

Temple Church

Female Choral Scholarships



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Academic Year 2021/22

Introduction

Temple Church wishes to give talented and gifted young female singers, who are thinking of pursuing a career in music, the opportunity to be led and supported through the experience of working in a professional environment.

This opportunity is open to female sopranos or contraltos who have begun and not yet finished secondary education, or who have recently finished secondary education but have not yet begun tertiary education (i.e. a 'gap year'). We are looking for outstanding singing and a high level of musicianship.

The individual(s) will sing regularly as part of our adult choir, the Temple Singers, made up of professional singers, all of whom have flourishing freelance careers across different areas of music (opera, consort, solo careers and teaching). They regularly sing Evensong on a Wednesday evening and a Sunday morning service approximately once a month. Additionally they sing at memorial services, weddings and occasional concerts. Initially, for the academic year 2021/22, there will be two scholarships available and we are looking to appoint one soprano and one contralto.

Value of Scholarship

The total amount of each scholarship will be £7,500. The expenditure of this scholarship will be tailored to fit the individual, in consultation with the Music Department of Temple Church. The scholarship will cover individual singing lessons (either external or organised through the Music Department), mentoring sessions, and may also be used to cover other music-related expenses (contribution towards school fees, other music tuition, costs of sessions with accompanists, language coaching, master classes, books and scores, making audition recordings, application fees for further study, travel expenses etc).





Core Aspects of the Programme

We are able to offer a bespoke programme according to the needs and wishes of the individual, made up of the following:

- ◆ Professional performing opportunities (services, weddings, concerts) with the Temple Singers
- ◆ One to one mentoring (with a professional singer appointed by the Music Dept)
- ◆ Individual singing lessons (either with an existing external teacher or one appointed by the Music Dept)
- ◆ Appraisals with Director and Assistant Director of Music
- ◆ Professional development, mock auditions, etc.
- ◆ General assistance in the Music Dept (which may include the opportunity of helping with the boy choristers' theory sessions, music library duties and possible involvement with the Youth Choir)
- ◆ Possible participation in outreach work with the Temple Church Choir

Person Specification

Essential

- ◆ In secondary/sixth form education (Year 12 or 13) OR in a gap year between school and university as at the beginning of the academic year 2021/22. For those on a gap year, they must be aged under 20 as at 31.8.22
- ◆ Able to travel into central London easily to fulfil the duties outlined below. (Some of the scholarship allowance may be used to cover travel expenses)
- ◆ Able to commit to Wednesday evenings, some Sunday mornings and occasional evenings and Saturdays (see 'Duties' below)
- ◆ A developed musical understanding with the ability to be self-sufficient with the learning of the repertoire
- ◆ An ability to read music to a high level of competence
- ◆ Good general standard of musical education
- ◆ Enthusiastic, dedicated and highly-motivated
- ◆ Comfortable with the concept of singing in a small ensemble, sometimes one to a part

Desirable

- ◆ Experience of singing in ensembles
- ◆ Experience of the Anglican liturgy and repertoire

Duties

Typical weekly schedule for the Temple Singers:

- ◆ Evensong on most Wednesday evenings in term time – 4.45 pm for 6.00 pm service, finishing by 7.00 pm
- ◆ c. One Sunday service per month in term time – 9.45 am rehearsal for 11.15 am service
- ◆ Tues/Weds/Thurs evenings – occasional memorial services (4.30 pm rehearsal for 6.00 pm service, finishing by 7.15pm)
- ◆ Saturday weddings (times vary)

A termly timetable is submitted 5 weeks in advance. Flexibility is key as the church timetable is fluid.



Selection Process

Applications should be made via the application form at the end of this document, to include names and contact details of two referees, and sent with a cover letter explaining why you wish to be considered for the scholarship, to: susan@templechurch.com.

The closing date is Friday 7 May

We plan to hold the auditions in person at Temple Church on Saturday 19 June.

At the audition candidates will be asked to perform two contrasting pieces (totalling no more than ten minutes) that show off their voice to its best potential. We will provide an accompanist. At the audition there will be tests on aural, sight-reading and range, followed by a question and answer session with the panel. We will send out an ensemble piece a day in advance for the candidate to prepare for the audition.

The audition panel will consist of the following:

Director of Music

Assistant Director of Music

A vocal expert

Liturgical Organist

A member of the Temple Singers with whom to sing two-part music

Offer of Scholarship

Following successful audition and interview the candidate will be offered a scholarship contract for one year, commencing September 2021 until August 2022. The scholarship may have the potential to be extended for a second year.

While it is not a requirement that an applicant for an award is a UK citizen, any non-UK citizen will be asked to demonstrate their right to participate fully in this scheme in the UK.

This opportunity is open to women only because of the particular need of the Temple Church to develop a group of female sopranos and contraltos to sing in the Church as a complement to the current voices, working to the same high standard, and with sufficient and similar knowledge of the range of music as used in the Church's worship.

For an informal conversation about the scholarship please contact:

Susan Keeling, Music Administrator
susan@templechurch.com
Tel: 020 7427 5650

More About Us

The **Temple Church Choir** consists of eighteen boy choristers and twelve professional choir members and was founded after the Victorian restoration of the church in 1841 by Dr Edward John Hopkins. It is still considered to be one of the finest choirs in London, a reputation it quickly gained after its founding. Though its main duty is to enhance the worship in the services in the ancient Temple Church, the choir has also been involved with many exciting projects outside its liturgical commitments. The established musical tradition of the Temple Church has encompassed many distinguished and formidable musicians in church music, and some of the great figures in Anglican Church music have composed and played within its walls. Handel was a visitor to the church to hear the virtuoso blind organist and composer, John Stanley, who was appointed Organist to the Society of the Inner Temple in 1734.

In the nineteenth century, Hopkins' successor, Sir Henry Walford Davies, further developed the reputation of the church's music and its choir before becoming organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor and ultimately Master of the King's Musick. Sir George Thalben-Ball followed and under his direction the choir attracted such a following that queues for services often spilled out of The Temple into Fleet Street. Of the many recordings that the choir made during Thalben-Ball's tenure, the most famous featured the Temple chorister Ernest Lough singing Mendelssohn's *Hear my Prayer*. In the last twenty-five years, the music of the church has been under the direction of Dr John Birch, Stephen Layton, James Vivian and, the present Organist & Director of Music, Roger Sayer.

The **Temple Singers**, formed in 2006 to complement the work of the Temple Church Choir, comprise adult professional singers. They sing for frequent Wednesday Evensongs and Sunday services, as well as memorial services, weddings and occasional concerts.

The **Temple Church** was built by the Knights Templar, the soldier-monks who protected pilgrims to the Holy Land during the Crusades. The Round Church was consecrated in 1185; it is modelled on the circular church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the site of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. The church forms part of the estate of the Inns of Court known as the Inner and Middle Temple. It was conveyed to the Inns by Royal Charter of King James I, made in 1608 and repeated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2008. Under the Royal Charter the Inns are responsible for maintaining the Temple Church as a place of worship.





Roger Sayer is Organist and Director of Music at Temple Church, London. His main responsibility is to direct the choir of boys and professional men.



Roger's work both as a choir director and organist has taken him to four continents. He is the organ soloist on the Oscar-nominated film score *Interstellar* and has many recordings to his credit. Most notably, he has released recordings of Rheinberger's Twenty Organ Sonatas, and a DVD of the six symphonies of Louis Vierne, recorded in 2020.

Future projects include recitals in Bavo Church Haarlem, Regensburg Cathedral and directing a week-long choral course in Brisbane.

Thomas Allery is the Assistant Director of Music at Temple Church. He is responsible for the teaching of musicianship to the choristers, and regularly conducts the Temple Singers in services and concert. Outside of Temple Church, he is in demand as an organist and director, as well as a harpsichordist and continuo player.



Thomas studied at Oxford University, the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. From 2014 – 19 he was Director of chapel music at Worcester College, Oxford and was also assistant organist of Magdalen College. In regular demand as a teacher, Thomas teaches the organ at City of London School, Radley College, and basso continuo at the Royal College of Music. As a continuo player, he regularly plays with the award-winning period music group, Ensemble Hesperii. He is currently undertaking research into historical continuo treatises from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and exploring how they can be used in keyboard education today.



Charles Andrews has been Liturgical Organist of the Temple Church since 2019. He studied at the Royal College of Music with David Graham and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, with the aid of a Douglas & Kyra Downie Award. Before studying at the RCM Charles held a

Michael James Organ Scholarship at Rochester Cathedral.

From 2011-16 Charles was Associate Director of Music at All Saints, Margaret Street in the West End of London. Plans for the near future include recording organ works by former Temple Church organists Henry Walford Davies and George Thalben-Ball and their associates.



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The Temple Church, London



Application Form

Name:

Age:

Date of birth: ____/____/200__

Place of birth:

Nationality/Citizenship:

Address:

Current school:

School year:

Qualifications attained (eg GCSEs, ABRSM & Trinity music exams, etc):

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Please tell us a little bit about your singing experience. For example, how long you have been studying singing, if you have taken exams, what ensembles (if any) you sing/ have sung with:

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Please tell us about your other musical experience. For example, other instruments studied, exams taken, ensemble experience:

Please give below the names and contact details of TWO referees, one of which should be your current singing teacher:

1.

2.

Please return the completed form, together with a cover letter explaining why you wish to be considered for this scholarship, by email to: susan@templechurch.com by Friday 7 May.