

The Royal Military Chapel - The Guards' Chapel

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ

Soprano vacancy

The Guards' Chapel

The Guards' Chapel is the spiritual home of the Household Division, comprising seven regiments who have traditionally protected the Sovereign, and who take part in significant state ceremonial events such as the Queen's Birthday Parade. The original Guards' Chapel was built in 1838, but was tragically destroyed in June 1944 by a flying bomb during a morning service. The rebuilt Chapel was opened in 1963: the surviving apse from the earlier building, with its splendid mosaics, provides its focal point.

The Guards' Chapel Choir

Formed of twelve professional singers (four sopranos, three altos, two tenors and three basses), the Guards' Chapel Choir leads the weekly Sunday worship in the Chapel. The choir rehearses at 10am for the 11am service, which alternates between Holy Communion and Matins. In addition, there are a significant number of special services throughout the year: weddings, memorial services, concerts and carol services. Members of the choir are in demand in their own right as soloists and ensemble members of a wide variety of other professional groups.

Job Description

The Guards' Chapel Choir is looking to recruit a confident soprano with a wide experience of both solo and choral singing. The repertoire sung on a weekly basis encompasses the full breadth of the Anglican choral tradition: familiarity with Anglican chant and strong sight-reading skills are essential. Deputies are booked in consultation with the Director of Music, and although there is no fixed rule on absence, it is expected that choir members will be present for at least 75% of services across the course of a year.

Remuneration

The current rate for the weekly Sunday service is £72, with rates for special services starting at £108. In the course of a typical year, with attendance at roughly 85% of services, a singer could expect to earn in the region of £5000. This is a self-employed position, with payment for services sung being made on a monthly basis.

Application Process

Applications consisting of a CV and brief covering letter (no more than 300 words and including contact details for two referees) should be sent via email to Martin Ford, Organist & Director of Music (martin.ford.guards@gmail.com) no later than Friday 27th August 2021.

Informal enquiries to the same address are welcome in advance of the deadline. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to audition in September.