

Who else looks after the Choristers?

The Reverend Joe McGarry, one of the Cathedral clergy, is Chaplain to the Choristers. He is the first point of contact for any pastoral concerns from choristers or families.

In accordance with Diocesan safety requirements, at least one parent is rostered on for each rehearsal, service and concert/event. This is a great opportunity for parents to be involved with the Choristers and to observe them as they rehearse. The choir's Parent Coordinator puts together a roster each term.

Are there opportunities for personal development?

Each chorister is trained to pass a series of exercises resulting in the awarding of ribbons. These awards are built around the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life programme, and involve both musical and Christian training.

Senior choristers become mentors and pass on their skills to new choristers as they join the choir.

How does the Cathedral communicate with chorister families?

The main form of communication is by email from the choir's Parent Coordinator or the Chaplain. Each family is also added to the Cathedral's mailing list for occasional mail-outs or emails about events at the Cathedral.

Does it cost anything to be a Chorister?

There is no fee to be a member of the Choristers. However, contributions to cover the costs of specific events, for example the summer and spring programmes, or trips off-site, may be required from time to time.

Want to know more?

Email the Director of Music, Michael Stewart
dom@wellingtoncathedral.org.nz

Want to join?

If you have a son or daughter interested in becoming a chorister, email the Director of Music to arrange a meeting (including a brief voice test) dom@wellingtoncathedral.org.nz

Choristers of Wellington Cathedral of St Paul



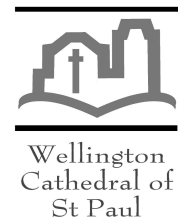
Be part of a 1000 year tradition

**Be part of the most professionally minded
children's choir in Wellington**

**Learn to sing and sight-sing with
internationally trained musicians
in a faith context**

Wellington Cathedral of St Paul
is part of the
Anglican (Episcopal) Church of Aotearoa New
Zealand and Polynesia

Wellington Cathedral of St Paul
Corner Molesworth and Hill Streets
Wellington
PO Box 12-044
Telephone 472 0286
Website <http://wellingtoncathedral.org.nz>



Who are the Cathedral Choristers?

The Choristers are boys from age 8 with unbroken voices, and girls age 8–15, drawn from schools across the city. They form one of four choirs at the Cathedral and play an important part in the life of the Cathedral.

The Choristers are directed by Michael Stewart (Organist and Director of Music), and Richard Apperley (Assistant Director of Music).

Who can join and when?

Anyone aged 8–12 may audition if spaces are available. The younger a chorister joins the choir, the better. It is preferable, though not essential, for a chorister to join at the beginning of a calendar year.

Normally it takes about four years to train and develop a chorister. Choristers are expected to commit for a full calendar year; at least three years' membership is preferred.

A chorister does not need to be an Anglican, but chorister families need to be open to the Christian faith.

What musical skills are needed?

A potential chorister will be able to demonstrate a musical ear (in a voice test with the Director of Music), and have a keen interest in music. Prior choir experience and/or ability to play a musical instrument are helpful but not essential. If accepted into the choir, choristers are expected to take up

a musical instrument if not already learning one.

What commitment is required?

- Twice weekly choir rehearsal (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- Evening service on Thursdays during school terms
- A Sunday service about once a month, either 10am or 5pm
- Other services from time to time
- All-day Summer School (February)
- All-day Spring School (October)
- Christingle Service (Christmas Eve)
- The 9 Lessons and Carols Service in late December or the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve

What is the regular schedule?

Tuesday

3.40pm – 3.55pm	Christian training
3.55pm – 5.00 pm	Rehearsal

Thursday

3.55pm	Rehearsal
4.50pm (approx)	Refreshments/robe
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Rehearsal
5.30pm – 6.00pm	Choral Evensong

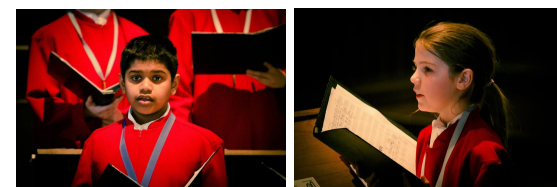
Sunday

For 10am service

8.50am	Arrive, robe and get music ready
9.00am	Rehearsal
10.00am – 11.30am	Service

What about other events?

On a case by case basis, chorister families are normally asked if they are able to commit to extra concerts or events within or outside the Cathedral, after which the Choristers' involvement in the event is finalised.



What do the choristers do apart from singing?

Christian training is a key part of the Choristers' tuition. Once a week the Choristers have a session of Christian training led by Cathedral clergy.

Being a chorister is fun! Strong friendships are formed and there are opportunities for fellowship among choristers and their families during the year, for example an annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race and a Christmas Party.

Other fun activities such as games, trips to the pool, and organ playing are scheduled as part of the all-day summer and spring programmes.