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# Joining the Cathedral Choir

## Boy Choristers

### Information

The English choral tradition is one which has its beginnings many centuries ago. This tradition is very much alive today, sustained by the choirs of the cathedrals and collegiate chapels throughout the British Isles. It is one which is virtually unique to these islands. A boy who is fortunate enough to become a member of such a choir joins that rich heritage. The training and experience involved are without parallel, giving an opportunity to sing some of the finest and most uplifting music ever written for the human voice in some of the grandest settings.

Selection for a place in the choir is made at an audition by appointment. An application for audition should be made on the form provided. Successful candidates attend Ripon Cathedral Choir School as day pupils, but may choose weekly or full boarding if they wish. Choristers receive choral scholarships worth 50% of the fees, and in some circumstances additional funding through bursaries may be available.

Choristers and parents are required to give an undertaking that a boy will not be removed from the Choir and School until the end of the academic year in which he is 13. A formal contract between parents and the Cathedral must be completed.

Choristers benefit from the excellent musical facilities provided in the School and each member of the choir learns at least one musical instrument. Music theory lessons are free. Each chorister receives individual singing tuition free of charge from the Cathedral Vocal Coach.

The choir is required to sing at the great festivals of Christmas and Easter which often take place out of school term time. Choristers may choose to board at the school during these times at no cost.

Further information is available at:

[www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk) and [www.webjam.com/riponcathedralchoir](http://www.webjam.com/riponcathedralchoir)

### Selection and Audition

In selecting the choristers, the vocal potential of each candidate will be given as much consideration as his attained singing skill, so that a candidate need not be a very good singer before applying. As much of the Audition emphasises the importance of 'a good ear', previous music aural training. Guidance and coaching can be sought from a music teacher. Each candidate should prepare a solo (a song or hymn), and should bring a spare copy of the accompaniment. During the audition the candidate will be asked:

- to sing a prepared solo
- to respond to several aural tests (*Grade 3-4 Associated Board aural test standard*)
- to read a verse from a hymn at sight.
- to have a brief discussion with the selection panel.

Auditions normally take approximately 15 minutes.

While the audition process can be rather daunting for the candidates, a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere allows those auditioning to feel at ease and perform to the best of their ability. Following the audition candidates are notified of the result by post within one week. At this stage an offer of a place in the choir is provisional upon a satisfactory academic and social interaction assessment which takes place during a twenty four hour stay at the Cathedral Choir School.



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# Application Form

Boy Chorister

| Personal details  |  |
|---|--|
| Candidate name  |  |
| Date of birth   |  |
| Parent(s) name  |  |
| Address <i>including postcode</i>   |  |
| Telephone   |  |
| Email   |  |
| Education and musical experience  |  |
| Name and address of present school  |  |
| Headteacher   |  |
| Singing experience<br><i>Including lessons and any exams taken.</i>             |  |
| Other musical experience<br><i>Including instruments played and exams taken</i> |  |

## Other information

If offered a place would you be seeking a bursary in addition to the choral scholarship?

- Yes       No       Unsure

Choristers are day pupils at the Cathedral Choir School, but boarding is available. Please indicate if you wish your son to board, and which option.

- Full boarding (including weekends)  
 Weekly boarding (Monday - Friday)  
 Flexi boarding (once or twice each week and at other times when necessary)  
 Day pupil only

The results of the audition are usually posted within one week. Would you prefer to receive these by email?

- Yes       No

In order to help us provide effective publicity and marketing please indicate below how you found out about choristerships at Ripon Cathedral.

- Journal/magazine/newspaper advert or article  
 Poster  
 Internet search  
 Cathedral Choir School advert/pupil/publicity  
 Recommendation by someone  
 Other *please specify below*

Parent signature

Print name

Date

*Please return this form to:*

Andrew Bryden  
Director of Music  
Ripon Cathedral  
Ripon,  
North Yorkshire  
HG4 1QS