

*Scholarships at*  
*Blackburn Cathedral*

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Information for prospective candidates  
2018 - 2019

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**CATHEDRAL  
CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS**  
(altos, tenors & basses)

**HAROLD THORNBER  
ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP**

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**BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL**  
GOOD NEWS FOR LANCASHIRE

*[www.blackburncathedral.com](http://www.blackburncathedral.com)*



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# INTRODUCTION

Organ and Choral Scholarships are on offer at Blackburn Cathedral to gap year or post-graduate students looking to widen their experience of cathedral music through joining a close-working team at the centre of a busy and thriving cathedral music department. Scholars take a full part in ensuring the smooth running of the music department and in the life of the cathedral, and a scholarship year is an opportunity to explore work and career paths in music and other spheres.

Times are particularly exciting at the Cathedral and music department at present. Recent musical highlights have included several BBC engagements (including Choral Evensong on Radio 3, and a live televised Eucharist for Pentecost broadcast on BBC1), tours to Belgium, Paris, and Normandy in 2013, 2015, and 2017 respectively, and a recent CD release on the Priory label. In April 2014, the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Girls' Choir sang at the Royal Maundy service, held at the cathedral, and attended by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.



April 2016 saw the completion of the cathedral's visionary Development Project. This project has not only provided the cathedral's staff with brand new office accommodation and space for the cathedral shop and *Café Northcote at the Cathedral* (see [www.cafenorthcote.com](http://www.cafenorthcote.com) for more details), but also a set of domestic buildings in which the Clergy, music department staff, and virgers now live. The choral scholars are included in this, and are provided with accommodation in a new 5-bedroom complex (each bedroom with its own ensuite bathroom facilities) as part of the new development. This project follows the completion in 2013 of a refurbishment of the cathedral song school (Schola Cantorum), meaning that the music department is now equipped with a full set of newly developed facilities.

# BLACKBURN AS A PLACE

Blackburn town centre has seen massive regeneration over the last few years. Our new Cathedral Close is part of a wider regeneration project including a Premier Inn, town centre office block, and several new restaurants, both between the cathedral and train station, and a new bus station. Blackburn won the 'Best British High Street of the Year' award in 2016, as well as the 'Winner of Winners' award for the location where judges saw the most development taking place.



*The new Cathedral Square (the cathedral, the east end of which is just off the right edge of this photograph), can be seen reflected in the windows of the office block on the left of the picture.*

The Diocese of Blackburn – essentially the same area as the County of Lancashire – extends from the outer suburbs of Manchester to the borders of the Lake District, incorporating stunning rural scenery, popular coastal areas, rich farmland, charming villages and post-industrial towns where the cotton industry was once paramount. The Town of Blackburn lies at the heart of Pennine Lancashire and is well served by road and rail communications. Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster, Leeds and York are all in easy reach. Trains from Preston (10 miles from Blackburn) to London can be as quick as 2h 14m and 2h 24m to Edinburgh/Glasgow.

The Cathedral Church of St. Mary commands an open space at the heart of Blackburn, now in the centre of the newly redeveloped town centre. It consists of two styles, blending Regency Architecture with that of the Twentieth Century in a masterly synthesis. Its world-class organ and generous acoustic provide an ideal environment for the lively and varied musical programme that takes place at the Cathedral.

# THE CHOIRS & MUSIC DEPARTMENT

There are seven choirs at the Cathedral: The Cathedral Choir (boys and men); The Girls' Choir; the Young People's Choir (comprising singers between the ages of 13 and 21, mainly former choristers); The Schola Cantorum (young men); Lantern Voices (girls and boys from age 5); The Renaissance Singers (30 adult voices) and the Cathedral Consort (a small, adult liturgical choir). All choirs take part in the regular round of cathedral services, and many contribute to the annual programme of broadcasts, recordings, concerts (many with top orchestras) and tours.

The music department operates the following schedule:

SUNDAY	8.30am	Rehearsal
	9.00am	<b>Parish Eucharist</b> (Young People's Choir)
	10.00am <sup>†</sup>	Rehearsal
	10.30am	<b>Cathedral Eucharist</b> (Cathedral Choir)
	3.30pm <sup>†</sup>	Rehearsal
	4.00pm	<b>Choral Evensong</b> (Cathedral Choir)
TUESDAY	4.30pm	Rehearsal
	5.15pm	<b>Choral Evensong</b> (Girls' Choir)
WEDNESDAY	4.30pm – 6pm	Rehearsal (Boy choristers – song school)
	4.40pm	Rehearsal (Schola Cantorum)
	5.15pm	<b>Choral Evensong</b> (Schola Cantorum)
	6.30pm – 8.15pm	YPC Rehearsal
THURSDAY	4.15pm	Rehearsal (Cathedral Consort) *
	4.30pm – 6pm	Rehearsal (Girls' Choir – song school)
	5.15pm	<b>Choral Evensong</b> (Cathedral Consort) *
	7.45pm – 9.45pm	Renaissance Singers Rehearsal
FRIDAY	4.45pm <sup>†</sup>	Rehearsal *
	5.15pm	<b>Choral Evensong</b> (Cathedral Choir) *
	6.30pm – 7.45pm	Rehearsal (Cathedral Choir)
<i>in Lent</i>	8.00pm	<b>Compline</b> (Cathedral Choir, Gentlemen)
SATURDAY	8.30am – 10am	Rehearsal (Boy Choristers)
	9.15am – 10am	Theory session (Girl Choristers)
	10am – 10.45am	Theory session (Boy Choristers)
		Rehearsal (Girl Choristers)

<sup>†</sup> These rehearsals begin 15 minutes earlier for the choristers.

\* These events don't occur every week. In general, the Cathedral Consort and Cathedral Choir will sing on alternate weeks.

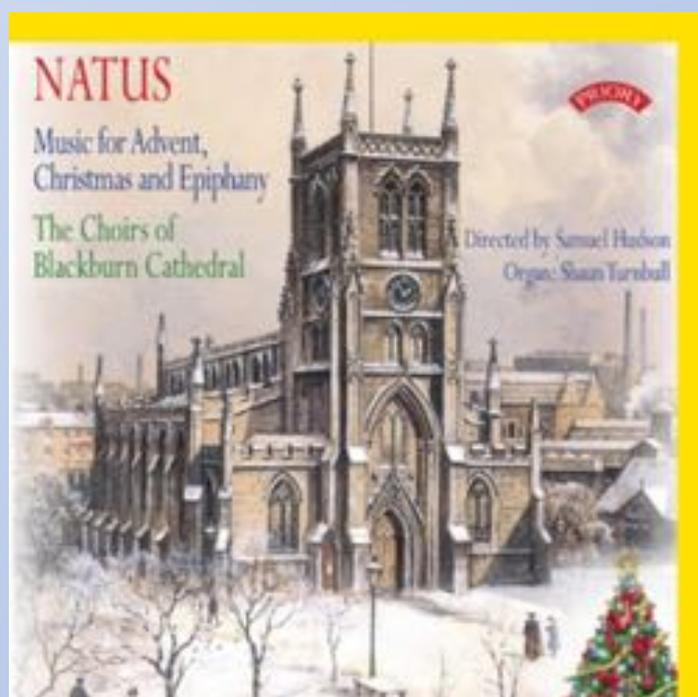
# CONCERTS, RECORDINGS, BROADCASTS & TOURS

There are at least two large-scale concerts every year, each involving almost all of the choirs. These concerts, supported by FoBCM (Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music), give an opportunity for the choirs to tackle larger-scale choral works, often involving orchestral forces (the cathedral enjoy strong links with orchestras including the Northern Chamber Orchestra, and the 18th Century Sinfonia). Recent concerts have included Haydn's *Creation*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and Handel's *Coronation Anthems*. In addition, the Renaissance Singers often undertake similar concerts with orchestra, with recent programmes including Bach's *Mass in B minor*, and plans for a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in November 2018.



The cathedral choirs broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong, and on Sunday Worship and Daily Service, both broadcast on BBC Radio 4. The choirs also embark on recordings when possible – the latest release was a disc of music from Advent to Epiphany (called *Natus*) released on the Priory Label in autumn 2015.

There is also a commitment to sustaining a touring programme which takes the cathedral choristers (boys and girls) and gentlemen of the cathedral choir on a foreign tour every two years. The Renaissance Singers undertook a week singing services in Wells Cathedral in summer 2016, with plans for a similar residence in Ripon in place in summer 2018.



# FURTHER INFORMATION: CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1. The scholarships are available to those undertaking a 'gap year', to current students, or to recent graduates. The purpose of the Choral scholarships is:
  - i) to provide scholars with a broad practical choral experience within a lively, varied and thriving community;
  - ii) to provide scholars with experience in teaching through assisting with the training of choristers;
  - iii) to provide leadership and inspiration to the young male singers in the Cathedral's Young People's Choir and Schola Cantorum;
  - iv) to provide scholars with an opportunity to be an ambassador of the Cathedral, promoting its role as a countywide provider of cohesion through music. The scholars will play a key role in further enhancing the Cathedral's already well-established Music Outreach Project to schools in Lancashire.

2. The Scholars will be expected to sing during term time at events outlined in the Music Department Diary, and according to the weekly schedule outlined in the information above.

3. Scholars will be required to help with the training and supervision of choristers at the following times:

Tuesday	3.30pm – 6.00pm	Girl choristers
Wednesday	3.30pm – 6.30pm	Boy choristers/YPC
Thursday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Girl choristers
Friday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Boy choristers
Saturday	9.15pm – 10.45am	Choristers (including helping with theory tuition)

4. Choral scholars play a key role in the substantial Music Outreach programme run by the Cathedral. This involves regular visits to schools throughout the year with the Outreach staff, helping to lead workshops in schools, and taking part in concerts at the Cathedral and other venues in the town and county.



5. In addition to the regular round of services and rehearsals, there is an annual programme of broadcasts, recordings, concerts (including some with professional orchestras) and tours in which the scholars are expected to take part.
6. Choral scholars will be expected to be good sight-readers, as the repertoire of the choirs is wide and varied, and rehearsal time is often limited. They will be expected to take music away in advance to ensure all notes are learnt before rehearsals. Scholars are also given opportunity where appropriate to cantor the Versicles and Responses, particularly in midweek services.
7. Great consideration is given to each scholar's development. Singing tuition with international tenor Joshua Ellicott ([www.joshuaellicott.com](http://www.joshuaellicott.com)) is provided free of charge, and support is given to those applying for further study the following year.
8. Choral Scholars are provided with accommodation (free of rent, council tax, and utility bills) in the new Cathedral Court development adjacent to the cathedral.
9. The remuneration of the scholarship is £5,000, paid over 11 months. The appointments run from 1st September 2018 until Sunday 14th July 2019 and include commitments at Christmas and Easter. Scholars may be required where major Christian festivals occur out of school and choir term time, and over the summer where there are plans for a tour. In this case, arrangements will be advertised in the music department diary in advance and discussed with each scholar.
10. The post is subject to enhanced DBS clearance. Scholars will be expected to adhere to the Cathedral's policies at all times, as laid out in the Staff Handbook.



*The new Cathedral Court Building, in which the scholars are accommodated.*

# FURTHER INFORMATION: ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Cathedral Organ, which was designed by Francis Jackson and John Bertalot, is one of the most exciting Cathedral organs in the UK. It sounds particularly fine in the 20th Century French Repertoire, where it is helped by the Cathedral's splendid (seven second) acoustic. In 2001 the instrument was enlarged by David Wood of Huddersfield. The Cathedral also owns a four stop Chamber Organ by Kenneth Tickell, built in 2001.



1. The Organ scholarship has a two-fold purpose:
  - i) to provide the scholar with practical experience in all aspects of choral and organ music within a lively and thriving community;
  - ii) to provide assistance to the Director of Music (Samuel Hudson) and the Assistant Director of Music (Shaun Turnbull) in accommodating the musical requirements of Cathedral services, and the general work of the music department.
2. The Organ Scholar plays a leading role in the music department. He/she is expected to attend all services and rehearsals, and act as the principal accompanist for the Young People's Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Cathedral Consort. This involves accompanying the Parish Eucharist each Sunday, as well as weekday Evensong services on Wednesday and Thursday. Further opportunities for accompanying and directing the cathedral's ensembles are made in consultation with the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music.
3. The Organ Scholar will often play organ repertoire before each Sunday service, and there are frequent opportunities to give recitals at the Cathedral and elsewhere throughout the year. The Organ Scholar also shares the training of the probationers in the boys' choir with the Director of Music and the Assistant Director of Music.

4. The Scholar will be expected to fully involve him/herself with the administration of the department and to attend regular staff meetings. He/she also has specific responsibility for choir resources and the smooth running of the music library.
5. Regular organ lessons with a suitable teacher (selected in consultation with the Organ Scholar) will be paid for by the Cathedral, and scholars are encouraged to attend courses (such as those organised by the RCO or the Oundle Summer School), subsidised by the Cathedral.
6. Accommodation is provided (free of rent, council tax, and utility bills) in the new Cathedral Court development adjacent to the cathedral.
7. It may be possible to combine the scholarship with study (e.g at the Royal Northern College of Music). Furthermore, additional employment opportunities may be available in a number of local schools with whom the Cathedral enjoys close relationships. There may also be opportunities for a suitable applicant to be employed by our Music Outreach Project to schools.
8. The remuneration of the scholarship is £6000, paid over 11 months. The appointment runs from 1st September 2018 until Sunday 14th July 2019, including commitments at Christmas and Easter. The organ scholar may be required where major Christian festivals occur out of school and choir term time. In this case, arrangements will be advertised in the music department diary in advance and discussed in person.
9. The post is subject to enhanced DBS clearance. The Organ Scholar will be expected to adhere to the Cathedral's policies at all times, as laid out in the Staff Handbook.



## MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the cathedral, please visit [www.blackburncathedral.com](http://www.blackburncathedral.com)

The director of music, Samuel Hudson, is always pleased to speak to those interested in pursuing a scholarship. He can be contacted on 01254 277 442, or by email on [samuel.hudson@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:samuel.hudson@blackburncathedral.co.uk)



## RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE

Those wishing to apply should send a CV and a letter of application (outlining reasons for applying and suitability for the scholarship) by post or e-mail to:

Samuel Hudson  
Director of Music  
Cathedral Office  
Cathedral Close  
Blackburn, BB1 5AA

[samuel.hudson@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:samuel.hudson@blackburncathedral.co.uk)



The closing date for applications is **12 noon on Tuesday 24th April 2018.**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for audition and interview between 2nd May and 4th May 2018. All applicants are asked to indicate their availability on these dates in their application letter.