

Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle

Seeking an Assistant Conductor for the St Nicholas Choir 5 hours per week

Applications close 5pm, Jan 24, 2025



We are seeking an energetic and inspiring musician to assist the Director of Music in working with the St Nicholas Choir at Christ Church Cathedral. The St Nicholas Choir is the Cathedral's children's choir, with choristers from 9-17 years of age. The Choir rehearses each Friday afternoon during school term and performs in services ten times each year, either on their own, or joining with the adult Cathedral Choir. The activities of the choir are ably assisted by Rosie Murree-Allen. The St Nicholas Choir is part of the Cathedral's extensive music program, which includes regular music for Sunday services as well as concerts, recordings, and music education.

We welcome applicants who are either experienced choral conductors or excellent musicians looking to develop skills in choral conducting, musicianship teaching, and working with children.

In addition to preparing music for services, the choir's activities include a social events and weekly Kodály-based musicianship, based on the RSCM's Certificate program.

Your duties will include working with the choir as well as assisting in delivering the musicianship program. In addition, there will be some administrative work, and you will play a role in building the St Nicholas Choir's profile and membership.

You will be required to pass a Working With Children Check and to satisfy the Safe Ministries protocols of the Diocese of Newcastle.

About the position:

The Assistant Conductor will report to the Director of Music.

The role will be five hours per week, consisting of:

1. 3.30-5.30pm each Friday during school term – Choir rehearsal (includes setting up and packing up after the rehearsal, which runs from 4-5.10pm. During the rehearsal duties will include conducting/rehearsing the choir and musicianship teaching. The musicianship program is devised by the Director of Music.)
2. Ten services per year:
 - i. Four Families @ Five services (one per term on a Saturday evening), for which you would be required from 4 - 6.30pm.
 - ii. Sunday services, one per term, either 10am Choral Eucharist (with rehearsal at 9.15am) or 6pm Evensong (rehearsal at 5pm)
 - iii. Good Friday – morning service
 - iv. Christmas Eve – 5pm Family Service (rehearsal 4pm)

3. Administration: maintaining a database of choristers' details, sending a short weekly email with the choir's schedule and other information.
4. Other: contributing ideas and effort to building the profile and membership of the choir.

The musicianship program is a blend of the RSCM's Certificate program in which students work through five stages (approximately one ribbon every second year) and Kodály-based musicianship, prepared by the Director of Music. Training in this area will be offered for a successful applicant who is new to the Kodály approach.

Selection criteria

1. A good musician who has either experience in choral conducting, especially with young singers, or excellent musical skills and a desire to develop skills in these areas.
2. Experience in working with children, either in music or in a different context, is highly desirable.
3. Experience in Kodály-based music education or a willingness to develop skills in this area.
4. Piano keyboard skills (desirable but not essential).
5. Experience in developing a choral program, or a desire to contribute to the ongoing development of the choir.
6. Willingness to work in the context of the Anglican Church, and more specifically, the music ministry of Christ Church Cathedral.
7. Basic computer skills in maintaining a database and sending emails.

The successful applicant will be required to pass a Working With Children Check and to satisfy the Safe Ministries protocols of the Diocese of Newcastle. The appointment will be subject to an initial three-month review followed by annual review.

Remuneration

A remuneration package will be offered to the successful applicant, subject to skills and experience.

To apply

Please send an application to the Director of Music via email:

music@newcastlecathedral.org.au

Your application should include:

- i. A brief cover letter.
- ii. Your CV.
- iii. A statement briefly addressing the Selection Criteria.
- iv. Details of two referees (Names, positions, emails and phone numbers)