathedral: Director of Music) and/or Rebekah Green (Bury St Edmunds County Upper School, Director of Music) as follows:

James Thomas: Cathedral – Director of Music  
01284 748720 dom@stedscathedral.org

Rebekah Green: Bury St Edmunds County Upper School – Director of Music  
01284 754857 rgreen@burytrust.org

The appointment process will include a short solo performance, taking a choir rehearsal with an octet of singers, and a formal interview.

**Closing date:** 9.00 am on Monday 24th June

**Interview:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

## **Please apply, using the Cathedral's Application Form, to:**

Sarah-Jane Allison  
Administrator: People and Policies  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral  
Abbey House  
Angel Hill  
Bury St Edmunds  
IP33 1LS  
Email: HR@stedscathedral.org  
Tel: 01284 748720