



**St Ann's
Church**
Manchester

St Ann's Choir



CATHEDRAL
MUSIC TRUST

St Ann's Church, St Ann Street, Manchester M2 7LF
Registered Charity No 1136159 Pilling Trust Organ Scholarship August 2024

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. An important role in our fellowship play students and young professionals in their twenties / thirties. 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. As part of our choral programme, we offer vocal coaching for our singers, supported by the Cathedral Music Trust.

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.

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. In its annual 90-100 performances, during services, Communion and Evensongs uphold our strong choral tradition.

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 free vocal coaching sessions.

St Ann's Choir currently seeks new singers (both professionally trained and amateur) on SATB or Deps, who would like to commit to regular sung worship at a high amateur level.

A future choir members should show:

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

Audition

During the audition process, you will be asked to :

- Sing a hymn and/or a song / aria
- Sightread 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:
 - o An Anglican Chant
 - o Preces and Responses (Smith, Tomkins, Byrd)
 - o A Mass setting (e.g. Byrd)

Application

If you are interested in joining St Ann's choir, we ask you to send us a brief, informal application in advance, telling us a bit about yourself, your motivation and your prior experience in choral singing). Please let us know in your application if you are interested in joining as a Dep.

This year's official application deadlines and auditions dates will be:

Deadline 21st September for 28th September audition

Deadline 5th October for 12th October audition

If either of these dates are inconvenient, please don't hesitate to apply anyway. We will try to arrange a separate date.