



The Cathedral Church of St. Michael, Coventry

The appointment of an Acting Assistant Director of Music

(maternity cover)



The Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral is recognised internationally for its ministry of peace and reconciliation. The striking architecture of the new building sitting alongside the ruins of the bombed Cathedral provides a powerful symbol that is ever more relevant in our increasingly divided world. It is the spiritual home of a committed congregation of worshippers who, together with large numbers of visitors, pilgrims and tourists, enjoy the diversity of liturgy and music which comprises the worshipping life of the Cathedral.

The Way We Worship

Since 1962, Coventry has enjoyed a reputation for liturgical innovation. The Dean and Canons are committed to offering a home for the wide range of traditions found within Anglicanism. This commitment to respect for diversity is also a part of our worship. We seek to reflect the breadth of the Church of England, representing its varying traditions with integrity and style.

As a consequence, Sunday worship at the Cathedral sees several hundred people across our four acts of worship. The Cathedral Eucharist and Choral Evensong (and the said service at 8 am) are formal in style (there is a more detailed description below). An informal service, with a simple structure of music, teaching and prayer, is held on the second Sunday of each month. The Cathedral Clergy are committed to this provision, regarding them as equally important, with none the poor relation of another. The Assistant Director of Music must be enthusiastic to exploit the potential of this diversity and use it to enrich the Cathedral's music.

The Primary Purpose

Our vision for the Cathedral includes making it a centre of musical excellence.



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Acting Assistant Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral. Interviews will take place at the Cathedral on 29 February or other mutually agreeable date.

This letter is intended to help you complete the application form. Please read it carefully before the completion of your application form. If you have any difficulties or questions, please contact Alice Hayes at alice.hayes@coventrycathedral.org.uk, +44 (0)24 7652 1227 or Rachel Mahon at rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

The application form is your opportunity to provide all the information we need to help us understand how you meet the requirements of the job, and plays an important part in the selection process allowing us to short-list candidates for interview, and helping as a basis for the interview itself. To ensure fairness to all applicants, short listing decisions are based solely on the information you supply on your application form. Even if we already know you as current or previous employee, it is important that you complete the form in full.

All vacancies are accompanied by a job description and a person specification setting out the main duties and responsibilities of the post in the job description, and the knowledge, skills and abilities we are looking for in the person specification.

Please read this information carefully as you will not be short-listed for interview unless you meet the essential criteria described in the Person Specification.

Depending on the number of applications, it may not be possible to shortlist for interview all candidates who meet the Essential Criteria. *However, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the Essential Criteria.*

If you wish to apply by e-mail, you will need to download the form onto your computer, complete it and return it via email to rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk or by post to **Recruitment, Coventry Cathedral, Youell House, 1 Hill Top, Coventry, CV1 5AB**. Please remember that email is not a secure form of communication.

Ensure you clearly state the full job title and type or complete your form legibly in black ink, to allow for photocopying.

We are unable to accept CVs so please do not attach your CV, references, or copies of educational certificates to your form. If there is insufficient room on the form in a particular section, you can simply attach an extra page and mark it clearly with your name and the job title, indicating the number of the relevant question.

The 'Relevant skills & experience' section of the form is where you make your case for the job and is your opportunity to tell us specifically why you wish to apply and what makes you a suitable applicant. You should include anything you feel would be useful in support of your application telling us as much as possible about yourself in relation to all the items listed in the job description.

Please remember that those involved in the selection process cannot make assumptions about you. - **tell us everything relevant to your application and complete all the sections on the form.**

Data Protection

Information provided by you as part of your application will be used in the recruitment process. Any data about you will be held securely with access restricted to those involved in dealing with your application and in the recruitment process. Once this process is completed the data relating to unsuccessful applicants will be stored for a maximum of 6 months and then destroyed. If you are the successful candidate, your application form will be retained and form the basis of your personnel record. By signing and submitting your completed application form you are giving your consent to your data being stored and processed for the purposes of the recruitment process, equal opportunities monitoring and your personnel record if you are the successful candidate.

Equal Opportunities

Information provided by you on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be used to monitor our equal opportunities policy and practices. This part of the form will be detached from the main body of the application form and will not form any part of the selection process.

Work Permits

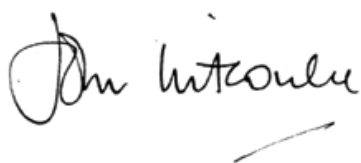
Under the Asylum and Immigration Act, we are required to check that anyone taking up employment with us has the legal right to work in the UK. Short-listed applicants will be asked to provide us with documentary evidence to support their entitlement to work in the UK prior to any offer of employment being made.

DBS Checks

In line with our safeguarding policy, some employees and volunteers working in specific roles at the Cathedral will be subject to satisfactory clearance being obtained from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The check will be undertaken as part of the appointment process with the successful candidates.

In the event of an offer of employment being made, we will take up references and reserve the right to validate all information entered on the application form.

We expect all our staff and employees to be in sympathy with our Christian values and help us to achieve the vision that we have set ourselves to work towards. A summary copy is attached for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Witcombe', with a horizontal line underneath.

The Very Reverend John Witcombe MA MPhil
The Dean of Coventry



Coventry Cathedral Vision & Values

Our **THEME**:

*God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation.
(2 Corinthians 5.18)*

Our **PURPOSE**:

Coventry Cathedral exists to reconcile the world to God and one another

Our **VISION**:

*Our **vision** is of a reconciled and reconciling **Cathedral** which is open and **welcoming** to all, which serves to glorify God in our **worship**, and reaches out to the world in our ministry of **reconciliation**,*

supported by

*a sufficiently robust **resource** base that enables us to be creative in our activity, confident that we have sufficient financial and human resources to deliver our vision without compromise.*

Our **INVITATION**:

“Find hope ... share hope”

Our **VALUES**:

Hospitality

Faith and Spirituality

Art and Creativity

Reconciliation

Risk Taking

Excellence

Community

- of both people and ideas
- being open to the challenge and resources of God
- expressing the life of God amongst us in ways beyond words
- embracing and welcoming difference and diversity
- confidently stepping out of the familiar in the service of God
- always reaching beyond our present practice and experience
- respecting and caring for one another



Acting Assistant Director of Music

Short term contract with flexible options for starting date.

Desired start date of 1 June 2024 (latest of 1 September 2024)

Contract ends 30 April 2025.

Average of 19.5 hours per week: £14,100 (£15,389 per annum equivalent)

Coventry Cathedral is well known internationally as a striking example of twentieth century church architecture and for its ministry of reconciliation. It has a committed core of worshippers who delight in the combination of traditional and contemporary liturgy and music and it attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors both from this country and abroad. We are seeking to appoint someone who will join our team of musicians to contribute positively to our fine musical tradition as we reach out to a generation not used to church.

Work is largely over the weeks of term time together with Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. You will need to operate flexibly to fit the needs of services and choristers, and there may be some busy weeks where the hours required exceed those quoted above. Time in lieu of these hours is reflected in choir holiday weeks.

We may be in a position to offer shared accommodation to the successful candidate at a very competitive rate. This is subject to an ongoing programme of works to refurbish and expand the Cathedral Close.

Position involves regulated activity and is therefore subject to a DBS check. If you have any further questions about safeguarding at the Cathedral please see our Safeguarding Statement at <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding>.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 12 February 2024 and interviews will take place at the Cathedral on 29 February or another mutually agreeable date.



The Organs

Coventry Cathedral's organ is one of the finest in the UK, well-known as an excellent instrument both for recitals and for accompanying services. With four manuals, nearly five thousand pipes and an eclectic stop-list, it is a very versatile instrument, accommodating most schools of music with integrity. Its vibrant sound (and the Cathedral's cavernous acoustic) makes it particularly appropriate for 19th and 20th century works. Built by Harrison and Harrison of Durham, it is also maintained by them. It was fully cleaned in 2001 and there is an on-going programme of restoration.

There is a six-rank, one manual with pedals Norwegian organ made by the Torkildsen Brothers of Aasen in 1966, currently sited in the Nave near the Chapel of Unity, and a four rank chamber organ built by Peter Collins in 1972 which is currently placed in the Chancel area. There is a one manual (8', 8', 4') Goble harpsichord in the Nave next to a Bechstein grand piano. In addition there are grand pianos in the Song School and upright pianos in the Choir Vestry, Chapter House, music store room and Chapel of Unity.

The Choirs

There are three main choirs associated with the Cathedral

1. **The Cathedral Choir** (Two separate treble choirs (one of 19 boys, one of 28 girls) who sing regularly by themselves and with the 5 Choral Clerks, 3 Scholars and 3 Lay Clerks)
2. **Coventry Cathedral Chamber Choir** (15-22 auditioned volunteers)
3. **Coventry Cathedral Chorus** (performing major choral works in concert with orchestra), which is directed by Rachel Mahon, the Cathedral's Director of Music.

In term time, the Cathedral Choir sings on Sundays at the 10.30 a.m. Cathedral Eucharist and 4.00p.m Choral Evensong. The usual pattern is Boys & Clerks in the morning and Girls & Clerks in afternoon, alternating weekly. Choral Evensong on Saturdays is often sung by a visiting choir. There are two other Choral Evensongs each week in term time (Wednesdays 5.15pm sung by the boys and Thursdays 5.15pm sung by the girls) and each sung service is preceded by a rehearsal. The boys also rehearse on Tuesdays (4.20pm) and Saturdays (9.00am), and the girls rehearse on Tuesdays (5.40pm) and Saturdays (10.40am). The choirs usually go on a tour every two years, either abroad or to somewhere in the UK, though an international invitation to perform will lead to this schedule being adjusted.

The Liturgical Department

The Liturgical Department of the Cathedral is led by the Canon for Worship and Welcome, one of two residentiary canons at the Cathedral. This post is currently vacant, although we hope to have someone in post in the early part of the summer. In the meantime, the Liturgical Department is being overseen by the Revd Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The staff consist of the Director of Music (Rachel Mahon), the Assistant Director of Music (Luke Fitzgerald, who will be Acting Director of Music), the Head Verger (and the Verger Team), and the Organ Scholar. There are also a number of voluntary posts, such as Chief Steward, Head Server, and so on. The Liturgical and Music Department have an office base within the Cathedral.



Job Description

Job Title: **Acting Assistant Director of Music**
Hours: **Average of 19.5 hours per week worked mostly over the weeks of term time, together with Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.**
Salary: **£14,100 (19.5 hours per week)**
Short term contract: **June 2024 to April 2025**

Responsibilities

The Acting Assistant Director of Music is broadly responsible for:

- Providing overall assistance to the Director of Music.
- Providing the link between worship and music.
- Representing and serving the Cathedral.

Core Duties & Activities

- Playing the organ or directing the Cathedral Choir and/or Chamber Choir during term-time at Wednesday 5.15 pm Evensong (boys' voices), Thursday 5.15pm Evensong (girls' voices), Sunday 10.30am Eucharist, and Sunday 4pm Evensong services.
- Preparing for services (organ practice, score study etc.).
- Attending Staff Training as required.
- Playing and/or conducting, and rehearsing for special and seasonal services.
- Playing and/or conducting, and rehearsing for occasional concerts.
- Practising for and performing one organ recital in the annual series.
- Supervising and assisting with the development of the Organ Scholar.
- Meetings with the Acting Director of Music.
- Playing or conducting for outside organisations will be remunerated separately.
- Train probationer choristers and help to prepare soloists on Tuesdays 4:20-7.00pm
- Managing the music library and choir folders (normally, there are assistant choristers to help with this)
- Coordinating the Visiting Choirs.
- Coordinating the organ tunings and piano tunings and maintenance.
- Preparing the choir chaperone rota.
- Assisting the Acting DoM (Director of Music) with coordinating the Monday Lunchtime Organ Recital series.
- Assisting the Acting DoM with correspondence which comes to the Music Department
- Assisting the Acting DoM by playing for and/or directing, and chaperoning, on Choir Tours which occur annually on the average for a week. (Additional remuneration will be negotiated)
- To deputise for the Acting DoM on occasion when required.
- Attending meetings concerning the restoration of the Harrison & Harrison organ.

Holidays / Time off

The full workload of the Acting Assistant Director of Music is a 0.56 time position of an average of 19.5 hours per week worked mostly over the weeks of term time, together with Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. Holiday dates are to be agreed with the Acting Director of Music and should normally be taken in choir holiday time.

Accountability & Supervision received:

At present, the Acting Assistant Director of Music is accountable to the Canon for Arts and Reconciliation (which will revert to the Canon for Worship and Welcome upon appointment) through the Acting Director of Music. The Acting Director of Music will provide supervision, with regular meetings and an annual appraisal.

Qualifications and Experience Required:

- An organist with exceptional keyboard skills who plays at FRCO standard.
- A skilled choral conductor with vocal coaching knowledge.
- Efficient and organised IT skills, with a thorough approach to communication and process.

Qualities desired:

- Considerable experience of English cathedral music both as conductor and organist.
- The ability to work well in a team, a warm personality, a good sense of humour.
- Experience working with children.
- A full member of a mainstream Christian Church.
- An appreciation and ability to accompany and direct a broad range of styles of music that are a part of the Cathedral's worship.
- The ability to accompany as musically on the piano as on the organ.

General notes:

Term of appointment: This is a short-term fixed contract beginning 1 June 2024 and projected to finish 30 April 2025.

Termination of Employment: Notice of 3 months by either party.

The position is subject to DBS clearance.

Job Applicant Privacy Notice

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL provide this notice to make job applicants aware of our policies relating to the processing of personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 as amended, replaced, re-enacted or consolidated from time to time (including without limitation the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and any national laws which relate to the processing of personal data ('Data Protection Legislation')) references to 'Personal Data' and 'Sensitive Personal Data' within this notice shall be references to those terms as defined in Data Protection Legislation.

Personal Data

We ask for Personal Data from job applicants including C.V's and any ancillary information provided as part of your application to assist with our recruitment processes. Any Personal Data about you which is obtained by us during the application process (including any information obtained directly from you or from third parties such as your referees or as part of pre-employment checks) may be retained and used by us for the purposes of considering your suitability for employment, conducting appropriate checks and as otherwise reasonably required for our legitimate interests and compliance with applicable law.

If your application is successful, and you subsequently become employed by us, the information described above will form part of your personnel file. [If we do not employ you, we may still retain for up to 6 months so that we can consider you for future roles].

Sensitive Personal Data

You may also supply us with Sensitive Personal Data including but not limited to data relating to your racial or ethnic origin, religious or similar beliefs, physical or mental health and sexual orientation by completing our equal opportunities monitoring form. This information is gathered for equality of opportunity monitoring purposes and is anonymised. The provision of such Sensitive Personal Data by you is entirely voluntary.

If we receive information regarding any medical condition, disability, or relating to your physical or mental health including information provided within return to work forms, meetings or in medical reports, we will only use this information for the purpose of providing any necessary adjustments in accordance with equality legislation, to ensure compliance with employment law, to monitor sickness absence and to inform decisions regarding your fitness for work.

Staff Privacy Policy

For further information regarding the Personal Data we collect about you, how we use it, including disclosure to third parties, how we maintain security of your information and your rights to access the information we hold about you, please ask to see our Staff Privacy Policy which is available from the HR department.