



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Securing music at Chichester Cathedral:
now and for generations to come

Chichester Cathedral Platinum Endowment Trust for Music

chichestercathedral.org.uk





“The wonderful music at Chichester Cathedral helps us to connect with the presence of God.”

The Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, Patron (Pictured)

Patron:

The Duchess of Richmond and Gordon

Vice-Patrons:

Sir John Rutter

Kate Mosse CBE

Rachel Portman OBE

**Chichester Cathedral Platinum
Endowment Trust for Music**

Chichester Cathedral

Restoration & Development Trust CIO

The Royal Chantry, The Cloisters,
Chichester, PO19 1PX

All figures correct at time of publication
in April 2026.



A TRADITION THAT INSPIRES

For more than nine centuries, music has shaped life at Chichester Cathedral. Day by day, it frames worship, deepens prayer and offers moments of stillness and transcendence to all who enter, whether drawn by faith, heritage or the sheer beauty of sound.

Cathedral music is cherished by people of all faiths and none and forms a vital part of our shared cultural inheritance. Safeguarding it for the future requires commitment and long-term support.

At the centre of this tradition stands the Cathedral Choir, supported by the Organist and Master of the Choristers, Assistant Organist, Organ Scholar and Lay Vicars. Together, they sustain a repertoire spanning centuries, from the great composers of the past to music written in our own time. The choir's singing is marked by clarity, warmth and an intimacy perfectly suited to the Cathedral's scale and acoustics.

“Even those who do not believe in any sort of God find that the choral singing and organ accompaniment reaches them at a very deep level. Often it stirs them to deeper reflection, or gives strength to face the difficult battles of life.”

The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler
DEAN OF CHICHESTER

A life touched by music: Daphne's story

Daphne Richards first heard the choir at Chichester Cathedral as a ten-year-old during the Second World War. Amid air raids and uncertainty, the music brought her peace and hope, shaping a lifelong love of church music and a deep connection to the Cathedral. Over the years, she has supported its music with generosity and care, both during her lifetime and through a legacy gift, helping to ensure that future generations can experience the same transformative power of music.

“I cannot imagine the Cathedral without music. If you love it and are able to help, please do. Every gift matters.”

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS. SECURING THE FUTURE.

Launched in February 2023, the first stage of the Chichester Cathedral Platinum Endowment Trust for Music set an ambitious target of £5 million, with the aim of reaching this milestone by 2026. The Match Funding Music Appeal for our 950th anniversary has played a vital part in that journey. Four anonymous donors pledged to match every pound given, up to £950,000, and the generosity of supporters rose to the challenge. More than 2,000 people contributed, raising just over £1 million and unlocking the full £950,000 in match funding.

This remarkable response has brought us significantly closer to our £5 million goal. Once achieved, the endowment, together with secured revenue funding, will meet around half of the Cathedral's annual music costs. Scholarships for choristers account for nearly half of this expenditure, helping to ensure that talented children, whatever their background, can take part.

This progress gives us confidence as we look ahead. Across the country,

recent experience has shown that once a choir or choir school is lost, it cannot easily be rebuilt and centuries of musical inheritance can vanish within a single generation. At Chichester, we are determined to secure a different future, and to build on this momentum as we prepare for the next phase of fundraising

Phase Two of the Platinum Endowment Trust for Music seeks to raise a further £4 million. This next stage will enable the fund to meet an even greater proportion of annual music costs, from chorister scholarships to musicians' salaries, strengthening the foundations of the Cathedral's musical life for generations to come. Every gift made today is an investment in the music of tomorrow.

The Chichester Cathedral Platinum Endowment Trust for Music, established by the Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust CIO, is invested as permanent capital. The income it generates plays a vital role in meeting the annual cost of music at Chichester Cathedral.



NURTURING YOUNG VOICES

The Cathedral Choir is central to worship and to the Cathedral's musical life. Eighteen choristers, girls and boys, sing the treble line, supported by six professional adult singers who provide the alto, tenor and bass parts. The choir is accompanied by the Cathedral's team of organists and can be heard at eight services each week during term time, as well as at additional services, concerts and special occasions.

Choristers are educated at the nearby Prebendal School, where their musical training is woven into daily life. Entry is based on ability and potential. The Cathedral currently funds 25 per cent of each chorister's school fees, with families meeting the remainder. While we would wish to offer greater support, this is not yet possible and the remaining cost can still present a significant challenge for some families.



During their time in the choir, choristers gain far more than musicianship. They develop discipline, teamwork, skills in public speaking as well as singing, confidence and resilience, qualities that remain with them throughout their lives. Their voices are heard not only in the Cathedral but beyond, through broadcasts, recordings and performances across the diocese and internationally.

A life touched by music: Andrew's story

Andrew Owens was a chorister at Chichester Cathedral during the 1980s. The experience shaped him profoundly, instilling a lifelong passion for English choral music, particularly choral evensong. He believes the choir brings the Cathedral fully alive — as a place of worship, cultural reflection and social connection. Although his professional life has taken him in other directions, he continues to support the choir, recognising its central place in the life of the Cathedral and the wider city.

“Choral music is an intrinsic part of what makes Chichester Cathedral so special. Any support, large or small, helps to continue this extraordinary legacy.”



SPONSOR A CHORISTER

By supporting a choristership, you are not simply funding a place in the choir. You are investing in the life of a young person and in the future of the Cathedral's musical tradition. Choristers commit around 18 hours each week to rehearsals, services and musical training, carefully integrated with their education. This intensive programme enables exceptional musical development and sustains the highest standards of singing in the Cathedral's daily worship.

'Supporting the Cathedral's exceptional music tradition is essential, joyous and life-changing. It links past, present and future in a single living tradition.'

Kate Mosse CBE

How much is a choristership?

A choristership funds 25% of a chorister's school fees over their five-year tenure in the choir, together with additional specialist musical training.

Five-year total: £57,470

(An annual breakdown is available on request.)

While a choristership covers 25% of school fees, the remaining costs are met by families. Means-tested bursaries, subject to available funding, help to support those for whom the balance would otherwise be prohibitive. Currently, around a third of choristers receive this additional assistance. Some support is also available from other charitable trusts, but this is limited.

Gifts made beyond £57,470, together with the 25% that may be reclaimed through Gift Aid where eligible, are directed to the bursary fund. This ensures the choir remains accessible to talented children, regardless of financial background.



A life touched by music: Jane's story

Jane Pickering is a member of the Cathedral congregation at Chichester. She values the musical offering of the highest quality experienced throughout the Christian calendar. The Chagall window reminds her of Psalm 150: "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord!" For Jane, worship is enhanced by the leadership of the Choristers, Lay Vicars and Organists, whose music brings the congregation together in reverence and celebration. She deeply appreciates the beauty and passion of the music, which enhances the liturgy, and is uplifting and good for the soul.

"Supporting Cathedral music in Chichester for the future is a privilege and so important."

OUR ORGAN SCHOLAR PROGRAMME

The Organ Scholar at Chichester Cathedral plays a central role in the daily musical life of the Cathedral, working closely with the Organist and Master of the Choristers and Assistant Organist. This one-year post offers a rare opportunity to develop as a performer and accompanist within one of England's leading cathedral music traditions.

The Scholar supports the Cathedral Choir in its regular pattern of worship, accompanying services and rehearsals, and assisting with the preparation of music. Rounding off their year with us, they curate and perform in one of our lunchtime recital series, performing to audiences of over 300, gaining valuable experience in public performance at a professional level.

Alongside Cathedral duties, the Organ Scholar works with The Prebendal School, supporting the musical education of choristers through supervision and accompaniment at school services. The role also includes practical responsibilities such as managing the choir library and helping prepare music for services, offering insight into the wider organisation of cathedral music.

The post is designed as a year of intensive training and development.



Credit: Russell Sach

Ben Tanner (pictured) is Organ Scholar at Chichester Cathedral for 2025/26. A former chorister at St Paul's Cathedral and pupil of Rugby School, he will take up an Organ Scholarship at New College, Oxford in 2026. He combines performance, accompaniment and choir training as part of the Cathedral's musical life.

"This year is a chance to focus entirely on music... to give myself fully to the daily rhythm of music-making here at the Cathedral."

Currently in receipt of the grant support from the Headley Trust, the Organ Scholarship provides a vital stepping stone for gifted young musicians at the start of their careers, nurturing the next generation of cathedral organists and musical leaders.



Credit: Russell Sach

COME AND HEAR OUR CHOIR AND ORGANISTS FOR YOURSELF

The music at Chichester Cathedral is not just something to support, it is something to experience.

Choral services take place throughout the week, with Evensong offering a moment of stillness at the close of the day, shaped by music that has been part of Cathedral life for generations. The Cathedral Choir sings at eight services during term time. Please check the website before your visit to confirm when the Cathedral's choir is on duty, as visiting choirs sing at other times.

If you are not able to be here in person, many services are livestreamed and remain available to watch online for 48 hours, allowing you to experience the music wherever you are.

There are also special moments throughout the year. The Christmas Carol Services are a highlight for many, filling the Cathedral with music and atmosphere, while concerts with visiting artists bring fresh perspectives to this living tradition.

To keep in touch with all that is happening, including special services, concerts and radio and television broadcasts, do follow the Cathedral on social media.

However you choose to listen, we hope you will take the opportunity to hear the music for yourself.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

By supporting the Platinum Endowment Trust for Music, you make a lasting investment in worship, education and cultural life. Whether you choose to give today, pledge support over time or remember the Cathedral in your will, your generosity will help ensure that music continues to inspire, comfort and unite people here for centuries to come.

“Even in the great cathedrals, choirs are under threat. The choirs of many other cathedrals are under serious financial strain.”

Bijan Omrani, *The Daily Telegraph* January 2026, writing in response to the closure of Exeter Cathedral Choir School

Across the country, the pressures are real. At Chichester, we are committed to safeguarding our musical tradition with foresight and long-term planning.

Information about how to make a gift accompanies this publication. We would be pleased to speak with you in confidence about how your support can make a lasting difference.

If you would like to discuss your gift for music, please contact:

Alison George

Director of Fundraising

01243 812480

alison.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk

A family shaped by music: Hannah's story

As a parent of four choristers at Chichester Cathedral, Hannah Kavanagh has experienced first-hand the extraordinary impact of choral music and just how special this education has been for her children. Being a chorister is not simply about learning to sing; it nurtures commitment, resilience, teamwork and confidence, while providing an exceptional musical education - and a great deal of fun along the way.

The experience has shaped their family life and become part of who they are. She loves and supports the Music Appeal because she wants other children to be fortunate enough to share the same remarkable opportunity.

“Supporting the Music Appeal means giving other children the chance to grow, flourish and be part of something truly special.”

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

PLATINUM ENDOWMENT TRUST FOR MUSIC

Office use only
Serial No:
Date:

Your details (in block capitals)

Title	First Name	Surname
Postal Address		
Postcode		
Phone Number	Mobile	
Email Address		

Make a donation

I would like to donate to support Chichester Cathedral Platinum Endowment Fund for Music	Amount £
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Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust CIO is the corporate trustee for Chichester Cathedral Platinum Endowment Trust for Music. All donations for music are managed separately.

How to give

- I enclose a cheque made payable to 'Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust CIO'.
- I have made a donation direct to Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust CIO bank account: Barclays Bank, Account number: 53716384, Sort code: 20-20-62.

Please provide your name as the reference so that we can thank you

- Alternatively, please call 01243 812991 (Monday – Friday 9.00am- 2.00pm) to make a donation using a credit or debit card.

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer, with your permission we can reclaim 25p for her £1 you donate

Please tick this box	I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
Signature:	Date:
Please notify us if you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • want to cancel this declaration • change your name or home address • no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains <p>If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.</p>

Further information overleaf

Receive updates & communication

By ticking this box, I consent to the entities of Chichester Cathedral (comprising the Chapter of Chichester Cathedral, the Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust, the Chichester Cathedral Friends and Chichester Cathedral Enterprises Limited) communicating with me with Cathedral news, information and fundraising.

Please note, if you already receive information from us, we will use this form to update the record we have on file.

I would like to hear from Chichester Cathedral in the following way (please tick):

Post Email Phone / SMS

Your rights

We will keep your information confidential and handle it in line with the UK GDPR. You have the right to ask for a copy of the personal information we hold about you, to request corrections or deletion, and to object to how we use your data. You can also make a complaint to us about the way we handle your information, or to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Thank you

Please complete and return this form

By post to: Chichester Cathedral Trust, The Royal Chantry, Cathedral Cloisters, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1PX

By email to: trust@chichestercathedral.org.uk

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

PLATINUM ENDOWMENT TRUST FOR MUSIC

Sponsor a Chorister

Your contact details (in block capitals)

Title	First Name	Surname
Postal Address		
Postcode		
Phone Number	Mobile	
Email Address:		

Your Choristership gift

A full choristership spans five years and covers 25% of school fees and additional specialist music training. Any donation including gift aid above this amount will contribute to means-tested bursaries. Please indicate your annual commitment in the table below:

	25% commitment (minimum value)	My choristership commitment
Year 1	£10,400	£
Year 2	£10,920	£
Year 3	£11,470	£
Year 4	£12,040	£
Year 5	£12,640	£
Total donation including match funding	£57,470 *	£

How to make your 5-year Choristership

- o Cheque made payable to 'Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust CIO'.
- o Bank Transfer to Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust CIO bank account:
Barclays Bank, Account number: 53716384, Sort code: 20-20-62.
Please provide your name as the reference so that we can thank you
- o Please contact us if you wish to pay annually over 5-years

Gift Aid Declaration

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Please tick here	<p>I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust.</p> <p>I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.</p>
Signature:	Date:

Please notify us if you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • want to cancel this declaration • change your name or home address • no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains <p>If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.</p>
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*NB this figure is correct at the time of publication - March 2026 - and subject to annual increases

Thank you

Please complete and return this form to:

Chichester Cathedral Trust, The Royal Chantry, Cathedral Cloisters, Chichester, West Sussex
PO19 1PX

E: trust@chichestercathedral.org.uk | T: 01243 812990 | Registered Charity 1156729

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

PLATINUM ENDOWMENT TRUST FOR MUSIC

Standing Order Mandate

Your contact details (in block capitals)

Title	First Name	Surname
Postal Address		
Postcode		
Phone Number	Mobile	
Email Address:		

Your bank details

Bank Name	
Bank Address	
Name of Account Holder	
Account Number:	Sort Code:

Your instruction to make a regular payment to:

Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust CIO Barclays Bank, Chichester Account no: 53716384 Sort Code: 20-20-62	
REF:	
The sum of £	
And in words	
Start date __ / __ / ____ and thereafter on a monthly/ quarterly /annual basis (please delete as applicable) until I give further notice	
Signature:	Date:

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer, with your permission we can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate -
Please complete the declaration overleaf.

Gift Aid Declaration

Please tick here	I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
Signature: _____ Date: _____	
Please notify us if you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• want to cancel this declaration• change your name or home address• no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

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PO19 1PX E: trust@chichestercathedral.org.uk | T: 01243 812990 | Registered Charity 1156729

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Platinum Endowment Trust for Music

Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust CIO (Charity no. 1156729)
is the corporate trustee for Chichester Cathedral Platinum Endowment Trust for Music,
all funds and income are managed as a separate entity.