

Thank you for taking an interest in the choirs at Lancaster Priory. We are extremely keen that music should be at the heart of all that we do; it lifts us when we are sad and it helps us celebrate our most joyous moments in life.

Some are given the gift to perform, and we are very fortunate to have some talented musicians in the Priory; their singing and playing enhances our worship as they join their voices with the angels in praising God. They also use their gifts to entertain us in concerts throughout the year.

The top line is shared between a girls' choir of twenty-four girls, and a boys' choir of around sixteen boys. The lower parts are sung by adults, many of whom began their singing life as children in the choir.



Two Sunday choral services are sung each week as well as Matins on the first Sunday of the month. For major events the treble lines combine to form a full choir of some sixty singers, and at Christmas and Easter the full choir is supported by an invited orchestra.

The choir is a very friendly group that holds many social events, including trips, post-concert parties and an annual dinner at Candlemas. Many former choristers, some of whom are pursuing musical careers, return to take part both musically and socially in these events.

Inside this leaflet you will find details of all three robed choirs; please do get in touch with the Director of Music if you would like to get involved.

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(Term time)

MONDAYS

6.30pm-7.30pm: Boys' choir practice

WEDNESDAYS

6.30pm-8.00pm: Girls' choir practice

FRIDAYS

7.15pm-8.15pm: Boys and ATB rehearsal
7.15pm-8.30pm (*once a month*): Full Choir rehearsal

SUNDAYS

10.00am Choral Eucharist
11.30am (*first Sunday of the month*): Choral Mattins
6.30pm Choral Evensong

During school and university holidays, a choir of volunteer singers from the congregation (The Occasional Singers) leads the music for the weekly Choral Eucharist. For details of how to join this, please speak to the Organist, Mr Ian Pattinson, after a service.

MUSIC STAFF

MR DON GILLTHORPE BMus (Hons) PGCE (Director of Music)
MR IAN PATTINSON BMus (Hons) FRCO (Organist)
MS SARAH JILLIAN COX (Singing teacher)
MR CHRISTOPHER STEELE (Singing teacher)

For further information about joining the choirs at Lancaster Priory, please contact:

MR DON GILLTHORPE
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DoM@LancasterPriory.org

www.lancasterpriory.org



**LANCASTER
PRIORY**



**THE
CHOIRS
AT LANCASTER PRIORY**

for BOYS

For many generations, a **robed choir of men and boys** has enhanced the worship at Lancaster Priory through high standards of music-making. This tradition is maintained to this day with boys from across the area working together three times a week to achieve professional results.

Boys generally join the choir in school Year 3 or 4 (although some do join later) and remain until their voices change (around Year 8 or 9), when many remain to sing with the adults on the back row.



WHAT COMMITMENT IS EXPECTED?

- Mondays, 6.30pm-7.30pm: Boys' choir practice
- Fridays, 7.15pm-8.15pm: Boys and ATB rehearsal
- Fridays, 7.15pm-8.30pm (once a month): Full Choir rehearsal
- Sundays: either 10am Eucharist or 6.30pm Evensong
- Special services, concerts and trips throughout the year as advertised

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- High-quality music education delivered by professional musicians.
- The development of broader academic, personal and social skills which are transferrable to all walks of life.
- A lively social group as part of the wider Priory congregation (for children and their parents).
- The opportunity to receive subsidised singing, piano, or organ lessons.
- Preparation for choral or organ scholarships at university.
- Participation in choir trips, and subsidised participation in national residential courses for choristers.
- All choristers receive a small amount of choir pay in recognition of their efforts.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any child of the ages specified above can join the choir if they can read reasonably well, can sing a few notes in tune and have the willingness to learn and make a regular commitment. New members do not need to be able to read music as this is taught as part of chorister training. There is no audition to join the choir for children, just a friendly voice test and chat. Please do contact the Director of Music for further information.

for GIRLS

The **Lancaster Priory Girls' Choir** has now been an integral part of our music department for many years. They share equal responsibility with the boys for leading the worship whilst maintaining their own distinctive identity.

Girls generally join the choir in school Year 5 or 6, and continue until they leave school. We also welcome undergraduate sopranos to sing with the girls' choir as choral scholars.



WHAT COMMITMENT IS EXPECTED?

- Wednesdays, 6.30pm-8.00pm: Girls' choir practice
- Fridays, 7.15pm-8.30pm (once a month): Full Choir rehearsal
- Sundays: either 10am Eucharist or 6.30pm Evensong
- Special services, concerts and trips throughout the year as advertised

for ADULTS

Alongside the two children's choirs, a volunteer choir of **ALTOS** (male and female), **TENORS** and **BASSES**, forms the back row for services and other performances. This choir is predominantly made up of adults but they are also joined by junior (school-age) choral scholars on all parts.

Membership of this choir requires a certain degree of musical experience (good music-reading skills are particularly important) and any prospective members should contact the Director of Music to arrange an informal voice test.

WHAT COMMITMENT IS EXPECTED?

- Fridays, 7.15pm-8.15pm: Boys and ATB rehearsal
- Fridays, 7.15pm-8.30pm (once a month): Full Choir rehearsal
- Sundays: either 10am Eucharist or 6.30pm Evensong
- Special services, concerts and trips throughout the year as advertised

for UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Every year we are delighted to welcome students from either of the two universities in the city to sing with the girls' or adult choirs.

Students who are able to offer high levels of commitment are eligible for **CHORAL OR ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS** to cover the cost of singing or organ lessons with a member of our team. In return for financial assistance, choral scholars are engaged in some aspect of choir administration or chorister training.

Any students who would like to be considered for a choral or organ scholarship should contact the Director of Music to arrange an audition.