



# THE OXFORD ORATORY

## Organ scholarship

The Fathers of the Oxford Oratory wish to appoint a suitably skilled organist as Organ Scholar to work with our professional choir, which sings at the Solemn Mass on all Sundays and major feasts throughout the year, lead by our Director of Music, Rory Moules. The role presents an exciting opportunity to contribute to the vibrant musical life of the Oxford Oratory, while gaining experience of the traditional Catholic liturgy and sacred music performed to the highest standards. Some understanding and appreciation of the Catholic musical tradition is desirable but not essential. Applicants should be in sympathy with the requirements and aims of the traditional Catholic liturgy.

Closing date for applications: Friday 15 October 2021

Interviews and auditions will held on Friday 29 October 2021.

### Role overview

<b>Role</b>	Organ Scholar
<b>Location</b>	The Oratory, Woodstock Road, Oxford
<b>Honorarium</b>	£2000, plus £500 towards organ tuition
<b>Reporting to</b>	Director of Music
<b>Starting</b>	November 2021 <i>or as soon as possible</i>
<b>Length of appointment</b>	One year <i>possibly extendable by mutual agreement</i>
<b>Qualifications &amp; Experience</b>	The scholarship is intended for students or graduates with suitable organ experience. The diploma of Associate of the Royal College of Organists (or equivalent standard) is desirable but not essential.

## Role Description

The organ scholar attends the Solemn Mass on Sundays and major feasts (with the possibility of some flexibility outside university term time), with a view towards playing for these liturgies. The organ scholar may also be asked to accompany the Sung Mass on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Sunday Vespers, depending on availability and experience.

The repertoire of the Oxford Oratory consists primarily of plainchant and polyphony. It is expected that potential candidates are unlikely to have had much experience of accompanying plainchant, and developing this skill under the guidance of the Director of Music is a major part of this scholarship. The organ scholar will also develop the improvisation skills necessary for accompanying the liturgy.

The Director of Music, has artistic oversight over the Oratory's music in general and is specifically responsible for directing the professional Oratory Choir and playing the organ for the principal Latin liturgies. The organ scholar works closely with the Director of Music, assisting in these tasks and learning from him through observation and ongoing mentoring. The organ scholar assists in basic administrative tasks, including managing the choir library and producing music booklets. A suitably experienced candidate may be asked as part of the scholarship to direct the choir in the Director's absence from time to time. This presents an excellent opportunity to gain experience of working with a choir of professional musicians.

The organ scholar is not employed, but receives an honorarium of £2000 per year in twelve monthly instalments. A further £500 per year may be used to cover the cost of organ lessons. The organ scholar is appointed for one year, possibly extendable by mutual agreement.

The organ scholar will comply with the Safeguarding Policy of the Oxford Oratory, will co-operate with the Oxford Oratory safeguarding representative to obtain any necessary safeguarding clearance, and will attend any necessary safeguarding training sessions.

## Typical Sunday music schedule

9:00–9:25	Parish choir rehearsal
9:30–10:30	Sung Mass (Parish choir)
9:45–10:45	Oratory Choir rehearsal
11:00–12:20	Solemn Mass (Oratory Choir)
17:00–18:00	Sung Vespers

## Music at the Oxford Oratory

The provision of high quality liturgical music has always been of central importance to the Oratory in Oxford. The renewal of Gregorian chant and the sacred polyphony of the Church has become essential to the celebration of the Solemn Mass on Sundays and feast days. The Oratory maintains a choir of professional singers, bringing in other instrumentalists where desirable. Musical Oratories throughout the year provide an opportunity both to widen the repertoire and showcase the excellence of music at the Oratory in both devotional and concert settings. The Director of Music and the organ scholar accompany sung Latin Vespers on Sundays and major feasts throughout the year, with the addition of sung choral Vespers for certain solemn feasts.

## **About the Oratory**

The Congregation of the Oratory was founded in Rome by St Philip Neri in the middle of the sixteenth-century with the object of leading people to holiness in their daily lives through familiar discourse on the Word of God, prayer, preaching and the administration of the sacraments. The Oratory was brought to England by St John Henry Newman in 1848, but it was only in 1990 that Newman's dream of founding a house in Oxford was realised, being founded by Fathers from Newman's Oratory in Birmingham.

The Oxford Oratory is one of the most vibrant centres of Catholic life in the United Kingdom, with hundreds of congregants per week attending the many Masses offered in its beautiful church. It is truly a sanctuary in the midst of the city of Oxford, open from 7:00am to 7:00pm each day and welcoming almost 1000 people each weekend for Sunday Masses, Vespers and Benediction.

The traditional celebration of the Church's liturgy has long been a special care of the English Oratories, and along with the provision of a high standard of music from the ancient treasury of Catholic music, this remains one of our central works.

Since their arrival here, the Fathers of the Oratory offer several daily Masses, daily Confession, weekly Adoration, High Masses on Sundays and feast days, and a wide range of pastoral outreach such as prayer and discussion groups for all ages, Catechism for adults, First Communion groups, mother and toddler groups, visits to the sick and to prisoners, and even a monthly book group for parishioners of all ages to explore the richness of Catholic literature.

## **How to apply**

Applications marked 'Organ Scholarship' should be emailed to:  
The Director of Music, Mr Rory Moules at: [music@oxfordoratory.org.uk](mailto:music@oxfordoratory.org.uk).

Applications should include:

1. a curriculum vitae, including secondary and tertiary education history
2. a covering letter outlining (a) the applicant's suitability and experience and (b) how the scholarship would fit with the applicant's education commitments
3. names and full contact details of two referees, indicating how long the applicant has known them and in what capacity.

Applications must be received by noon on Friday 15 October 2021.

Auditions and interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held on Friday 29 October 2021.