



# Pilling Trust Organ Scholarship at St Ann's

## Prospectus

[www.stannsmanchester.com](http://www.stannsmanchester.com)

## **Pilling Trust Associate Organ Scholarship**

St Ann's Church, Manchester city centre, is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and hard-working musician to become the Pilling Trust Organ Scholar from October 2021.

St Ann's has a long history of excellence in music and has trained organ scholars for many years. The scholarship has normally been offered to students who are studying in either the RNCM or the Department of Music at the University of Manchester. It is funded via the Church Council of St Ann's by the John Pilling Trust.



### **Music in St Ann's**

St Ann's is an open Christian community which welcomes people from many backgrounds, including a strong cohort of members in their twenties / thirties who play an important role in our fellowship. The church has an outreach into the city centre which connects us with the civic and cultural life of Manchester, as well as with people who might be considered vulnerable, including those experiencing homelessness. Within our worship, music plays a very important and cherished role.

The Director of Music (DoM), Simon Passmore, directs, conducts and accompanies the choir and is supported by an Associate Director, Dr James Hume, and the Pilling Trust Organ Scholar. The church is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM).

The choir is an auditioned, mixed, robed, SATB choir, usually around 25–30 strong. The age-range of singers is wide, although at present there are no children. A high standard of music-making is achieved which aims however not to exclude the congregation. To that end, the church combines a rich tradition of hymnody alongside choir-led worship through anthems and Communion/Evensong settings drawn from a wide repertoire. This is published in the monthly music list. The church has an extensive catalogue of choral and organ music.

Besides our own music-making St Ann's is well-known as a place which hosts many concerts and recitals. These include regular recitals or chamber concerts by RNCM students in term-time, and concert series by Manchester Jazz Festival, Manchester Baroque, the Piccadilly Chamber Orchestra and others.

There is a fine four-manual organ, some of which dates back to St Ann's original instrument of 1730. It was last rebuilt by George Sixsmith & Son Ltd in 1996. The full specification can be found on the National Pipe Organ Register. The church also has use of a well-maintained Steinway B piano which belongs to the RNCM.

## **Safeguarding**

St Ann's is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all church members and complies with the national policies of the Church of England. The appointment of the Organ Scholar is therefore subject to a satisfactory DBS Enhanced check. In addition, as part of the essential learning required of the position – and to fulfil the expectations of the Church Council – the scholar is required to complete two online training modules during their first full term. These are *Basic Awareness* and *Foundation*. A further module, *Leadership*, is to be completed by the end of the third term in preparation for future roles.

## **Scholarship details**

The scholarship is a £3,300 bursary per year paid in instalments at the start of each academic term. The bursary should be seen as a grant to support learning and not as remuneration for services. It may be used, for example, to purchase music for personal use. There is no contract of employment but, as the scholar will need to receive tuition, rehearse and experience playing in services, the expectations imply a contract for services (see 'duties' below).

The successful candidate will receive free organ lessons from the Director of Music. After induction, they will become a keyholder for the church and gain use of the church's organ and piano for practice (subject to availability). The scholarship is expected to run for the whole of the successful candidate's degree, but it is reviewed by both the scholar and the Director of Music along with the Rector after the end of each third term.

## Duties

To undertake the role as Organ Scholar, as agreed with the Rector and the Director of Music. The scholarship runs through each of the three terms (i.e. both University semesters) and will involve some playing over the Christmas and Easter festivals. As there is no position of assistant organist, the standard of organ scholars in the past at St Ann's has been and must continue to be exceptionally high. Duties include:

- Playing the organ and piano at all rehearsals and services during the week. The usual pattern of services has been:
  - Sunday (organ) 10.10am rehearsal for 10.45am Eucharist
  - Sunday (organ) 4.10pm rehearsal for 5pm Choral Evensong
  - Friday (piano) 7.30pm – 9.30pm rehearsal.

**Note:** Choral Evensong is occasionally replaced by Taizé Worship and this offers a different experience of accompanying music in worship.

- Accompanying hymns, psalms, canticles, mass settings and anthems at services.
- Selecting and providing suitable voluntaries for each service (with guidance from the DoM).
- Supporting the choir by singing in unaccompanied pieces (subject to discussion with the DoM) and, where the opportunity arises, conducting.
- By arrangement with the clergy or Church Manager and the DoM, accompanying a small number of services which are held through the year for such groups as the Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade and possibly for carol services in the period before Christmas. There is no fee payable for such services but, if the Organ Scholar is able to play for weddings or funerals in church and by arrangement with the Director of Music, then the PCC's set fee will be payable.
- Giving occasional lunchtime solo organ recitals as part of the Tuesday organ recital series.
- Completing online safeguarding training requirements (see above).

## Essential Criteria

- A proven high standard of organ playing. An able performer of solo repertory, improvisations, accompaniments of choirs and soloists, and congregational playing.
- Understanding the role of music in Christian worship and outreach. A person who has passion for music in worship and a strong commitment to church music. A talented musician in tune with the worship, ministry and ethos of St Ann's.
- The candidate must be an excellent sight-reader and be able to prepare music quickly. An ability to transpose would be desirable, although not essential.
- A good communicator with effective interpersonal skills; someone who can also relate positively to non-musical church members.
- Satisfactory DBS Enhanced check carried out through the church's usual procedures after an offer of scholarship has been made.

## Application

To find out more about St Ann's, please see the church's website listed on the front of this prospectus. To discuss the role informally in advance of applying please contact James Hume by email at the address below. We are also keen to hear from potential scholars who are applying to study in Manchester—even if they haven't yet fulfilled the requirements of their university offer (for future years).

To submit an application, send a brief CV and covering letter setting out your experience in music, church life (if any), and your reasons for wanting to take up the organ scholarship to James Hume at [music@stannsmanchester.com](mailto:music@stannsmanchester.com) no later than **24 September 2021**. Please ensure you include your full name, all addresses for the past five years and your contact details. You should also supply the names and addresses of two referees.

Interviews and auditions will be held at the end of September or start of October and the successful candidate will be expected to begin the scholarship by 15 October 2021.

## Audition

The post is subject to an audition and interview. On the panel will be Simon Passmore (Director of Music), Dr James Hume (Assistant Director of Music) and Canon Nigel Ashworth (Rector of St Ann's). Requirements for the audition will be:

- To prepare a varied lunchtime organ recital, from which the panel will select one or possibly two items. A piece by J.S. Bach should be included in the programme.
  
- To prepare the organ accompaniment to one of these standard repertory anthems:  
Wood, *O thou the central orb*  
or  
Britten, *Jubilate Deo*  
or  
Bullock, *Give us the wings of faith*.
  
- To prepare the organ accompaniment to one of these settings of the Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis:  
Murrill *in E*  
or  
Howells, *Collegium Regale*.
  
- To prepare a psalm (122, to an Anglican pointing and chant of the candidate's choice).
  
- To be given a short sight-reading excerpt. This will be written on three staves, and candidates may be expected to make manual and registration changes as directed.
  
- To be given two hymns to sight-read. These are to be played in the style of a morning and evening service respectively, and the candidate should be expected to improvise for approximately 30 seconds after the last verse of both.

Prior to auditioning, each candidate will be given up to four hours on the organ during the church's open hours by arrangement.