

# Choral & Organ Scholarships (for September 2019 entry)

## Guidance Notes

Royal Holloway offers a number of Choral Scholarships each year and an Organ Scholarship most years. It is not necessary for either Choral or Organ Scholars to read for degrees in Music. Applications will also be considered from postgraduate students. The scholarships are normally held for three years; the maximum award is £1,500 per annum (organ) and £700 per annum (choral).

Choral Scholars form the College Chapel Choir, an ensemble of usually 24 singers, which undertakes a significant programme of around 50-60 concerts each year alongside a regular routine of services. In addition most years the choir undertakes various tours, broadcasts and recordings, and tours. Over the last few years the choir has recorded for various labels including Decca Classics, Hyperion, Naxos and Signum Records, broadcast a number of times on BBC Radio, including 'Radio 3 Choral Evensong', appeared on BBC One Festival of Remembrance from the Albert Hall, performed with orchestras including the Britten Sinfonia, Florilegium and the London Mozart Players and given concerts in Europe, China and the USA. The choir also deputises for cathedral choirs, and regularly sings at St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St. George's, Windsor Castle, as well as other British cathedrals.

**For Singers:** Choral scholarships are part funded by Banco Santander as a part of the Santander Universities Scheme. Each year Royal Holloway offers a number of Choral Scholarships on each voice part. Countertenors and contraltos are equally welcome. Scholarships are normally held for three years and the maximum award is £700 per annum (choral). Singing lessons are provided where there is not already provision from within the degree programme.

The normal routine for choral scholars involves an evening rehearsal on Tuesday, a short morning service on Wednesday (8.45-9am) together with an afternoon rehearsal and a short lunchtime concert. On Thursday there is a choral Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer. The choir also sings either an Anglican service or Catholic Mass on a Sunday evening although usually only on 2 out of 3 weekends. There are no services on a Sunday morning and Choral Scholars are free to pursue other professional work in London at that time subject to consultation with the Director of Choral Music.

It is preferred, but not essential, for potential Choral Scholars to have had relevant experience in church singing. Good sight-reading skills are essential.

**For Organists:** Organ scholarships are normally held for three years and there is one available most years. The maximum award is £1,500 per annum. As there are many regular services in the Chapel, organ scholars will have ample opportunities to play and will be encouraged to conduct the choirs. Assistance will be given in the preparation of accompaniments where required and organ scholars will be provided with recital opportunities. The chapel contains a 3-manual organ built by Harrison and Harrison in 1978 which is a remarkably diverse instrument voiced in a largely French style. There is also a 3½ stop continue organ built by Dutch organ builder Henk Klop and an 11-stop mechanical action teaching/practice organ by Anders Mårtensson of Sweden. Additionally an electronic practice organ is available to organ scholars. The music department also owns a new harpsichord built by Andrew Wooderson and Royal Holloway was also the first UK University to be accredited by Steinway on account of the number of Steinway grand pianos on campus.

Applications for Choral and Organ Scholarships are currently being invited from candidates seeking entry to the College in September 2019.

1. The number of scholarships will be determined by the quality of the candidates selected for interview and audition at the College.
2. For Choral Scholars, the audition consists of the performance of two contrasting songs (of the candidate's own choice), sight-singing and aural tests, lasting approximately 20 minutes.
3. For Organ Scholars, the audition will consist of the performance of two contrasting works (of the candidate's own choice), sight-reading, score-reading, accompaniment of a hymn and a psalm, and improvisation, lasting approximately 30 minutes.
4. Choral Scholars will be expected to sign an agreed confirming that they will attend all choir practices, services, concerts and other events; they will also be expected to give general help with choir arrangements.
5. Organ Scholars will be expected to give general help with services, to deputise for the Director of Choral Music when needed, and to assist with organ recitals and other programmes of music given in the Chapel.
6. Some events such as recordings and concerts will be scheduled outside of academic term time and it is expected that all scholars will be available, if required, for these events. Where possible, expenses for all of these events will be met.
7. Candidates who wish to compete for these scholarships must make an application for their chosen degree course through UCAS. Award of the scholarships will be conditional upon the candidates satisfying the University of London's entrance requirements and those of the College.
8. Candidates should complete the attached form, and arrange for a testimonial to be sent by somebody suitably qualified (Singing teacher, Director of Music of the candidate's school etc), to the Choral Music Administrator ([choraladmin@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:choraladmin@rhul.ac.uk)) by **5pm on Friday 22 February 2019**. You are also required to submit a recording.
9. Recording: Candidates should also submit a recording of themselves singing one short piece, of no more than 4 minutes. This piece should show the candidates' vocal ability. It does not have to be sacred, but we strongly recommend it should be in a style in sympathy with the choir's aims. This can be uploaded via a link on our website: <http://www.chapelchoir.co.uk/scholarships/application-audition.php>
10. All applications will be scrutinised by the Director of Choral Music and, on the strength of the candidate's experience, references and recording, suitably qualified applicants will be invited to attend an audition. Successful candidates will be allocated an audition time and contacted by the Choral Music Administrator. The auditions will be held on **8 & 9 March 2019**.



# Choral & Organ Scholarships 2019-20

## Application Form

Please read the guidance notes before completing this form. Please type or write clearly using black ink.

A Personal details	
Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other:	
Surname:	
First names (in full):	Date of birth:
Proposed degree course:	UCAS personal ID:
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

B Scholarship	
Please tick the boxes to indicate which scholarship you are applying for: Choral <input type="checkbox"/> Organ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Choral Scholars must indicate which voice part from the following list:	
Soprano <input type="checkbox"/> Alto <input type="checkbox"/> Counter-tenor <input type="checkbox"/> Tenor <input type="checkbox"/> Bass <input type="checkbox"/>	
Pieces to be played or sung for examination: (for Choral Scholars, ideally the two pieces should be lyrical songs or arias from oratorios or operas. They should also be contrasting in style. Songs from the musicals, or similar, are discouraged).	
1.	
2.	
Audition time preference:	
Friday 8 March AM <input type="checkbox"/> Friday 8 March PM <input type="checkbox"/> Sat 9 March AM <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday 9 March PM <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If you are unable to attend any part of the two audition days due to prior commitments, please make a note of this in your covering email.</i>	



### C Testimonial

Please give the following details of the person providing your testimonial.

Name:
Address:
Position held:
Contact telephone or email:

### D Previous Education

Schools/colleges attended since the age of 11	Dates from – to	Subjects taken at GCSE and A- AS-levels to be examined	Grades

### E Music examinations and other interests

On a separate sheet of no more than one side of A4 paper please give details of your musical experience (with particular emphasis on organ playing/choral or vocal experience as appropriate), mentioning instruments played (and to what standard), choir membership, and any other relevant information. Please also give details about your non-musical interests.

Signature of applicant:	Date:
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**Application Forms & Testimonials** should be sent by email to [choraladmin@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:choraladmin@rhul.ac.uk) or to: Choral Music Administrator, Music Department Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX. Receipt of applications is not normally acknowledged. However, applications received by email will receive a reply of acknowledgement.

**Recordings** should be uploaded via a link on this webpage: *(Applicants for Organ Scholarships do not need to submit a recording).*

<http://www.chapelchoir.co.uk/scholarships/application-audition.php>

The deadline for receipt of applications and testimonials is **5pm on Friday 22 February 2019.**



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