Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Director of Chapel Music

Emmanuel College invites applications for the post of Director of Chapel Music with effect from 1 September 2018 for a period of three years. This is a part-time role; while the duties are likely to be spread unevenly across the year, it is expected to be equivalent in total to approximately 37% of a full-time appointment.

Background

Founded in 1584, Emmanuel College is one of the larger Cambridge colleges. It is known for its distinctive combination of academic excellence – Emmanuel is consistently ranked in the top few colleges in Cambridge – and a relaxed and inclusive spirit of community. The College has an active musical life in which Chapel music plays a central role, and has a long reputation for musical excellence; former organ scholars include Peter Wright, Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, Edward Jones, University Organist and Choirmaster at Harvard University, and Dr Joseph Fort, College Organist and Director of the Chapel Choir at King's College London. The College currently has two Fellows in Music, Professor Susan Rankin (Professor of Medieval Music) and Dr Bettina Varwig (University Lecturer in Music), and a Director of Music (Dr Christopher Whitton, University Senior Lecturer in Classics), who takes oversight of non-academic music. Under their current Director of Chapel Music since 2010, the Choir has consolidated and significantly developed its central role in the life of the College and its reputation for excellence beyond, and the successful candidate will look forward to building on this success.

Facilities

Emmanuel College is located in the heart of Cambridge, with the seventeenth-century Chapel (Christopher Wren) at its centre. The three-manual tracker organ (Kenneth Jones, 1988), acknowledged as one of the finest instruments in Cambridge, is housed in the Chapel’s original Father Smith case. There are two further large performance spaces, a raked auditorium in the Queen’s Building (with a Steinway B) and the Old Library (with a Bösendorfer grand), and four additional practice rooms; the College also owns a fine two-manual harpsichord (Milan Misina, 1991) and around twenty further pianos. Three funds are devoted to supporting College music, including the provision of singing lessons for the choir and the funding of chamber music recitals and one-off events.

The Chapel Choir

The College has a mixed-voice Chapel Choir of around 24 members, made up of Choral Scholars (elected through the Intercollegiate Choral Award Scheme), Choral Exhibitioners (auditioned from among members of the College) and Choral Volunteers (auditioned from outside Emmanuel), together with two Organ Scholars. The Choir sings two services a week during term, Eucharist at 6pm on Thursday and Evensong at 6pm on Sunday, each preceded by a rehearsal and with a further rehearsal at 5.15pm on Tuesday. There are special services for the Commemoration of Benefactors, Advent Carols and Passiontide, and a Requiem is sung each year; the Choir is also invited periodically to sing for the University Commemoration of Benefactors and undertakes joint services with other College Choirs.

Outside Cambridge, the Choir typically performs three to four times a year in London and elsewhere (including recently the Temple Church and Norwich and Ely Cathedrals) and undertakes one foreign tour each year, recently to Denmark, Germany, Poland, Thailand and the USA; the College has a preference for engaging professional tour organisers. In the last few years the Choir has also recorded two CDs and sung with professional orchestras for performances of Bach’s St John Passion, Beethoven’s Ninth, Haydn’s Creation and Mozart’s Requiem.

The Organ Scholars receive an honorarium, substantial rent rebates and organ lessons; the Senior Organ Scholar also has an allowance for entertaining the Choir and a handsome set of rooms in Front Court. Choral Scholars and Exhibitioners receive an honorarium, and all members of the Choir are given three singing lessons a term at College expense; since 2010 Emmanuel has been fortunate to have the services of a professional singing teacher. The Choir dines together at College expense after Evensong each Sunday.
Duties of the Director of Chapel Music

The Director of Chapel Music runs the musical life of the Chapel, with primary responsibilities as follows:

• conducting and managing the Choir
• recruiting members of the Choir
• managing the Organ Scholars and organising appropriate training in playing and conducting
• planning repertoire in consultation with the Dean
• organising singing lessons for members of the Choir
• arranging the purchase of sheet music as required and overseeing the Choir library (assisted by a Choir librarian)
• arranging concerts, outside events and recordings as appropriate
• planning an annual foreign tour and overseeing its organisation
• supervising the tuning and upkeep of the organ.

In overseeing the activities of the Choir, the Director of Chapel Music ensures that they maintain and enhance the reputation of the College, that Choir members observe good conduct and treat each other with respect, that all relevant College and University rules and regulations are observed, and that the Choir’s activities complement the academic studies which are its members’ first priority.

There are three University terms each year of effectively nine weeks each, and the majority of the Director of Chapel Music’s work falls within that period. Tours and outside events typically take place shortly before or after term.

The Director of Chapel Music attends the unreserved business of the Burnaby Committee, which meets twice yearly and manages College funds for music-making, and of the Chapel Committee, which normally meets once a year.

The Director of Chapel Music works together with the Director of Music, who has oversight of music-making in College as a whole, including its instruments, the Emmanuel College Music Society and Chapel music, and who (in liaison with the Director of Chapel Music) proposes Organ Scholars and Choral Scholars to the Governing Body for election; he also offers support as required to the Director of Chapel Music and the Organ Scholars. In addition the Director of Chapel Music liaises regularly with the Dean, Rev. Jeremy Caddick, and over certain events with the Development Director, Dr Sarah Bendall; s/he also liaises as required with the Senior Tutor and teaching Fellows over pastoral matters.

Profile

The successful candidate will be a highly skilled church musician and choral director with qualifications and experience relevant to his or her stage of career, excellent personal skills and the ability to work as part of the College community. Excellence as an organist is desirable. The College is an equal opportunities employer.

Further details

The post will be remunerated at 0.37 FTE on point 54 of the Cambridge University single salary spine, equivalent in 2017/18 to £17,144. The appointment is from 1 September 2018, for three years in the first instance. The Director of Chapel Music will have the use of a study, and is likely to be elected as a Bye-Fellow of the College (with associated High Table dining rights and an entertainment allowance).

Applications should be sent electronically to the Bursar’s Assistant (cjp48@emma.cam.ac.uk) by midday on 1 June 2018, and should include the following as a single pdf:

• a handwritten cover-letter
• CV
• the names, email addresses and phone numbers of two individuals who have agreed to act as confidential referees (references will be invited for shortlisted candidates).

Shortlisting will take place shortly after the deadline, and it is anticipated that interviews (including an opportunity to conduct the Choir) will be held on 19 June.

Please address informal enquiries to the Director of Music, Dr Christopher Whitton (clw36@cam.ac.uk).