

Bath Abbey Lay Clerk (Counter-tenor or Alto)

Job Title: Lay Clerk (Counter-tenor or Alto)

Reports to: Director of Music

Rate of Pay: £3096.90 per annum

Hours: 9 hours a week (typically 3 sessions a week each of 3 hours duration). 37 weeks of the year between September and July based on the academic school year.

Holiday Entitlement: 60 hours per annum – 36 hours to be taken outside of the school term.

Background

Bath Abbey is a major centre for Christian worship, a leading venue for tourism and cultural events, and a treasured part of Britain's heritage. It lies at the heart of Bath, occupying a central place in the celebration of worship, special events and the life of this unique and elegant World Heritage city. There are two treble choirs at Bath Abbey – a boys choir (aged 8-14) and a girls choir (aged 11-18) and the 12 Adult Lay-clerks support these children with the Alto, Tenor and Bass parts.

Overall purpose of the post

The principal duties of a Lay Clerk are to take part in the services and concerts detailed under Main Duties and Responsibilities below, which include all necessary rehearsals. The duties may be varied from time to time after consultation by the Director of Music and the Abbey Leadership Team.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. To sing as part of the Abbey Choir at Evensong on Thursday (and occasional Friday), and on Sunday at two services: Choral Eucharist and Choral Evensong.
2. Additional duties include the Advent Carol Service, the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the sung Eucharist on the night of Christmas Eve, and services on Ash Wednesday and during Holy Week.
3. To sing in concerts, broadcasts and recordings as required which will attract additional fees.

General Responsibilities

1. Maintain the vocal standards required by the Director of Music, and as appropriate to being part of a choir. This includes preparation before rehearsals and services.
2. Uphold and adhere to the Abbey's values, its policies and procedures, and its code of conduct.
3. Attend safeguarding and other training courses as required by the Abbey.
4. Any other appropriate duties that the Director of Music, Rector, or clergy may require from time to time.

Person Specification

Qualifications, Knowledge, and Experience

Essential

- Demonstrate a high level of musicianship, ability, and experience as a choral singer
- Excellent ability in sight-reading
- Demonstrate a high level of experience and stylistic awareness in singing music across the choral repertoire
- Capable of singing up to two Sunday choral services and weekday Evensongs with limited rehearsal time

Desirable

- Education to degree standard
- Experience working in a cathedral/church music environment

Skills and Abilities

Essential

- Good organisational and interpersonal skills
- Excellent team working skills, with the ability to work collaboratively
- A sound and flexible vocal technique
- Ability to keep up with correspondence in a professional manner

Work-related personal qualities

Essential

- Punctual, reliable, with a positive outlook, and integrity
- A person who is stimulated by the high expectations of those around them
- Flexibility in response to changing circumstances and a positive approach to innovation
- The ability to work well within a team
- Approachable, open, and honest
- Dedicated, conscientious, and hard working

Desirable

- A communicant member of the Church of England

Application

To apply please send a full CV and covering letter of no more than one side A4 page which explains why you are a suitable candidate. Please include the details of two references one of whom should be a musician who can speak about your musical ability. References will only be taken up once an offer has been made.

Please send your CV and letter to Huw Williams, Director of Music at the following email address: hwilliams@bathabbey.org

Deadline for applications: Friday 9 July 2021, 5pm