

Chichester Cathedral

Guide for Visiting Choirs

Evensong Pack

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Introduction

We are delighted that your choir will be singing at Chichester Cathedral shortly, and we look forward to welcoming you for what we hope will be a memorable and rewarding visit.

This booklet is intended to help you prepare for your visit. Please take some time to read through it. We hope that it answers some of the questions you may have. If you require any further information, please contact the Liturgy and Music Assistant:

Charlotte Rattray
Liturgy and Music Assistant
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E-mail: lmassistant@chichestercathedral.org.uk

Or further contacts within the Liturgy and Music Department are:

Richard Paterson
Liturgy and Music Administrator
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Charles Harrison
Organist and Master of the Choristers
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Please note: Our Song School is accessed via a long, stone, spiral stair case. **There is no disabled access.** If this poses a problem please let us know immediately so that we can try to arrange an alternative rehearsal space for you.

Music Information

What we need from you

Some time before your visit you will be contacted by the Liturgy and Music Assistant. You will be given a deadline for when you need to submit your choice of music for the service that you are singing. This information will provide the basis of the Cathedral Schema – the official listing of all Cathedral services and events. **It is vital that this information is supplied by the deadline provided so that it can be approved.** Occasionally we may ask you to change the music you have chosen, either because it appears in another service close to the date of yours, or if we think it is inappropriate liturgically. Further information we require from you is the total number in your choir and your preferred rehearsal times (please see below).

Choice of music

In choosing music, please give precedence to the quality of the musical performance. Please consider carefully the technical limitations of the choir and the accompanist, and do not attempt to be over ambitious. Experience has shown us that simple music well performed is far more effective than repertoire which overstretches the abilities of the musicians. On the whole, the settings for Evensong should be reasonably concise.

Responses

Please provide the Liturgy and Music department with a copy of the responses (either by email or by post) when you submit your music choices. If you are singing several services within one week it is preferred that you choose one set of Responses to be sung at all services. There may be special exceptions for this.

Canticles

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Canticles begin immediately after the lessons. It is not necessary to wait until the lesson reader has returned to their stall.

Anthem

The maximum duration is **6 minutes** but shorter settings are preferred.

Final Dismissal

The Ferial Dismissal in G is to be used by all visiting choirs. The Liturgy and Music Department will provide a copy of this.

Psalms

The psalms for the day (page 7) are required to be sung in their entirety. Should you feel the length required for your visit is too much then the Precentor can usually suggest a cut.

Hymns

The Cathedral usually uses the New English Hymnal. Amens are sung at the ends of hymns where they are printed (i.e. after a Doxology).

Cantor

Normally, the Officiant will be provided by the Cathedral. If no singing priest is available, you will need to provide a Cantor. We will let you know about this in good time. The Cantor does not need to be in Holy Orders.

Please provide copies of the music for the Officiant.

Details of Evensong Service

Details of the procedures at the weekday and Saturday Evensong service are given below. Please familiarise yourself with the information so that you are able to keep to the customary form. The Head Verger or verger-on-duty will give assistance with processional details.

Evensong – Weekdays and Saturdays at 5.30pm

Book of Common Prayer (Page 19)

- The Choir should be assembled in the South Transept by 5.25pm.
- The Organist should play the Choir in with some quiet music.
- Begin, all standing, at *O Lord, open thou our lips*. Sung – give note for Officiant.
***Please note that it is not the custom at Chichester to sing an Introit.**
- No office hymn except on festivals or special occasions. The Liturgy and Music Department will advise about this.
- Psalms for the day (please see page 7) making any amendments as indicated on page 7. The Psalms are **announced**. On major festivals, or on the eve of a major festival, a Proper Psalm replaces the psalms for the day. The Liturgy and Music Department will advise about this.
***Please sing the Gloria at the end of each psalm unless indicated otherwise on page 13.**
- Sit for the First Lesson
- *Magnificat*
- Sit for the Second Lesson
- *Nunc Dimittis*
- The Apostles' Creed is said and introduced with the words *I believe in God...* (The tradition in Chichester is not to turn East).
- The Officiant then takes up singing at *The Lord be with you* (**please give note**)
- There is a slight pause for the congregation to kneel; the Choir remains standing
- *Let us pray* is intoned
- The Lord's Prayer – the Officiant intones the beginning unless a harmonised setting is used.
*The Common Worship Order One (Traditional Language) form of the Lord's Prayer is always used, (i.e. *Our Father who... on earth... those who*).
- Responses and Collects are sung (**4 Collects during Advent and Lent**)
- The Anthem is **announced** by the Priest Vicar or Officiant. The **maximum duration is 6 minutes**. Please provide a translation of texts where applicable.
- The prayers after the anthem are read by the Canon-in-Residence
- The prayers end with the Grace
- The **weekday** custom is for the **Ferial Dismissal in G** (please give note) to be sung (standing in the stalls) after the Grace, followed by the procession out.
- Organ voluntary (maximum of 5 minutes)

- On **Saturdays**, a hymn (**announced**) is sung after the Grace, followed by the Blessing. The Choir processes out.
- The Choir sings the **Ferial Dismissal in G** (please give note) in the South Transept.
- Organ voluntary (maximum of 5 minutes)

Evensong Psalms for the Day

**Please sing the Gloria at the end of each psalm unless indicated otherwise below.*

Day	Evensong Psalms	Amendments	
1	6, 7, 8		
2	12, 13, 14	<i>Psalm 14</i>	<i>Omit verses 5, 6 and 7</i>
3	18		
4	22, 23		
5	27, 28, 29		
6	32, 33, 34		
7	37		
8	41, 42, 43	<i>Psalm 42</i>	<i>The Gloria is omitted at the end; go straight on to Psalm 43</i>
9	47, 48, 49		
10	53, 54, 55	<i>Psalm 55</i>	<i>Omit verse 16</i>
11	59, 60, 61		
12	65, 66, 67		
13	69, 70	<i>Psalm 69</i>	<i>Omit verses 23 – 29 inclusive</i>
14	73, 74		
15	78		
16	82, 83, 84, 85		
17	89		
18	93, 94		
19	98, 99, 100, 101		
20	104		
21	106		
22	108, 109	<i>Psalm 109</i>	<i>Omit verses 5 – 19 inclusive</i>
23	114, 115		
24	119: 1-32	<i>In Psalm 119 the Gloria is only sung once at the end of the extract - not after each group of verses</i>	
25	119: 73-104		
26	119: 145-end		
27	126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131		
28	136, 137, 138	<i>Psalm 137</i>	<i>Omit verses 7, 8 and 9</i>
29	142, 143		
30	147, 148, 149, 150	<i>All four Psalms are sung</i>	
31	When no Proper Psalm is to be sung on this day the Psalms used are those Evensong Psalms which were omitted from the daily course on the preceding Sunday.		

Emergency Exit from Song School

The emergency exit from the song school is through the small hatch in the chorister cassock cupboard.

Follow the staircase downwards to the Canons' Vestry on the ground floor of the Cathedral.

Emergency exit procedure

Break the glass on the LHS of the hatch door for key

2 torches must be used – one by the person leading the way, and one by the person at the back

Emergency exit involves ducking under a very low doorway and an uneven spiral staircase. This is potentially hazardous and care should be taken to avoid slipping on the steps

Anyone who suffers from claustrophobia must not attempt to use this exit but wait in the song school for help to arrive

For your own safety nobody must attempt to climb the staircase any higher than the main floor of the song school

All choir members must strictly observe the instructions of their leader at all times and act with due diligence and care

Visiting choirs are asked to familiarize themselves with the procedures above

No children under the age of 16 may be in the song school unsupervised.