



**THE CHOIR OF HM CHAPEL ROYAL
HAMPTON COURT PALACE**

ALTO

As a result of the appointment of Edward Button to the King's Singers, applications are invited from suitably qualified professional singers for an **alto** in the Choir of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace

Opening Date: Friday 7 September 2018

Closing Date: Friday 5 October 2018, 11.59pm

Duties to begin: Sunday 6 January 2019

Specification & Duties: The successful applicants will be quick and accurate sight-readers with substantial experience of professional ensemble singing in addition to aptitude and enthusiasm for solo singing. The following fee structure is reviewed annually:

Sunday eucharist or matins (10am for 11.00am): £75

Sunday evensong (2.30 for 3.30pm): £60

Holy Days: £75

Major/long/enhanced/special services (e.g. weddings & funerals): £100

Broadcasts/recordings: by arrangement

An alto singing for all engagements in the course of a year might expect to receive fees in excess of £8,500. The Choir of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace consists of up to eighteen boy choristers drawn from local schools, supported by six adult professional singers: two altos, two tenors, and two basses. The choir is in recess for 8 weeks each summer. An enhanced DBS check will be required of the successful candidate.

Selection Process: Letters of application, in addition to a curriculum vitae and details of two referees – one musical, the other personal – should be addressed to Carl Jackson, Director of Music, Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, EAST MOLESEY, KT8 9AU. Such materials will be welcome via music@chapelroyal.org. Shortlisted applicants will be notified by the end of Friday 12 October 2018, after which date auditions will take place on the afternoon of Monday 22 October 2018. Auditionees should expect to present their own choice of solo aria and an additional prescribed solo item, as well as sight-reading tests and those of small-group ensemble, tuning, and balance.

NOTES

The Chapel Royal is a body of priests and singers that serves the spiritual needs of the Sovereign. It has been called ‘the cradle of English church music’, for its great musicians of the past set an example in style of composition and performance that was copied by cathedrals, churches and chapels throughout the land. The Chapel Royal used to travel with the court as it resided at various royal palaces, including Hampton Court.

The Choir of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace: For two centuries from the baptism of Edward VI at Hampton Court in 1537, many of the finest musicians of the itinerant Chapel Royal would have served here. They include Tallis; Byrd who lived a few miles away in Harlington; Morley – sworn and admitted a Gentlemen in the Vestry at Hampton Court; Purcell; and also Pelham Humfrey and Blow, both of whom lived nearby in Hampton. Further information about Hampton Court Palace can be found at www.hrp.org.uk.

Hampton Court Palace ceased to be a royal residence in 1737, and a permanent choir was established in 1868. The 150th anniversary of this event was marked in April 2018. Today, the Hampton Court choir comprises up to eighteen boy choristers drawn from local schools and six adult singers. From the third week in September to the third week in July, it sings two services on Sundays and on various other Holy Days, these being attended by a large, regular congregation of people living in the locality and by the many visitors to the palace. Grace-and-favour accommodation has long ended. The choir is subject to the jurisdiction of the Lord Chamberlain's Office and of the Dean of HM Chapels Royal, and it participates fully in an ongoing programme of collaborative performances with other choirs of the Chapels Royal. Most recently, this has included a tour to Wittenberg to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and the Reformation. In June 2017, the Choir sang at a service here to mark the centenary of the Order of Companions of Honour, in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. In October 2017, it featured in the BBC Four television documentary by Lucy Worsley (Chief Curator, Historic Royal Palaces): *Elizabeth I's Battle for God's Music* about the development of choral evensong in the wake of the Reformation. A spin-off CD recording by the Gentlemen was made in the summer, and will be released in November. The choristers appeared in August 2018 in another BBC Four documentary: *Abducted - Elizabeth I's Child Actors*. Since 2011, the choir has been supported by a Choral Foundation (a registered charity). Further information may be found at www.chapelroyal.org and on the choir's Facebook page.

September 2018