

Chorister Voice Trials in 2021 – *amended for the pandemic*

Our Voice Trials will take place on 27 February (for boys and girls aged 7-9 years). Unfortunately, preliminary auditions are not possible this year, and this will be taken into account on the day.

In advance of the audition day, there will be an 'online' forum for parents, in the form of a Zoom meeting, which will include introductory talks by the Headmaster, Cathedral Director of Music and a member of the Cathedral Clergy – an opportunity to hear and ask questions about the Choristers' life.

What to Expect at the Voice Trial?

All candidates, accompanied by one parent/guardian, are asked to arrive at the Kalendar Hall (entrance on South St, Exeter), during the morning (the time will be confirmed nearer to the time, once final numbers are known; directions will be provided). Candidates may wear any casual, comfortable clothes, or school uniform, and should bring the music for their prepared song and any musical instrument(s) as appropriate.

The children will receive a 'warm-up' audition, with the chorister tutor, Mr Keith Roberts, and the actual audition will be assessed by Timothy Noon (the Cathedral's Director of Music) and Timothy Parsons (Assistant Director of Music).

The children's assessments will include:

- Singing a prepared song or hymn of their own choosing (this does not need to be anything complicated; it should be a song that your child is familiar with and really enjoys singing). It is extremely helpful if children bring the musical accompaniment for their prepared piece with them so that Mr Noon can accompany them;
- Playing a musical instrument if applicable (this is not compulsory);
- Ear tests e.g. singing notes played on the piano; tests of musicality;
- Reading aloud, at sight, a few verses of a psalm and a hymn which we will provide
- A short chat about interests/hobbies etc.

We will do our very best to put the children at ease and make the occasion an enjoyable one for them as we want them to do their best and to be relaxed, happy and confident.

The Decision Process

Following the Voice Trial day, the Cathedral Director of Music, the Headmaster, the Assistant Head and a member of the Cathedral Clergy will meet, remotely, to discuss the results from all the assessments. We will hope to inform parents of decisions within one week of the Voice Trial day.

It is important to understand that auditions for the Cathedral Choir are necessarily a very selective process and not everyone can succeed. The number of places is strictly limited in any given year and younger candidates may be encouraged to return for a further voice audition the following year if their voices have not yet developed sufficiently. It is also perhaps worthy of note that several of our current and past Choristers had unsuccessful auditions here or elsewhere before they were offered a Choristership.