



THE
CHORAL
FOUNDATION
THE CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Being a Hampton Court Chorister

“Some of the music has been heard in the chapel for hundreds of years. It gives me a real sense of history which I hope we pass on to everyone who listens to us.”

Oliver Champness,
Former Chorister



Boys have been singing for kings and queens in the Hampton Court Chapel Royal since Tudor times.

Find out more about this choral tradition, our recruitment programme and our open day.



The Hampton Court Chapel Royal choir is made up of boy Choristers and Gentlemen. The choir sings at services on Sundays and Holy Days throughout the year. It is part of the ecclesiastical establishment of the Royal Household and Her Majesty The Queen provides a Director of Music and Organist so that all who wish to worship in Her Chapel Royal may enjoy this unique choral heritage.

The Choristers are recruited from the widest range of schools across South West London and Surrey. The Choral Foundation funds an outreach programme and the musical education of every boy so that talented boys from any background may have this life changing opportunity to become a Chapel Royal chorister.



“Being part of the choir has given me amazing opportunities. It has transformed my life.”

Ciaran Price, Former chorister





“Singing with the choir is giving me a musical education that I couldn’t get anywhere else. We’ve sung in places I might not have ever visited.”

Patrick Redmond, Chorister

Local boys aged 7 to 9 years old (in School Years 3 to 5) may register for the family-friendly open day that takes place each September. Boys who have attended the open day may apply for an audition. Voice trials are held each October with up to 6 places available annually. The Director of Music teaches 20 boys in weekly rehearsals with up to 6 candidates on the waiting list at any one time. Those successful in audition may expect to join the choir within a year, and to train for at least 6 months before singing in services.

As this is not a choir school, boys stay at their usual school and attend rehearsals at Hampton Court twice a week; Tuesdays 17.00 to 18.10 and Fridays 18.00 to 19.15

Boys begin training as *Pre Probationers* attending evening rehearsal only. Once they are ready to sing in services they become *Probationers*. Eventually they will be promoted to *Choristers* and in due course may become a senior, known as a *Corner Boy* or indeed *Head Boy* or *Senior Head Boy*. All promotions are at the discretion

of the Director of Music and are made to the boy who shows musicality and maturity worthy of such a position.

Once singing in services the commitment is as follows:-

Sundays 09.30 rehearsal 11.00 service
14.15 rehearsal 15.30 service

The services are in school term times only, with allowances for half terms, except for Holy days such as Christmas and Easter which fall in school holidays. Boys sing with the choir until the age of 13 years or until their voice changes, whichever is the sooner. Boys receive a small weekly payment, music lessons are funded by a non-means tested bursary, further means tested support is available and parents are provided with a car park pass for the choir schedule.

In addition to weekly services, the choir sings at prestigious concert venues; other Royal Chapels; to commemorate Royal and National events; it also undertakes recordings and TV and radio broadcasts.

Boys with treble voices from every culture who respect the form of worship in Her Majesty's Chapel Royal according to *The Book Of Common Prayer* are welcome. There are no academic requirements; you need not have musical grades or a trained voice. The Director of Music is looking for a pure high voice that will blend with the choir and an excellent musical ear. Boys with talent and potential, as well as those with previous musical experience, will have an equal opportunity to progress within choir and to receive any additional support that they require. Choral Scholarships to senior schools, such as Hampton School are available at 11 and 13.

"...this particularly historical foundation is on the leading edge of accessibility in recruiting choristers."

Judith Weir CBE, Master of the Queen's Music & Patron of our chorister recruitment scheme



If you are interested in finding out more about the choir and registering for our open day please contact choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk; 020 3166 6516; 07867 313460; www.chapelroyal.org

GIVING CHORAL MUSIC A FUTURE

The Choral Foundation preserves and promotes the unique heritage of English choral music at the Chapel Royal Hampton Court and makes it accessible to all.

The Choral Foundation Registered Charity Number 1142075 relies on the generosity of donors to fund the musical education of the next generation of boy choristers at Hampton Court. If you would like to sponsor a chorister please contact choral.foundation@hrp.org.uk; 020 3 166 6516; 07867 313460.



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The Choral Foundation, The Chapel Royal,
Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey,
Surrey KT8 9AU, UK

Tel +44 1 20 3166 6516
e-mail Choral.Foundation@hrp.org.uk

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Company Number 7542466