Christ Church Cathedral and School, Victoria BC

Choral and Organ Scholarships and Educational Assistants

The Context

Christ Church Cathedral is seeking to appoint Choral and Organ Scholars combined with the post of Educational Assistant in Music at the Cathedral School for the September 2027 to June 2028 academic year. We are seeking experienced choral singers and organists with knowledge and experience playing string, wind, and percussion instruments. The candidate will also have an interest in working with school-aged children during their academic day to support learning.

The successful candidates will be motivated and self-directed individuals with excellent interpersonal skills, who are able to form strong connections with students, parents and colleagues. During the school day, they will primarily work in the music classroom. Outside of the academic day, they will have a special role assisting with daily chorister rehearsals and tutoring the choristers in piano, voice, and theory.

As a cathedral Choral Scholar, they will be expected to participate in all the commitments of the Cathedral Choir (adult mixed voices), including (but not limited to) Thursday evening choir practice, two Sunday services and occasional midweek services. The Cathedral Choir consists of a blend of professional singers, university-aged choral scholars and other volunteer singers from the community. For an example of their singing, here is the 2022 Service of Lessons and Carols: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8A8K51sliCo&t=2695s

Organ Scholar duties to be tailored to the successful candidate's skills and interests, and may include one Sunday per month leading music at another church in the diocese.

Since starting this scheme in 2021, we have had eight excellent scholars:



Alex White (2021-2022) joined us from Strathallan near Edinburgh and now sings as a choral scholar at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. He studies voice at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



Conrad Ellwood-Geake (2022-2023) graduated from Bryanston School and joined us in September 2022. He was previously a chorister at Chichester Cathedral and recently completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Birmingham.



Isabella Morley (2022-2023) is a graduate of Marlborough College, where she sang in the chapel choir and enjoyed playing the viola. She thoroughly enjoyed her time here in Canada, fitting in a few ski trips in the mountains, and forming lasting bonds with her host family. She recently graduated from a psychology degree at Durham University.



Kerecsen Martin (2023-2025) completed studies at Uppingham School, where he was a music scholar, playing the oboe, singing countertenor, and leading house ensembles. Through his emotional maturity and intelligence, he has quickly gained the admiration and trust of Cathedral School students and the young choristers.



Finn McCarthy (2024-2025) was a chorister at York Minster before studying at Ampleforth College in Yorkshire. He sings baritone and has a broad range of extracurricular passions, including sport. Finn attends Edinburgh University and sings in the choir at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.



Annabel Shipley (2025-2026) was a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral and a music scholar at Marlborough College. She sings soprano and is concurrently an Educational Assistant at Cathedral School. She is currently reading structural engineering at Sheffield University and sings as a Choral Scholar in the Sheffield Cathedral choir.



Marianne Robinson (2025-2026) studied at St Lawrence College in Canterbury. She sings alto and plays the organ. She recently took up a Choral Scholarship at Royal Holloway, London.



Oriel Chapman (2025-2026) is a keen singer (soprano) and organist. She sang in three local church choirs and the Millennium Youth Choir and was organ scholar at Colyton Parish Church before coming to Canada. In September 2026, she took up the Organ Scholarship at Downing College, Cambridge.

The City

The cathedral is located in Victoria, BC, on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. It stands prominently on the edge of the business district, in an area surrounded by apartments, care homes, new condominiums and hotels. Victoria is the capital of British Columbia, a province with a population of 4.8 million people.

Vancouver Island (population 800,000 in 2016) lies along the southwestern coast of British Columbia. The eastern shoreline is less rugged than the western shore and is rich in forests, farmland, fishing streams, villages and a few cities. A good portion of the Island lies south of the 49th parallel. Vancouver Island is 460 kilometres (290 miles) long and around 80 kms (50 miles) across. Although Vancouver Island is well inhabited, wilderness and wildlife still abound.

Travel to and from Vancouver Island is reasonably fast and convenient by BC Ferries, and scheduled flights from Victoria International Airport. There are harbour-to-harbour helicopter and float plane services to Vancouver Seattle and ferry services to Washington State.

As is the case with gap years, this is also a chance to meet new people and travel around new parts of the world. The successful candidate will be provided with opportunities and time to explore this beautiful part of the world.

The Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral is the episcopal seat of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, which comprises Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands in the Salish Sea. It is also an active parish of some 350 households. The cathedral is a proud member of the Anglican Church of Canada and the worldwide Anglican Communion. We respectfully acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples. As a community, we welcome and celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

The cathedral community aims to create a space where people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter and prayer. We are committed to the work of reconciliation, the protection and reverence of the created order, and solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

As a Cathedral Church, we serve both the parish community and the diocese as a whole. The cathedral has been the venue for great celebrations of corporate worship and gatherings, for example, the biennial national worship conference of the Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCIC in 2018 and the provincial memorial for Queen Elizabeth II.

The cathedral also lives into its description as “a cathedral for the city,” and is often the focal point for civic occasions, and the arts, including visual arts exhibitions, and outstanding musical performances.

The present cathedral building is the third to exist in Victoria over the past 150 years. Built in the early 20th century, it is an impressive neo-Gothic heritage structure, which attracts many residents and visitors. Also on the cathedral precinct is the Deanery (housing the Cathedral Offices), the Synod Office of the diocese, and Christ Church Cathedral School, with approximately 200 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Music Program

The cathedral offers edifying and engaging musical experiences in a wide variety of genres, periods and styles, but of consistently high standards in performance and presentation. Along with our unique building, music is one of the things that most attracts both worshippers and the public to the cathedral. It is highly valued by our parishioners and contributes to the cathedral's profile in the community.

The Music Ministry is currently led by a full-time Director of Music (Donald Hunt) and full-time Assistant Director of Music (Mark McDonald). The mainstays of the cathedral's musical life are the magnificent Helmuth Wolff organ (installed in 2005) and our many choirs: the Parish Choir (an all-comers group which rehearses weekly and participates in a service roughly once per month), the Cathedral Choir, which sings a Sunday (Choral) Eucharist and Evensong, and our Young Chorister Program for boys and girls enrolled in the Cathedral School. This program is modelled on the English Choir School tradition (which our Director of Music has professional experience in) and is in a phase of building up reading skills, repertoire, and frequency of services. We also recently formed a Youth Choir, aimed at graduates of the Young Chorister Program.

Skills and Qualifications

Required:

- Excellent choral singer (we have vacancies for sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses) and/or organ study to Grade 8 ABRSM or equivalent.
- Passion for education, ability to inspire and motivate students, and the belief that all students can and will learn
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a professional team

Desirable:

- An interest in entering an education or musical profession
- A collaborative and energetic working style
- Childhood experience as a cathedral or college chorister

This position is suitable to either a gap year (post college) student or a university graduate.

Compensation / Housing

Compensation package in the region of $25,000 CAD for 10 months. We will assist the successful applicants in finding suitable accommodation for their time in Victoria.

Applications

Please apply by filling out the application form no later than December 18, 2026. Shortlisting and online interviews will take place in January 2027.