



Could your son be a Chorister in the Cathedral Choir?

How can I find out more or apply?

- There is an open morning held at the Cathedral in January, before the auditions, for interested boys and their parents to observe a rehearsal with the Cathedral Choristers, talk to current Choir families and get a feel for what the Choir does.
- Auditions take place at Polwhele House Preparatory School in late January.
- The Cathedral's Director of Music and the School's Headmaster will be happy to meet and listen to a boy at any time of year to give informal advice.
- Up-to-date details about the School, fees, scholarships and bursaries are available from the Cathedral or the School.



Truro Cathedral Music



Truro Cathedral Music

How does the selection process work?

- The official chorister auditions take place at Polwhele House Preparatory School annually in January.
- Experienced staff from the Cathedral and School will assess each application carefully to decide whether a Chorister place is right for the child and for the Choir.
- Boys can sing a short piece of music (for example, a verse of 'Away in a Manger') if they wish. They will be assessed on their voice, reading skills, ear and general aptitude (for example, concentration and commitment).
- Boys must pass the School's independent assessment which will be given at the same time as the Chorister auditions.
- At this very young age it is musical potential rather than ability that is being tested.

Do I have to be religious?

- There is no requirement to have experience of Anglican worship or traditions but families must be comfortable with the Cathedral's ethos. Those who wish their son to be confirmed into the Church of England will, of course, have that opportunity but this is not an essential part of the Choir's duties.

For informal advice, our full current information about the Choir and Polwhele House School or for an application form, please contact Polwhele House School's Headmaster or the Cathedral's Director of Music (details below).

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What is the Cathedral Choir?

- There are 18 boy Choristers and 12 gentlemen in Truro Cathedral Choir.
- At the heart of the Choir's duties are its six sung services each week during term time. In addition, there are special events such as the popular service of Nine Lessons and Carols devised by the first Bishop of Truro, Bishop Benson, for use in the cathedral in 1880.
- The boys are all educated at Polwhele House Preparatory School where they receive scholarships from the Cathedral. These scholarships are towards the school's fees and can be supplemented by a means-tested additional bursary.
- Because of the level of commitment required of Choristers and their parents the Choir family community is close-knit and lasting friendships are formed.

"Being a Cornishman, I am proud that Truro has one of the world's finest Cathedral Choirs."

Sir David Willcocks



Who can apply?

- Auditions are held annually in January for boys in Years 2 and 3 (coming up to their seventh or eighth birthday). Boys normally enter the Choir at the start of Year 4 though occasionally there are spaces in other years.
- Boys from any school can apply though, if successful, they would have to move to Polwhele House Preparatory School.



What are the benefits of being a Chorister?

- Performing music by great composers with a world-class choir six times a week directed by specialist professional musicians in one of the South West's finest buildings.
- Taking part in live broadcasts for television and radio, CD recordings and foreign tours.
- Receiving scholarships and possibly bursaries towards fees at Polwhele House School.
- Receiving subsidised instrumental lessons.
- Developing leadership skills in a supportive environment with a great deal of individual attention.
- Working as part of a close team with a special purpose and strong sense of identity.
- Participating in workshops with specialists in fields such as languages and acting.
- Meeting and performing with celebrities from time to time.

"It has been a great pleasure to watch our son mature into a confident, focused (most of the time...) and very happy young man with a passion for music and a sense of responsibility and self-discipline that I know I didn't have at his age. He loves being a Chorister and takes great pride in it. And so do we."

John, Father of a Chorister

What is the time commitment?

- The boys rehearse every morning before school from 8.10 to 8.55 am.
- After school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday they have refreshments at school and then come to the Cathedral where they have time for homework. They then rehearse with the gentlemen and sing a service at 5.30 pm which is usually over by 6.10 pm.
- On Sundays the boys rehearse at 8.50 am for the service at 10.00 am, and at 3.15 pm for the service at 4.00 pm.
- Occasionally there are alterations to this pattern and a full schedule is published well in advance.
- As well as its term time commitments, the Choir sings services at Christmas and Easter. Occasionally there is a foreign tour during the summer holiday.

