



**St Ann's  
Church**  
Manchester

# **St Ann's Choir**

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## St Ann's and its church music

St Ann's, one of the three city centre parishes alongside the cathedral and Sacred Trinity, is home to an open Christian community which welcomes people from many backgrounds. Students and young professionals in their twenties / thirties play an important role in our fellowship. The church has an outreach into the city centre, which connects us with the civic and cultural life of Manchester, as well as with people who might be considered vulnerable, including those experiencing homelessness. Within our worship and the other activities we offer, music plays a very important and cherished role.

Our music-staff consists of the Director of Music, Alexander Rebetge, who directs, conducts and accompanies the choir and is supported by an Associate Director, Dr James Hume, and the Pilling Trust Organ Scholar. The church is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM).

Besides our own music-making St Ann's is well-known as a place which hosts many concerts and recitals. These include regular recitals or chamber concerts by RNCM students in term-time, and concert series by Manchester Jazz Festival, Manchester Baroque, the Piccadilly Chamber Orchestra and others.



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## St Ann's Choir

St Ann's choir is an auditioned, mixed, robed, high quality SATB choir, usually around 15–20 strong. The age-range of our singers is wide, but doesn't accommodate children. As a liturgical choir at an Anglican Church, the repertoire is drawn mainly from English/ European church and cathedral music. Its annual 90-100 performances, during services, Communion and Evensongs uphold the strong choral tradition St Ann's has had for more than 100 years. It furthermore is one of a few ensembles that regularly sing choral Evensong.

The usual pattern of services and rehearsals is:

- **Friday:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm rehearsal
- **Sunday:** 10.00 am rehearsal for 10.45am Eucharist
- **Sunday:** 4.00pm rehearsal for 5pm Choral Evensong

For non-professional singers, we offer optional vocal coaching sessions.

St Ann's Choir currently seeks new singers (both professionally trained and amateur) on SATB, who would like to commit to regular sung worship at a high amateur level. Furthermore, the choir aims to record music to actively share the amazing range of repertoire of choral music. It also plays an active role in the annual Manchester Bach Festival.

## A future choir member should show:

- Enthusiasm for choral music and singing in a (liturgical) choir
- Reliability and commitment to attending rehearsals regularly
- Good sight-reading skills

## Choral Trainee Scheme

To make our choral music more accessible to less experienced singers, we also offer a choral trainee scheme. As part of this scheme, singers participate in one Eucharist and Evensong per month. The repertoire for these performances will be intensively rehearsed in the weeks prior to the services. Once choral trainees have reached certain level of choral and vocal experience, they are invited to join the choir as a full member.



## Application

If you are interested in joining St Ann's choir, please send us an email in advance, telling us a bit about yourself, your motivation and your prior experience in choral singing. You are welcome to contact us even if you are interested in joining us as a Dep, rather than a regular singer.

If you are interested in joining St Ann's choir as trainee, please specify this in your application.

This years application deadlines and auditions dates will be:

- Deadline 27th May for 10th June audition
- Deadline 9th September for 16th September audition
- Deadline 7th October for 14th October audition

## Audition

During the audition process, you will be asked to:

- Sing a hymn and/or a song / aria
- Sight-read a hymn and a short excerpt of a choral piece (e.g. early polyphony such as in pieces by de Prez, Byrd or Tallis)
- A brief section with vocal exercises, to get to know your range and timbre (this may be omitted, if you are a professionally trained singer. Please provide us with the necessary information in your application.)
- Sing prepared excerpts previously sent to you in your preferred part:
  - An Anglican chant
  - Preces and Responses (Smith, Tomkins, Byrd)
  - A Mass setting (e.g. Byrd)