



St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



# Organ Scholar

Application Pack

2023-2024





## St Edmundsbury Cathedral

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is situated in the historic market town of Bury St Edmunds, and serves the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It is at the heart of community life, a natural gathering place for worship, reflection, refuge, celebration, mourning, pilgrimage, debate, questioning and storytelling.

Our story begins with the founding of the Abbey in 1020 by King Cnut. He named the Abbey after Saint Edmund, martyred in 869 by the Danes, and to this day Cathedral, Abbey and town carry that name. Over the succeeding centuries, several churches were built within the precincts of the Abbey. The nave of today's Cathedral is the successor of one of those churches, started in 1503. Our Grade 1 Cathedral was further altered from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the most recent additions being a new Gothic style tower, cloisters and chapels. A sculpture by Elisabeth Frink entitled *Crucifixion* stands by the Treasury steps. The medieval *Susanna Window* contains Flemish glass and the west window depicts *The Last Judgement* - a magnificent example of late nineteenth-century craftsmanship. A painting of *The Martyrdom of St Edmund* by Brian Whelan sits in the Lady Chapel. The Ancient Library, founded in 1595, has over 550 books mainly dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; providing a valuable resource for students and research.

The successful candidate will be joining the Cathedral community of this special place at a time of unique challenge and opportunity.

## King Edward VI School

King Edward VI (KEVI) is a co-educational comprehensive school covering years 7 to 11. Founded in c.1550, it has occupied an important educational role within the town for centuries. Since 1972, it has been located in Grove Road, around a fifteen minute walk from the Cathedral.

## Organ Scholar and KEVI Musician in Residence

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is looking to appoint an Organ Scholar for the academic year 2023-2024. The scholarship offers the opportunity to work with the music department at an exciting time in the Cathedral's ministry and musical development.

King Edward VI School is a highly regarded and inclusive secondary school and wishes to appoint a Musician in Residence. It has a strong tradition of musical and performing arts excellence, with historic links with the Cathedral.

The joint award is initially for one year, though it may be extended depending on individual circumstances. Applications are welcome from graduate or pre-university gap-year students.

This is an exciting opportunity for a young musician to gain experience both within a Cathedral music department and in the life of a busy school setting in the vibrant cathedral and market town of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

## St Edmundsbury Cathedral Music Department

Canon Precentor:	Philip Banks
Director of Music:	Timothy Parsons
Assistant Director of Music:	Richard Cook
Music and Liturgy Administrator:	Naomi Sturges

The **Cathedral Choir** consists of 20 boy and 20 girl choristers and around 10 adult singers. Each set of choristers takes an equal share of the singing duties. Coming from various schools across Bury and further afield, they rehearse and sing at services on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, as well as on Sundays. The adult singers of the choir consist of Vicars Choral, voluntary Lay Clerks and a Choral Scholar.

The Cathedral Choir sings for the majority of Cathedral services.

The **St Edmundsbury Singers** is a ladies choir run by the Assistant Director of Music. They sing Evensong on Wednesdays, alternating with the Youth Choir, and on certain special occasions throughout the year.

The **Cathedral Youth Choir** is a chamber choir for teenage singers, intended partly to provide former choristers an opportunity to continue singing at the Cathedral. They usually sing for Wednesday Evensongs in alternation with the St Edmundsbury Singers, and participate in special services and events throughout the year.

The Cathedral houses several world-class instruments: the main organ was fully restored in 2010 by Harrison and Harrison, including the creation of two spectacular new cases; a chamber organ by Robin Jennings is housed in the quire; and a Steinway 'Model D' grand piano is situated in the Nave and frequently used for concerts.





## Duties at the Cathedral

The Derek Marsden Organ Scholarship

- To play for services as requested by the DoM and the ADoM.
- To prepare appropriately for services and performances with daily practice.
- To accompany psalms, canticles, anthems, hymns and play organ voluntaries as agreed on a regular basis.
- To assist and observe the organist when required.
- To attend choral rehearsals as requested. There will be opportunities for the Organ Scholar to rehearse and conduct.
- To sing occasionally with the Cathedral Choir at choral services, and/or regularly with the Youth Choir
- Assist with Chorister Probationer Training
- Assist the Librarian with the preparation and organisation of the Cathedral Choirs' music
- Assist the Chorister Supervisor with the choristers.
- There are occasional services and events outside of the usual routine, for which plenty of notice will be given.
- Assisting the DoM and ADoM with administrative tasks and preparation for afternoon rehearsals.

## KEVI Music Department

Music is very important to our school – within and beyond the classroom. We are looking to appoint an exceptional *Musician in Residence* from September 2023.

The subject is very strong at all levels at this over-subscribed Platinum Arts Mark School. The Department is a key strength of the school. According to our last OFSTED, 'students really enjoy music and comment that it is one of the best subjects. They all feel valued as musicians which represents a significant achievement'.

We have strong links with Cambridge University and train music teachers from Homerton College. We also enjoy strong musical relationships with many local primaries, who benefit from our wide-ranging expertise, enabling many musical experiences for their own pupils with our support. This is set to increase in future years, as we plan to develop an outreach musical programme with some of these schools, to cement and enhance this relationship.

The Department runs a rich extra-curricular programme of ensembles and activities. *Ex Silentio*, our senior vocal group, has competed successfully at national level and has undertaken international tours as well as singing Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral.

## Duties at King Edward VI School

- Attending all scheduled sessions unless mutually agreed otherwise
- Recording of student attendance at sessions (NB not enforcing of attendance)
- Adhering to the school's behaviour, dress and other relevant protocols/policies
- Act as accompanist/vocal specialist
- Accompany weekly rehearsals with Ex Silentio taking the opportunity to co-direct as required
- Work closely with the music team, taking a lead/specifically supporting our performances in the Cathedral
- Other duties may include supporting/accompanying students with ABRSM students with examinations, Grade 5 theory and conducting/accompanying/playing in other musical ensembles in the school

## Person Specification

### Essential

- At least Grade 8 organ playing skills
- Confident sight-reader on piano and organ
- Committed to the musical traditions that underpin cathedral life
- Proven track record of working within a team and on own initiative
- A confident conductor
- The ability to remain calm under pressure
- Good time management
- A positive outlook with high expectations

### Desirable

- A musical diploma or professional qualification such as ARCO or equivalent
- Previous experience working in a church, chapel or cathedral setting
- Previous experience of having conducted choirs containing children and young adults
- Experience using music notation software



## Remuneration

Alongside an honorarium of £8,000, the Organ Scholar is provided with accommodation (with a minimal charge to cover the cost of utilities such as gas/electricity/broadband) within walking distance of the Cathedral. The Cathedral organists will offer free organ tuition as part of the Scholarship experience. Conducting tuition will also be available. There are also opportunities to play for extra services, for which a fee is payable.

## 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.

## How 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:

### Timothy Parsons

Director of Music, St Edmundsbury Cathedral  
01284 748739  
timothyparsons@stedscathedral.org

or

### Deri O'Regan

Headteacher, King Edward VI School  
01284 761393  
HB@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend St Edmundsbury Cathedral for an interview and organ playing audition, to consist of solo playing, hymn playing, sight reading and improvisation (further details will be confirmed nearer the time).

**Closing date:** Monday 31 October 2022

**Interview:** Friday 11 November 2022

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

Kate Hibbert, Human Resources Officer  
Cathedral Office, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS  
Email: hr@stedscathedral.org  
Tel: 01284 748720

