



ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

2026-27

St. Mary's Church, Battersea, seeks to appoint an **Organ Scholar** for the academic year 2026-27 with the potential opportunity to continue for a second year by mutual agreement. The Organ Scholar receives an annual honorarium of **£3,000** and generous extra fees for any weddings/funerals throughout the year.

Music at St. Mary's

Music plays an integral role in worship at St. Mary's. The church has a very able and enthusiastic robed SATB choir, supported by four paid Choral Scholars, which performs music covering a variety of musical styles from the Renaissance to the present day. The choir sing at most Sunday morning services, choral evensong twice a month, on liturgical feastdays, and at regular concerts and special events. 2027 marks the 250th anniversary of the current church building, and this is likely to be celebrated with several musical events.

A typical Sunday Eucharist will include a voluntary before and after the service. Along with the hymns, the choir normally sing an anthem, a communion motet, a psalm, and a mass setting which is usually congregational. Once per term the choir performs a choral mass setting, such as Mozart's *Spatzenmesse* or Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*, with instrumental accompaniment. The first Sunday of the month is not choral, but the Organ Scholar may be required to play hymns at the 9.30am family service and/or the 11am Eucharist.



On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, full choral evensongs are sung, which allow the choir and organist to explore more repertoire including evening settings and preces & responses.

In addition to leading worship at the Sunday services, the choir perform large-scale works with orchestra or chamber ensembles such as Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Mozart's *Spatzenmesse*. Other recent performances include singing for the Sunday services at Southwark Cathedral. The organ scholar has a significant role in all these events.

The church is a particularly beautiful Grade I listed Georgian building on the banks of the river Thames and is an inspiring place to work. The organ is a 1991 Saxon

Aldred two manual tracker action instrument with 27 speaking stops, which was recently extensively renovated. There is also an excellent 5'5" Kawai Grand Piano. The Organ Scholar is free to use the church and its instruments for their own practice, teaching and concerts.

The Role

The position of Organ Scholar involves assisting the Director of Music in all musical aspects of the services and rehearsals. There will be many opportunities for playing, conducting and contributing to the general running and organisation of the music department, which will include some work in managing the choir library. The scholarship can be adapted to suit each candidate's needs, focussing on playing, conducting, or a balance of the two, though the primary focus is likely to be on playing. The Organ Scholar may also sing when not playing or conducting. There are also two recital series each year, in which the scholars are encouraged to perform.

Several festivals over the course of the year do not fall on Sundays including Advent and Christmas services, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services, etc. The Organ Scholar is expected to be available for these services with the exception of Midnight Mass/Christmas Day.

Typical Weekly Timetable

Wednesday

19:30 - 20:45 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday

(1st Sunday of each month)

9:30 - 10:15 Family@Church

11:00 - 12:15 Eucharist (no choir)

(Other Sundays)

09:45 - 10:30 Choir Rehearsal

11:00 - 12:15 Eucharist

(2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, except in Advent & Lent)

16:30 - 17:45 Choir Rehearsal

18:00 - 19:00 Choral Evensong

This list is not intended to be exhaustive and the Organ Scholar may be asked to play at other services on occasion.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will likely be a current undergraduate/postgraduate student or recent graduate, though this is not a requirement. The candidate should be of a very good standard in organ playing, while some experience of choral conducting is desirable. As a guide, previous Organ Scholars have either already obtained or have been looking to soon achieve the ARCO diploma. The prospective candidate is encouraged to take an active role in the life of the church.

The prospective Organ Scholar should show good initiative and have excellent self-management and organisational skills. They should be a good team-player willing to work well with others.

Salary and Fees

The salary for the organ scholar's position is **£3,000** per annum.

Weddings and funerals occur throughout the year at St. Mary's and these attract an extra fee of **£175-£200**. This performance fee is doubled for services that are recorded or streamed. The Director of Music has first refusal for these extra services.



Application and Audition

To apply, candidates are requested to submit a CV detailing relevant experience along with a short letter of application by email to the Director of Music, Katy Silverman: music@stmarysbattersea.org.uk. Informal enquiries and visits to the church are most welcome.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to audition and will be asked to:

- Play two contrasting pieces chosen by the candidate:
 - One by J. S. Bach
 - The other written after 1800
- Play the final two verses of a hymn, provided on the day of audition, followed by a short improvisation (such as often required after the Offertory hymn)
- Score read a short extract of a piece for SATB voices (also provided at audition)
- Play a sight reading test

Auditions will be arranged on receipt of application.

Email: music@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

Address: *Director of Music*
The Parish Office
St. Mary's Church
Battersea Church Road
London
SW11 3NA

1991 Saxon Aldred Organ Specification

Great

Open Diapason	8'
Stopped Diapason	8'
Bell Gamba	8'
Principal	4'
Open Flute	4'
Nazard	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Gemshorn	2'
Tierce	1 $\frac{3}{5}$ '
Fourniture	IV (12. 15. 19. 22.)
Trumpet*	8'
Tremulant	

Pedal

Bourdon	16'
Principal Bass	8'
Gedackt Bass	8'
Fifteenth	4'
Posaune	16'

Swell

Clarabella	8'
Viol	8'
Principal	4'
Chimney Flute	4'
Fifteenth	2'
Larigot	1 $\frac{1}{3}$ '
Mixture	IV (12. 15. 19. 22)
Fagotto	16'
Cornopean*	8'
Cremona	8'
Tremulant	

Couplers

Great to Pedal
Swell to Pedal
Swell to Great

* The Great Trumpet and the Swell Cornopean were donated to the church by the local schools; Sir Walter St. John's Grammar School and Thomas's School and are engraved "Sinjun's Trumpet" and "Thomas's Cornopean" respectively.

Accessories

- 16 Divisional and General Levels
- 999 Level Sequencer
- 4 thumb pistons to each manual
- 4 toe pistons to pedal (and great)
- Reversible toe pistons for each coupler
- 8 general pistons (above swell)
- Piston Setter
- Balanced Swell Pedal

Information for Visiting Organists

We do hope you enjoy playing this 1991 Saxon Aldred instrument. A 2 manual, 27 stop organ, it is extremely versatile and capable of most repertoire. Please take a moment to read over the information below.

Power

The organ blower and lights are both turned on by pressing the I switch to the right of the keyboard. When leaving the organ, please ensure that the Swell box is left **open** and all stops are pushed in before turning off the power.

Divisional and General Channel Allocations:

Divisional channels are indicated by green numbers on the control panel and General Channels are indicated by red. A dot under the number indicates that the channel is locked. Divisional pistons 4 on each manual, and the toe piston on the right hand side of the pedalboard, act as a stepper and will advance to the next general piston. Channel **I** for both the General and Divisional pistons are set to a general crescendo. Please feel free to use these but **do not** alter them. General, Divisional, and Sequencer settings are locked using the rocker switches on the control panel.

The rest of the channels are allocated as follows:

- 1-4:** Director of Music (*please do not alter*);
- 5-8:** Organ Scholar (*please do not alter*);
- 9-16:** Visiting Organists (free unless locked).

Use of the Sequencer

The sequencer has 999 levels. These are free to use if they are unlocked and unallocated. The sequencer is accessed by pressing the rocker switch on the control panel towards “on”, and is turned off again by doing the same.

Further Information

The organ sounds almost exactly in the building as it does at the console with the exception of the reeds on the Swell which sound larger in the building, (for example, the Cremona can be used as a solo with the 8' Stopped Diapason and 4' flute on the Great quite easily).

*Should you encounter any problems with the organ, please contact the
Director of Music, Katy Silverman, on 07498 288109*