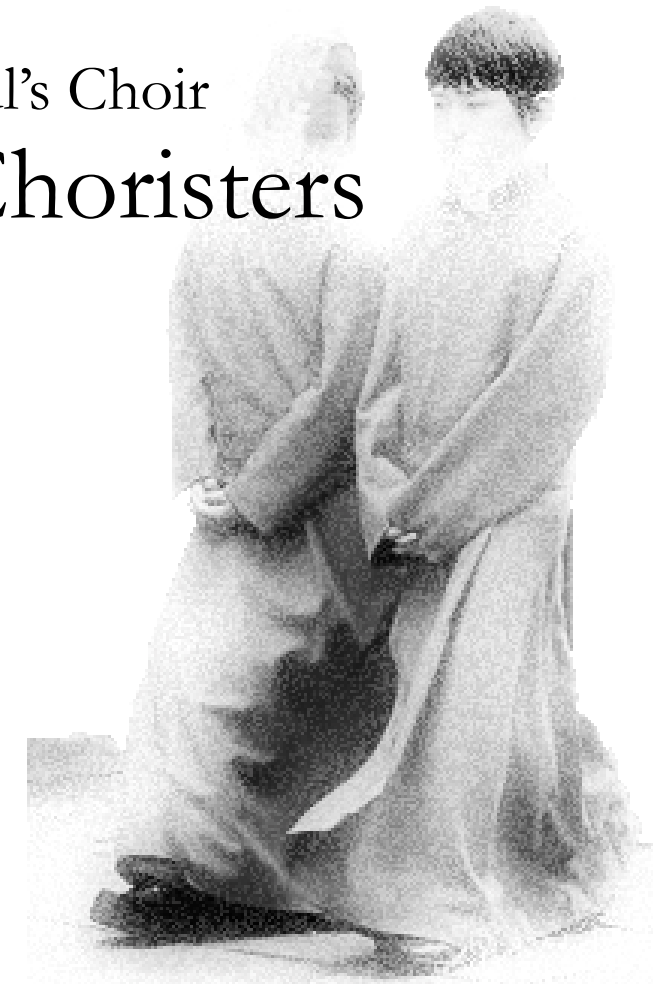




Old Saint Paul's Choir Junior Choristers



Stage	Suggested abilities	Commitments
Probationer	Probationers are able to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Concentrate through rehearsals and services ◆ Sing a major scale with accompaniment ◆ Sing a simple melody with accompaniment 	Probationers will commit to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Attend rehearsals and services regularly ◆ Learn to read music in the treble clef ◆ Start to learn to sight-sing ◆ Learn about good voice production ◆ Learn about what it means to serve as a chorister ◆ Practise the skills necessary to be a chorister
	Training focus	
	Trainers will focus on - Being part of a team; staying focussed on one task; reading treble clef and common notation; simple time signatures; breath control; developing a sense of rhythm and practising different rhythms; practising major scale, major triads; starting to sight sing; RSCM Light Blue programme	
Junior Chorister	Suggested abilities	Commitments
	Choristers are able to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read music in the treble clef ◆ Sing a major scale unaccompanied ◆ Identify and sing common intervals (major 2nd, major 3rd, perfect 5th, octave) ◆ Sight-sing a simple hymn tune with accompaniment 	Choristers will commit to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use his/her vocal and musical abilities in church working to maintain good craft, ensemble, intonation ◆ Learn about good vocal production and musical theory ◆ Learn more about what Christians believe ◆ Show responsibility ◆ Learn about the sacred music repertoire
	Training focus	
Trainers will focus on - Maintaining good vocal technique with a developing voice; learning to watch and read; learning to sing on the beat; learning to blend with other singers; developing the 'inner ear'; working on minor, diminished and augmented triads, minor scales; compound time signatures; learning to read bass clef; major composers from Renaissance to present day; being part of a community, roles in the team, having an awareness of one's role and contribution to the team; RSCM Dark Blue programme		
Chorister	Suggested abilities	Commitments
	Senior Choristers are able to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sing major and minor scales unaccompanied ◆ Identify major, minor, diminished and augmented triads, ◆ Demonstrate knowledge of the important composers and works in the repertoire ◆ Take responsibility for self and others 	Senior Choristers will commit to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mentor younger singers as directed ◆ Continue to learn about vocal technique and musicianship ◆ Continue to learn about composers and about the church ◆ Continue to demonstrate good choir craft (intonation, sight reading, ensemble)
	Training focus	
Intermediate vocal technique and musical theory; ensemble and blending with other singers; mentoring and leadership skills; setting an example		



About Old Saint Paul's

Old Saint Paul's is a historic and living Christian community in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town.

Home to a vibrant worshipping congregation drawn from all over Edinburgh, the church is also open all day during the week. Regular members and week day visitors alike welcome the opportunity to spend time in a building steeped in prayer, a spiritual haven in the heart of the city.

We value the link with former ages represented by the ancient liturgies and their formal beauty. At the same time we look to the needs of the present world, and seek to build a community that will nurture and encourage.

About the choir

The choir plays a significant role in the life and worship of Old Saint Paul's, and enjoys outstanding support from the clergy and the congregation.

The choir is led by Dr. John Kitchen (Director of Music) and Calum Robertson (Organ Scholar). The repertoire we sing is varied, stimulating and inspiring, with music from the Renaissance to the present day.

There are between 16 and 20 adult singers, and five junior choristers, boys and girls aged from 7 ½ to 12 years old. It's notable that most of the adult members of the choir began their singing careers as junior choristers, at Old Saint Paul's or elsewhere.

While the adult choir sings 2 services every Sunday, the Junior Choristers sing in the morning only, at our main weekly celebration of High Mass. Junior chorister meet weekly for their own rehearsal (see facing page and rehearsal schedule for full details). Their training is based on the **Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life** curriculum, and is undertaken by a team of adult members of the choir with the support of the Director of Music.

The team training the junior choristers has a wealth of musical and youth work experience. In addition, both the trainers and choristers benefit from input and support from the church's Youth Development Worker.

Benefits of choral singing

As well as providing a good quality, applied musical education, being part of the choir gives young people the chance to learn about:

- ◆ team work
- ◆ leadership
- ◆ personal responsibility
- ◆ self-reliance.

Singing in a choir can be a great way to boost confidence, and it's a sociable hobby that gives a lifetime's pleasure. Ask any of the adult members!

Joining Old Saint Paul's Choir as a junior chorister

Boys and girls may join Old Saint Paul's choir from age 8 onwards. Exceptions may be made for younger children who have the suggested abilities and are able to make the necessary commitments.

New members join the choir as **Probationers**. When they satisfy the criteria for full membership (or after 3 months for those who already have some musical training) they become **Junior Choristers**. Older children who demonstrate the necessary skills and aptitudes become **Choristers**.

We are keen for youngsters to keep singing throughout their teens, taking into account voice change. Boys may sing alto in the early stages of voice change, and move to sing tenor or bass as appropriate. We hope that Choristers will want to join the adult choir, which they may do from age 14.

Junior choristers rehearse from **6.30pm—8pm on Thursday nights**, and from **10am on Sunday mornings** for High Mass at 10.30am. The Juniors sing on **3 Sundays out of 4**, and also sing at special services as the occasion arises.

Come along and try it out!

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with either Jennie Gardner (Junior Choristers' Trainer) or John Kitchen (Director of Music).

Why not come along to a Sunday morning service to see what's involved and meet the choristers? Girls and boys are also welcome to come along to a rehearsal to see if they enjoy it.

Contact

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