



**CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE**

GORDON REYNOLDS ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited from gap year, conservatoire/university and postgraduate students.

Opening Date: Friday 23 February 2024

Closing Date: Tuesday 9 April 2024, 11.59pm

Duties to begin: Sunday 22 September 2024, finishing Sunday 20 July 2025

Specification & Duties: The scholarship is primarily intended for an organ student wishing to gain experience in choral accompaniment, choir training and organ playing before or during their university/conservatoire course. Postgraduate applications will also be considered. The duties would depend on ability and experience, but it is envisaged that he/she would generally attend on Sundays, and would undertake a proportion of the choral accompaniments and voluntaries in conjunction with the junior organ scholar (school Year 11 from September 2024), as agreed with the Assistant Director of Music. There are likely to be weekends when the Director or his Assistant would be absent, in which case the Organ Scholars would share the playing, although music would be chosen with this in mind. In any event, a proficient and fluent level of playing - *especially in hymns* - will be expected. An ability to improvise musically and convincingly is highly desirable.

A suitably confident and able student may be given the opportunity to take an occasional boys' practice, and perhaps conduct the choir in performance. However, it is intended that the scholarship should be a training experience, and the demands made will be closely tailored to the particular candidate.

Sunday eucharist or matins (10 for 11.00am)

Sunday evensong (2.30 for 3.30pm)

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday (6.15 for 7.30pm);

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Boys practise on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5 - 6.15pm

The scholarship is worth £4,000 per annum, payable in quarterly instalments. It is regretted that accommodation is not provided. An enhanced DBS check may be carried out on the successful candidate.

Selection Process: Letters of application and a brief curriculum vitae should be addressed to Carl Jackson, Director of Music and sent to him at chapelroyal@hrp.org.uk. Shortlisted applicants will be notified by the end of Thursday 11 April 2024, and auditions will take place on **Tuesday 23 April 2024**.

Shortlisted applicants should be prepared to play two pieces - one of which should be by J S Bach. They will also be required to play the organ accompaniments for *Magnificat in D* by Herbert Brewer and *Give us the wings of faith* by Ernest Bullock. The playing of a hymn will also be included, together with some transposition and extemporisation.

NOTES

The Chapel Royal is a body of priests and singers that serves the spiritual needs of the Sovereign. It has been called 'the cradle of English church music', for its great musicians of the past set an example in style of composition and performance that was copied by cathedrals, churches and chapels throughout the land. The Chapel Royal used to travel with the court as it resided at various royal palaces including Hampton Court.

The Choir of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace: For two centuries from the baptism of Edward VI at Hampton Court in 1537, many of the finest musicians of the itinerant Chapel Royal would have served here. They include Tallis; Byrd who lived a few miles away in Harlington; Morley – sworn and admitted a Gentleman in the Vestry at Hampton Court; Purcell; and also Pelham Humfrey and Blow, both of whom lived nearby in Hampton. Further information about Hampton Court Palace can be found at www.hrp.org.uk, and the choir can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChapelRoyal.

Hampton Court Palace ceased to be a royal residence in 1737, and a permanent choir was established in 1868. Today, the Hampton Court choir of men and boys is subject to the jurisdiction of the Lord Chamberlain's Office and of the Dean of HM Chapels Royal, and it participates fully in an ongoing programme of collaborative performances with other choirs of the Chapels Royal. Most recently, this has included a tour to Wittenberg to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and the Reformation. In June 2017, the Choir sang at a service at Hampton Court to mark the centenary of the Order of Companions of Honour, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. In October 2017, it featured in the BBC Four television documentary by Lucy Worsley: *Elizabeth I's Battle for God's Music*, and also in *Lucy Worsley's Christmas Carol Odyssey*, first shown in December 2019. Recordings include the music of Thomas Tallis sung by the Gentlemen (2018), a recording by the full choir of the music of Thomas Tomkins (2019) and a recording of Christmas music (2023). Since 2011, the choir has been supported by a Choral Foundation (a registered charity). Further information may be found at www.chapelroyal.org.

The Gordon Reynolds Organ Scholarship was established to perpetuate the memory of Professor Gordon Reynolds LVO (1921-1995), Organist & Choirmaster from 1967 until his death.

The organ, a large three-manual instrument, dates from the one installed by Christopher Shridder in 1711-12. It was enlarged by William Hill during the 19th century who incorporated much of the earlier pipework, and then substantially altered by others in the 20th century. It was overhauled by Harrison & Harrison Ltd in 2013. It will be available for practice, though access may be affected by the hours of opening of the Chapel or the Palace.