

# The Cathedral Church of St. Michael,

# Coventry

### **Chorister Voice Coach**



#### 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.

# **Coventry Cathedral Voice Coach**



Rate: £35 per hour

(paid as an external, freelance

contractor)

**Reporting to:** Director of Music

Work base: Coventry Cathedral

**Start date:** September 2025

**Application Deadline:** 11.59pm on Monday 16 June 2025

Audition/Interview: 25 & 26 June 2025

Date of Issue: May 2025

#### The Choirs

There are three choirs associated with the Cathedral:

The Cathedral Choir (three sections: Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, Clerks & Scholars)
The Chamber Choir (adult mixed voices)
Coventry Cathedral Chorus (formerly Saint Michaels' Singers)

In term time, the Cathedral Choir sings on Sundays at the 10.30 a.m. Cathedral Eucharist and 4.00 p.m. Choral Evensong. Wednesday 5.15pm Evensong is sung by the Boy Choristers, and Thursdays by the Girl Choristers. Out of term time visiting choirs frequently sing on the weekends and occasionally Choral Evensong on Saturdays is sung by a visiting choir. As well as before each sung service the boys and girls rehearse twice a week, Clerks and Scholars once. The Chamber Choir rehearses and sings services twice or three times per term. The choirs sing at many special occasions and services, and tour periodically.

### The Liturgical Department

The Liturgical Department of the Cathedral is headed up by the Canon for Worship and Welcome (Revd Nitano Muller) and includes the Head Verger (Dan Anderson) and his team, the Director of Music (Rachel Mahon) and the Assistant Director of Music (soon to be appointed).

### Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Voice Coach:

- 1. A total of twenty sessions per year. Hours spread across Tuesdays (c. 4.30-7.00pm) and Saturdays (c. 9.00am-12.00pm) to suit the schedule of the successful candidate and the Cathedral Choir.
- 2. Coaching boy and girl choristers (aged 7-18) individually or in small groups, working on vocal technique and development and focusing on both solos and choral singing.
- 3. Supporting choristers in the preparation for services and performances.
- 4. Providing guidance in vocal health and technical singing skills.
- 5. To communicate with the Director of Music on the progress of the choristers.

#### Accountability & Supervision received:

The Voice Coach is accountable to the Canon for Worship and Welcome through the Director of Music. The Director of Music, or the Assistant Director of Music, will provide supervision.

### **Qualities and Experience Required:**

- 1. A skilled vocal coach, with knowledge and experience in the training of children's voices.
- 2. Understanding of young people's voices and an ability to support children of any age as their voices develop.
- 3. Someone appreciative of the wide range in the musical styles that are a part of Cathedral worship.
- 4. A positive individual, able to enthuse and engage choristers.
- 5. Familiarity with Safeguarding guidelines and procedures is essential.
- 6. The position is subject to enhanced DBS clearance.

# **Qualities and Experience Desired:**

- I. Certified qualifications in vocal and/or musical tuition and performance, such as a Conservatoire Teaching Licentiateship, Music Degree, or other relevant qualification.
- 2. Membership of professional bodies for singers, church musicians or teaching professionals.
- 3. Current engagement as a professional singer at a high level.
- 4. Basic keyboard skills appropriate to leading coaching sessions using a piano.

## **Application Documents Required**:

- I. A CV listing experience.
- 2. A covering letter giving your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experience
- 3. Two referees whom the Cathedral may approach one must be your current or most recent employer.
- 4. Please email applications to <a href="mailto:rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk">rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk</a>.

Application deadline: 11.59pm on Monday 16 June 2025.

Audition and Interview: to be held at Coventry Cathedral on 25/26 June 2025.