



ST RICHARD SINGERS – CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Choir

St Richard Singers (SRS) were established in 1970 with the purpose of making high level choral singing more accessible, at the time particularly to women to whom membership of Cathedral and many Collegiate Choirs was not open. SRS remain committed to fostering the practice and appreciation of traditional (classical) choral music in a non-academic and amateur environment whilst providing opportunities to perform under the direction of and alongside professional musicians.

The current membership is around 35 singers and includes both experienced and musically literate choral singers and those with no prior exposure who are accessing ensemble vocal music for the first time. The choir has a professional Director of Music and performs 3-4 concerts annually in Chichester, including Advent/Christmas, Lent/ Easter, and culminating in the Summer with the Festival of Chichester. The choir sings both a cappella (unaccompanied) as well as with organ or solo instrument accompaniment. On occasion, the choir performs with a chamber ensemble and professional soloists.

The repertoire of the choir is rooted in sacred music of the Western tradition and spans nearly six centuries. It includes works by both major and lesser-known composers. The choir and its members are committed to producing performances of the highest quality in order to engage, inform and excite the community, for example by putting on free concerts in aid of charity and Come & Sing events.

The Scholarships

At SRS we believe that high quality choral music should be available to all in the community, regardless of background. We also believe that those with potential who are willing to commit to performing music to a high standard and to work as part of a team should have the opportunity to practise their art in a supportive environment which will allow them to hone their skills and further their enjoyment of choral music.

The scholarships are therefore open to young people of any voice type (soprano, male & female alto, tenor or bass) between the ages of 18 and 26 *from any social or ethnic background*. Scholars should be **resident within a 30-mile radius of Chichester**. They should be sympathetic towards both musical and social aims of the choir, and show commitment in terms of attendance and loyalty to the life of this not-for-profit organisation. The scholarships are ***practical, non-academic awards*** and offered for one choral year (September to July). The choir is in a position to offer up to six scholarships each year. Existing scholars are welcome to reapply before the end of the choral year. The three choir terms are broadly in line with local school terms.

The qualities sought in applicants are:

- an ability to read sheet music, or willingness to learn through both traditional musical tuition or modern learning resources
- a commitment to attend all termly Monday evening rehearsals and pre-performance dress rehearsals - reasonable absences by arrangement with the Musical Director
- an ability and willingness to support other members of the section during rehearsals and performances
- being a positive role model within the choir, both musically and in terms of attitude
- confidence and ability to hold the correct musical line
- willingness to perform solo parts where appropriate as well as function as a member of a team
- dedication to high-quality musical performance within a community amateur context

In return, the choir and its committee together with the MD will:

- waive all and any subscription fees for scholars
- provide all necessary sheet music free of charge
- provide opportunities for singing solo parts where appropriate
- assist with transport to SRS engagements & performances outside of Chichester
- provide the scholars with support and advice they may require in the furtherance of their musical education
- provide positive supportive references or personal recommendations where appropriate

Interested parties should write to the chairman, who can also provide any further information required, at [chairman SRS](#), outlining their experience and reasons for interest in a scholarship in addition to confirming their eligibility. Applicants will be asked to attend a short interview with audition and, if successful, be invited to a rehearsal with the choir before a scholarship offer is made.