

# St Richard Singers



## ST RICHARD SINGERS – CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

### The Choir

The [St Richard Singers \(SRS\)](#) were established in November 1970 with the purpose of making high level choral singing more accessible, through which they might actively and positively represent the Chichester community through musical performance. The choir also seeks to foster public knowledge and appreciation of choral music through public performance and community engagement.

The current membership is around 35 singers and includes both experienced, musically literate choral singers alongside those with no prior exposure who are accessing ensemble vocal music for the first time. The choir has a professional Director of Music and Accompanist and performs 3-4 concerts per year in Chichester including Christmas, Easter, and a summer appearance at the Festival of Chichester. The choir sings both a cappella (unaccompanied) as well as with organ accompaniment. On occasion, the choir performs with its own in-house chamber orchestra, the Noviomagus Ensemble, and professional soloists.

The repertoire of the choir is rooted in sacred music of the Western tradition and spans nearly six centuries. It includes works from both major and lesser-known composers. The choir and its members are committed to producing performances of the highest quality in order to engage, inform, and excite the community. The choir continues to go from strength to strength under their current Director of Music, Jake Barlow.

### Director of Music

[Jake Barlow](#) is a countertenor, conductor, and singing teacher based in Chichester. He read for a degree in 'Greats' as a Choral Scholar at Worcester College, Oxford, and after positions at Truro and Norwich Cathedrals, he is now a Lay Vicar (professional choral singer) at Chichester Cathedral. As a resident member of the cathedral choir, he sings eight choral services a week during term, as well as for tours, concerts, broadcasts, and recordings.

A Fellow of the London College of Music and a Licentiate of Trinity College London, he has appeared as a soloist with the BBC Philharmonic, the Brook Street Band, the Amadeus Orchestra, Hastings Philharmonic, Norwich Baroque, the East Anglian Academy of Early Music, and the English Cornet and Sackbut Ensemble. He has also appeared at the International Liszt Festival in Hungary, and the Handel Week Festival in Illinois.

As a conductor he has worked with groups around the country. In addition to his Director of Music duties for the St Richard Singers, he is the founder and Artistic Director of the Noviomagus Ensemble.

He runs a private practice in the centre of Chichester, where he does vocal coaching and singing teaching, as well as tutoring in academic subjects. Please visit [www.jake-barlow.com](http://www.jake-barlow.com) for more.

## The Scholarships

At SRS we believe that high quality choral music should be available to all in the community, **regardless of background**. We also believe that those with potential who are willing to commit to performing music to a high standard and work as part of a team should have the opportunity to practise their art in a supportive environment which will allow them to hone their skills and further their enjoyment of choral music.

The scholarships are therefore open to people of any voice type (soprano, alto – male or female – tenor or bass) between the ages of 18 and 27 **from any social or ethnic background**. Scholars should be resident within a 30-mile radius of Chichester. The scholars themselves should be sympathetic towards both the musical and social aims of the choir, show commitment in terms of attendance, and loyalty in terms of their positive attitude and contribution to the life of the choir.

The scholarships are practical, non-academic awards, offered for one choral year (September to July). The choir is in a position to offer up to eight scholarships each year (2 each of soprano, alto tenor, and bass, although this is flexible depending on the candidates and the needs of the choir). Existing scholars are welcome to reapply, and the three choir terms per season are roughly in line with local school terms.

The qualities sought in prospective Choral Scholars are:

- Either an ability to read music, or a willingness to learn to do so through tuition and musical resources;
- A commitment to attend all termly Monday evening rehearsals and pre-performance dress rehearsals, reasonable absences by arrangement with the Musical Director notwithstanding;
- An ability and willingness to support other members of the section during rehearsals and performances in addition to being a positive role model within the choir, both musically and in terms of attitude;
- The confidence and ability to hold the correct musical line, thus acting as a musical leader within the section where appropriate;
- Dedication to high-quality musical performance within a community/amateur context.

In return, the choir, its committee, and the Director of Music will:

- Waive all and any subscription fees for scholars;
- Provide all necessary sheet music (and associated learning resources) free of charge;
- Provide opportunities for solo singing where appropriate;
- Assist with transport to SRS events and concerts outside of Chichester;
- Provide the scholars with mentoring and educational support and advice they may require, including (but not limited to) providing positive, supportive references or personal recommendations where appropriate;
- Provide monthly singing lessons/vocal coaching sessions with the Director of Music.

Interested parties should write to the Chairperson, Kirsten Scott, who can also provide any further information required, at [strichardsingersscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:strichardsingersscholarship@gmail.com), outlining their experience and reasons for interest in the Choral Scholarships in addition to confirming their eligibility. Successful applicants will be asked to attend an audition/interview with the Director of Music (and a small panel made up of members of the choir) and then, if appropriate, be invited to a rehearsal with the choir before a scholarship offer is made.

St Richard Singers, April 2018