

And this is what the Choristers think...

'The Cathedral is such a beautiful building and the congregation really cares about us and says thank you too.'

'You make loads of new friends and get very close to them as you spend so much time together.'

'I just love the services at Christmas and Easter and 'Darkness to Light' is just the best!'

The Cathedral's Advent Procession: From Darkness to Light



'It's just such a wonderful opportunity for a child.'
Chorister Parent

For further information on how to become a chorister, please contact:

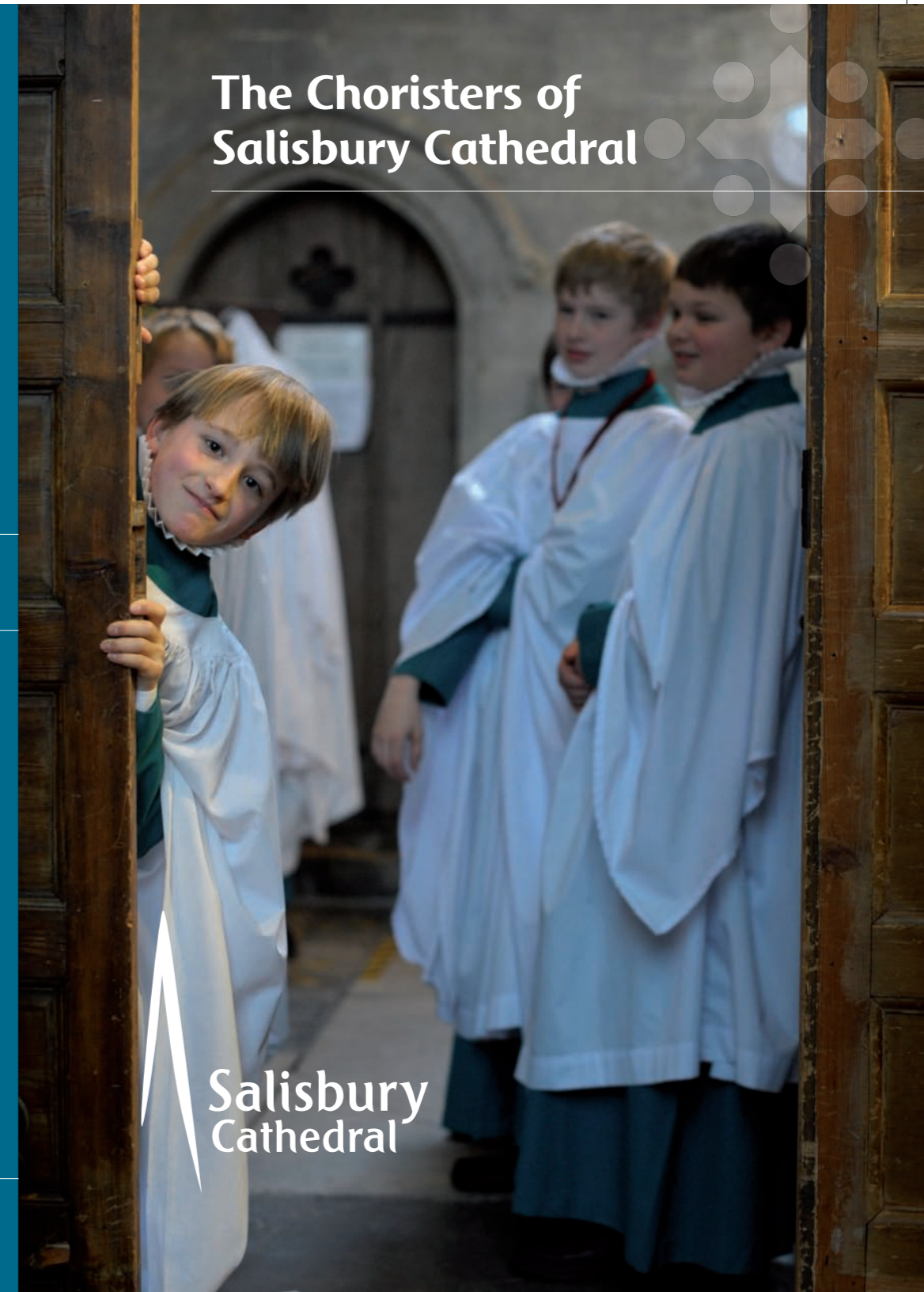
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The Choristers of Salisbury Cathedral



Salisbury
Cathedral



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To be a Cathedral Chorister is a wonderful and exciting opportunity. Above all, it is fun!

Salisbury Cathedral Choristers lead fulfilling lives, receiving a first class musical training and a myriad of unforgettable experiences. The life-skills, confidence and discipline they acquire during their chorister years are widely recognised and valued and will stand them in good stead whatever their future career.

Salisbury Cathedral's choral foundation is unique with the boys and girls having equality in age, financial support and choir duties.

Who are the choristers?

They are the boys and girls aged 8 to 13 years who sing the daily choral services in the Cathedral approximately thirty-five weeks a year. The boys and girls usually sing independently of one another and, for most services, with the six choir men. There are sixteen choristers in each choir plus four probationer, or learner, choristers. They are all pupils (either day or boarding) at the Cathedral School – a thriving co-educational independent school, situated next to the Cathedral.



What are the choristers' duties?

Salisbury's choristers join a tradition where children and adults work together as equals to perform choral music to the very highest standard. Between them the two sets of choristers sing nine services a week: Evensong every day plus Mattins and Eucharist on Sunday mornings. The boys and girls rehearse most days before school begins and the choristers who are singing Evensong rehearse again in the afternoon before that service. On special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter and at major concerts, the boy and girl choristers sing together, and there are additional singers in the lower voices. This makes for a really vibrant and exciting sound.

Their weekly routine is enriched by broadcasts for radio and television, CD recordings, concerts, the annual five day Southern Cathedrals Festival, and tours abroad.

How do chorister duties fit with school life?

Salisbury Cathedral School is one of thirty-nine choir schools in Britain. Apart from their singing duties, the choristers play a full part in its academic, sporting and many extra-curricular activities. They receive the finest academic teaching, working alongside the school's many non-choristers. The school has an enviable reputation for musical excellence and sport is yet another core part of daily activity.

The school has worked hard to create a 'home from home' atmosphere in its boarding house which operates an 'open door' policy so that choristers can spend some time with their families alongside the regular weekend Cathedral duties.



'It's great fun – it just makes me smile!'
Chorister



How do you become a chorister?

Any child who wants to become a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral has to do a singing audition called a voice trial. These are held annually, in January for boys and February for girls.

If you know a child who enjoys singing, has a keen musical ear and the makings of a good voice, bring them to the choir's popular open day 'Be a chorister for a day' which takes place on a Saturday in November. They will meet, rehearse and sing with the choristers in the Cathedral and see the choir school. Equally importantly, you and they will have the opportunity to ask questions about chorister family life.

The Cathedral musicians are always happy to hear your child sing informally, assess their potential and give tips on how best to prepare for voice trial. There is also a special workshop open to all would-be choristers and their parents held on a Saturday morning in December.

At the voice trial, potential choristers will be asked to sing a prepared piece of their own choice – a carol, hymn or song – to sing some scales and to respond to a few ear tests (based on Associated Board standards). There may be some sight-reading too. In the school there will be a short academic test and the opportunity, if appropriate, to play a musical instrument.

Financial support

The Cathedral Chapter awards scholarships to probationers and choristers. Parents may also apply to various Trust Funds for assistance with fees. The Cathedral School bursar is happy to give advice to parents and to assist with all aspects of school fees and chorister funding. Our aim is to ensure that any child who is successful at voice trial should not be prohibited from taking up that place on financial grounds.

'There's a great community atmosphere between the choir families.'
Chorister Parent