



THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

APPOINTMENT OF SUB-ORGANIST AND SCHOOL ORGANIST

Portsmouth Cathedral and The Portsmouth Grammar School are delighted to institute the combined post of Cathedral Sub-Organist and School Organist with effect from September 2012.

Please find job descriptions relating to this post attached to this document. If you have any questions concerning the post please do feel free to contact the Cathedral Organist, Dr David Price, or the School Director of Music, Mr Sam Gladstone (s.gladstone@pgs.org.uk), for an informal conversation.

Your application should consist of a covering letter stating why you are applying for the post, a full CV and a completed application form (also available from the website). Applications may be sent electronically or in writing to Dr David Price at the address below.

The deadline for applications is FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY. Short listing will take place on MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY and interviews over two days – MONDAY 26th MARCH through to TUESDAY 27th MARCH.

Remuneration for the combined post will be between £18,000-£20,000 (depending on hours worked at school and fee income from cathedral occasional services).

Rented accommodation is available in cathedral housing in Old Portsmouth.



Cathedral Music Office, Cathedral House, St Thomas' Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HA
Telephone: 023 9289 2965
E-mail: organist@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk Website: portsmouthcathedral.org.uk



PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

JOB DESCRIPTION

Cathedral Sub-Organist

16 hours per week

Job Title

Sub-Organist at The Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Portsmouth.

Key Work Area

Music Department

Primary Purposes

To accompany cathedral services and to take a full part in the leadership of the music department at Portsmouth Cathedral.

Accountability

The post-holder is accountable through the Cathedral Organist to the Cathedral Chapter.

Responsibilities

To work, under the direction of the Cathedral Organist, towards the advancement of music and liturgy at Portsmouth Cathedral.

To accompany the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Youth Choir at statutory services in the Cathedral (11am Eucharist & 6pm Evensong on Sundays and Evensong on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) or to direct the same in the absence of the Cathedral Organist, and to direct the Parish Choir at 9.30am services on Sundays.

To direct weekly probationer practices, and to be available to direct full chorister rehearsals in the absence of the Cathedral Organist.

To accompany diocesan, civic or other services, by arrangement with the Cathedral Organist.

To be available for the cover of weddings, funerals and other services, by arrangement with the Cathedral Organist. These will usually be remunerated separately. In 2011 this amounted to circa £1,000.

To be responsible for the day-to-day running and care of the Parish Choir. In practice the Cathedral Sub-Organist will undertake all of the training, conducting and administration of the choir.

To give public organ recitals at Portsmouth Cathedral and Portsmouth Guildhall as required by the Cathedral Organist. These will usually number at least one per term.

To mentor the Cathedral Organ Scholar.

To accept and work under the Cathedral's Rule of Life, and to contribute to the Cathedral's work and mission with enthusiasm and understanding.

Working Practices

The Sub-Organist will attend regular planning meetings with the Canon Precentor, Cathedral Organist and other members of the Music Department.

The Sub-Organist will keep the Director of Music, Portsmouth Grammar School fully informed of his/her commitments and engagements at the Cathedral. Potential clashes of programme are to be raised with the Organist and Director of Music at the earliest opportunity.

The Sub-Organist will be expected to undertake regular in-service training and annual appraisal.

The Sub-Organist will be encouraged to develop personal interests/research and to engage in private tuition. Organ tuition may take place, by arrangement, on the Cathedral organ, with the agreement of the Cathedral Organist.

Typical weekly pattern

Sub-Organist's Routine

Sunday – 9am practice for 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Parish Choir)

10.15am practice for 11.00am EUCHARIST (Cathedral Choir)

5.15pm for 6pm EVENSONG (Cathedral Choir)

Monday – Departmental Staff Meeting

5.15pm for 6pm EVENSONG (Men's Voices)

Tuesday 8am-8.35am assist with boys' practice

5.15pm for 6pm EVENSONG (Cathedral Choir)

Thursday 8am-8.35am assist with boys' practice

5.15pm for 6pm EVENSONG (Cathedral Youth Choir)

Friday 5.15pm for 6pm EVENSONG (Cathedral Choir)

7pm-8pm Parish Choir weekly rehearsal

PERSONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Essential Qualities

Appropriate qualifications and skills for playing the organ, conducting and teaching.

Ability to relate well with both professional and amateur musicians.

Ability to work closely with clergy, departmental colleagues, and all Cathedral Staff.

Ability to relate well with congregations and members of the general public.

Excellent personal and telephone skills.

Competence in oral and written communication.

Ability to take initiatives and adapt.

IT competence

Appointment subject to Enhanced CRB Clearance

Knowledge of Church Practice

In sympathy with the aims and practices of the Church of England

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

The Music Department

Introduction

Situated on the south coast between Southampton and Chichester, the City of Portsmouth maintains its long maritime involvement through the naval base and continental ferry port, not to mention its various links to the Isle of Wight and Gosport. At the mouth of the harbour is the Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, its tower and cupola once housing a lantern to help guide ships into the port from the strong winds and tides of the Solent and English Channel. Dating in its earliest part from 1185, yet only fully completed in 1991, the Cathedral offers a fine and dramatic setting for music and liturgy, as well as boasting a glorious acoustic and a fine 1861 Nicholson organ. In 2001 a fine new Nave division was completed, also by Nicholson and Co., to great acclaim. The Cathedral Music Department enjoys a close working relationship on many levels with The Portsmouth Grammar School which supplies most of the cathedral choristers. Our joint gap-year Choral Scholar Scheme is the envy of many other cathedral choirs and goes from strength to strength year on year.



Music is the only international language and as such it is one of the Church's most ancient forms of expression and worship of God. Music in Cathedrals strives to do this to a high standard and to use many differing traditions of music making. English Cathedrals uphold a unique and 1000 year old ministry of daily use of music within services. Therefore, at Portsmouth Cathedral we have a much acclaimed Cathedral Choir of men and boys, Cantate (the Cathedral Youth Choir) a close harmony group (formed from our Choral Scholars), the St Thomas Parish Choir (a mixed choir), a resident team of organists, Jazz extemporary and a myriad of groups and orchestra performing concerts.

Cathedral Choir (22 boys: 12 men)



In the recent years the Cathedral Choir has taken part in DDay60 in France, broadcast annually on BBC Radio Three, featured on BBCtv, toured Belgium and Holland, France in 2010, Germany in 2011 and sung at St Paul's Cathedral. However, the core work of the choir is *Opus Dei* in the Cathedral itself is a weekly round of nine hours rehearsals in order to sing a minimum of five choral

services per week.

Cantate (20 girls: 4 ATB boys: 6 ATB Choral Scholars) a youth choir of teenage girls and boys directed by the Cathedral Organist who sing evensong on Thursdays in term time and major Feasts. The choir also takes its full part in Cathedral Outreach and assists in the delivery of Cathedral SingUp. The choir is singing in The French Alps this Eastertide.



Parish Choir (6 youngsters: 12 adults)

A mixed choir that staffs the 9.30am Parish Eucharist.

Stop-Gap This year's Gap Year students have had a busy and profitable time singing at corporate, WI, hospital, community and church events.

Outreach

Over the last three years the Music Department has undertaken a major programme of outreach including SingUp. This has included workshops, concerts and services in parishes, local museums, civic events and in support of the Naval Chaplaincy and Outward Giving.



A number of groups exist to give support and encouragement to the Cathedral Music Dept. They are The Choir Association (existing to support the cathedral choir), The Old Choristers' Assn (an alumni organisation) and Friends of Cathedral Music (a national charity with strong local representation).

Music Staff

This appointment comes about due to the preferment of Mr Marcus Wibberley as Director of Music of Hexham Abbey in November 2011.

Precentor – Revd Canon Nicholas Jepson-Biddle

Organist & Master of the Choristers – Dr David Price

Acting Sub-Organists – Mr William Drakett and Mr Nicholas Miller

Secretary to Music & Liturgy – Ms Rachel Richardson

Choir Matrons – Mrs Catherine O'Leary and Mrs Celia Veal

Choir Vocal Coach – Mr Alex Paulton

Librarian – Mr James Wilder



THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

School Organist

The Portsmouth Grammar School is a leading co-educational school located in the historic heart of Portsmouth. The school is an IB World School and has offered the IB Diploma alongside A Level since 2009.

This is a new post for the School, intended to allow pupils to benefit from the presence of an outstanding musician able to deliver an educational portfolio entirely suited to their individual strengths, to the benefit of the whole school community.

The post would involve a total of two days' work at the school, which will be organised flexibly in discussion with the Headmaster and Director of Music and may include a distribution of hours across Monday to Friday.

The successful candidate should demonstrate:

- a genuine desire to work within a school and with young people
- experience of working within a school environment or other appropriate experience of working successfully with young people
- enthusiasm for encouraging the next generation of organ students

Some of the following are also desirable:

- an active interest in composition and/or music technology
- teaching experience
- experience of chamber music performance
- interest in collaboration between music and drama
- experience leading choral workshops and outreach events
- strong administrative skills

Job description

The precise job description may vary according to the skills and interests of the successful candidate, but is likely to include some of the following:

- supporting examination classes, particularly in preparation for performance and composition coursework, and in developing theory and aural skills.
- working with the Director of Music to devise and lead outreach activities and liaison with local schools, ensembles and organisations.
- with the Organ Scholar and Head of Keyboard, supporting individuals in their preparation for external music exams, including aural training and mock exams.
- working with the Head of Keyboard to develop organ and harpsichord playing, and keyboard skills in general, in the school. This may include some individual tuition.
- assisting with the school's chamber music programme.
- leading sectional rehearsals and deputising for the Director of Music in directing the Chamber Choir and Allegro Choir.
- assisting as a staff member at major concerts.
- sharing the accompaniment of school choirs, musical rehearsals and assemblies with the Organ Scholar and Sixth Form students.
- giving support and mentoring to individual pupils, as identified by the Music Department.
- supporting and mentoring the Organ Scholar.
- administrative support in the department, including assisting with the running of ABRSM exams.

Depending on experience, the appropriate candidate could also work with the Head of Academic Music and Director of Music to develop any particular areas of interest or specialism, such as music technology or composition. There is the potential that this may include some academic teaching.

The Department and Facilities

The Music Department is led by the Director of Music, two further full-time teaching staff including The Head of Academic Music, a Head of Keyboard, a part-time administrator and a GAP Year Assistant. The Deputy Head (Co-Curricular) is also a musician and teaches within the Department. There are 34 highly-qualified Visiting Music Teachers.

The Music School consists of the Rotunda (an intimate concert hall which is the venue for weekly lunchtime recitals, and houses a Steinway grand piano); two well-equipped classrooms; nine practice/teaching rooms; a recording studio and technology suite. There is a separate suite of rooms for the string scheme, and there are further practice and teaching rooms on the Upper Junior School site.

Music at PGS

Music is central to the life of the school. The Music Department has a whole school approach, a genuine spirit of inclusivity and the highest of reputations within the school community. Over 500 instrumental lessons take place each week, a large range of ensemble opportunities exist throughout the school (for example Chamber Choir and Orchestra but also African Drumming and Glee Club), and over 60 pupil concerts take place during the year.

The school has a strong choral tradition and enjoys excellent links with Portsmouth's two Cathedrals; services and assemblies are held regularly in the Anglican Cathedral of St Thomas along the High Street in Old Portsmouth, whilst the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St John's plays host to a number of school concerts. The majority of boy and girl choristers in the two choirs at St Thomas's Cathedral are pupils at PGS. A choral scholarship scheme at 13+ and 16+ enhances our choral provision and many former pupils have gone on to become choral scholars at university. Appearances on BBC Radio and TV by the Chamber Choir, and Evensongs at other cathedrals are a regular part of our programme, including an annual Choral Evensong at Christ Church, Oxford with which the school enjoys close historic links. There is also a thriving GAP year scheme financed jointly with the St Thomas's Cathedral, bringing choral and organ scholars for a year's work experience at the school.

There is a thriving PGS Community Choir involving parents, staff and former pupils, whilst the newly formed Glee Club were Winners of Portsmouth Schools' Glee Competition 2010 and finalists in the Barnardo's National Schools' Choir Competition held at the Barbican in February 2011.

The school commissions annually new works for Remembrance by contemporary composers and these have included Jonathan Willcocks, Carl

Davis, Derek Bourgeois, Harvey Brough, Grayston Ives, Cecilia McDowall, Peter Maxwell-Davies (this performance was recorded for a BBC television documentary in 2009), Stephen Montague and Tansy Davies (this performance was nominated for the prestigious Southbank Sky Arts Awards for 2011). A CD of Remembrance commissions, *A Song More Silent*, was released to critical acclaim on Radio 3 in 2008. We recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of our partnership with our Associate Musicians, the London Mozart Players, and in June 2012 will work with international award-winning choir Voces8 to lead a city-wide Massed Choir as part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Future plans include a performance of Britten's War Requiem in the Portsmouth Guildhall to celebrate the centenary of the composer's birth.

Portsmouth is a naval city, and close links with the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines have, throughout the generations, also ensured an excellence in brass and wind playing which still continues, thanks to a Brass Scheme in the Junior School which supports a 40-strong Junior School Brass Band. A recent former pupil, Cathedral Head Chorister and beneficiary of this scheme, Sam Moffitt, reached the Brass Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2010, playing the trumpet. The String Scheme, which gives free lessons to all pupils aged 7 in the PGS Junior School is intended to provide excellence in string playing in depth in both the Junior and Senior Schools and has proved highly successful.

Links with the local community are paramount to the school and music is integral to this. The school was a founding partner in creating the Portsmouth Festivities, a festival celebrating the arts and young people, based on the history and heritage of Portsmouth, in 2000. The Festivities has grown into the city's premier arts festival, attracting significant support from local business, city partners and the Arts Council.