

**ST NICHOLAS SCHOLA CANTORUM COLLEGIATE
CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026 CONDITIONS
OF MEMBERSHIP AND AGREEMENT**

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Since 2012, St Nicholas' Collegiate Church and the University of Galway have collaborated to offer choral scholarships for students, giving them an opportunity to be part of St Nicholas Schola Cantorum and the church's 500 year old choral tradition. The university has funded scholarships for students to sing as part of the Schola Cantorum, both as a self-contained ensemble and also with other schola choirs.

1.2 Since 2022 St Nicholas' has offered a new type of choral scholarship, titled Collegiate Choral Scholarship, designed both to attract talented students with relevant skills and experience to come to Galway to study, and to provide St Nicholas' with a core group of singers participating in all of the church's choral liturgies. These scholarships are generously remunerated, allowing a student to perhaps forgo having to undertake other paid work whilst studying, and benefit fully from the unique musical training and experience offered.

2. SCHEDULE

2.1 Collegiate scholars sing with both the Collegiate Church Choir (which sings every Sunday morning at the 11.00 am Sung Eucharist and also at occasional special/seasonal services and events), and the university choral scholar ensemble (which sings three/four services of Compline in each semester).

2.2 The Schola Cantorum year runs from mid/late September to mid June of the following year. There are breaks after Christmas and Easter, and half term breaks in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. Scholars are expected to be in attendance for all Christmas and Easter services.

2.3 The attendances are set out in the termly schedules which are given in advance and updated regularly, and will not exceed 90 in number over the course of the year. The Michaelmas 2025 schedule is attached (including outline dates for the rest of the year). **2.4** The usual weekly pattern is:

- Wednesdays (Collegiate Church Choir): 19.00-21.00 rehearsal (with short break)
- Thursdays (University Choral Scholars): 19.00-21.00 rehearsal (for three weeks each term)
- Thursdays (University Choral Scholars): 18.30-20.30 rehearsal and Compline (for six weeks in each term)
- Sundays (Collegiate Church Choir): 10.00 rehearsal for 11.00 Sung Eucharist
- Sundays (Collegiate Church Choir): 14.30 for 16.00 Evensong (monthly)
- Extra special/seasonal rehearsals and services as per the attached schedule

2.5 If a scholar becomes unable to meet the demands of the schedule for whatever reason, then the scholarship may be withdrawn, and no further payments made.

3. REMUNERATION

3.1 The remuneration for the scholarship is €3500 *per annum*.

3.2 The remuneration is to be paid in arrears, in a set of instalments as agreed with the St Nicholas hon. Treasurer.

3.3 This remuneration is exempt from taxation.

3.4 If a scholar becomes unable to meet the demands of the schedule and the scholarship is to be withdrawn, then he/she may retain payments already made, but no further payments will be made.

3.5 Each scholar is entitled to a short weekly singing lesson, as part of the remuneration package, with the Director.

4. OTHER SCHOLA ENSEMBLES

4.1 Collegiate scholars are encouraged to sing with Collegium, the Schola Cantorum project-based chamber choir that sings occasional services such as Evensong and gives concerts. However, this is not mandatory, and participation in Collegium projects does not count towards the attendance requirement for scholars.

5. ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

5.1 As the principal remunerated members of St Nicholas Schola Cantorum, collegiate choral scholars are expected to be exemplary in attendance and punctuality, setting the standard for the other voluntary members.

5.2 In the event that a rehearsal or service has to be missed due to an unavoidable and foreseen circumstance, the absence must be discussed and agreed well in advance with the director, and a deputy booked. An unforeseen circumstance, such as serious illness, must also be notified as much in advance as possible to the director. If a rehearsal is missed for whatever notified reason, scholars may be required to attend a catch-up session with the director.

5.3 Scholars must be punctual in their arrival at church for all rehearsals. The church doors will be locked before evening rehearsals commence, therefore scholars must arrive well BEFORE the rehearsal start time. If scholars know in advance that they are going to be unavoidably late they must contact the director and arrange for access.

5.4 Absence without prior notification will result in a written warning. A second such infringement of membership policy may result in the scholarship being withdrawn with immediate effect and no further payments made.

5.5 Unpunctual attendance will result in a verbal warning. A further occurrence will result in a written warning, and if such infringement of membership policy continues, then the scholarship may be withdrawn with immediate effect and no further payments made.

5.6 The same process applies to continued absences whether notified or not, and in general any continuing infringement of the conditions set out in this document.

6. CONTEXT AND PARTICIPATION

6.1 Membership of the Schola Cantorum is more than simply singing in a choir. Choral Scholars take part in an ancient tradition in which music functions as part of church ritual. The obvious elements of this tradition and ritual function are the special robes that are worn, the movement around the church building in procession, and the leading the spoken as well as the sung portions of the service.

6.2 Scholarships are open to students of all religious persuasions, or none. Regardless of personal religious belief, scholars are expected to enter fully into this very particular musical environment, and to assimilate the instruction given in the historical and liturgical aspects of the music sung.

7. MUSIC AND ROBES

7.1 The Schola Cantorum provides an expensive resource of music and robes. All efforts must be made to ensure that music is looked after carefully, marked up in the prescribed manner, and returned promptly when requested.

7.2 Similarly, the robes assigned to each scholar must be worn and carefully stored as instructed.

8. ONGOING TENURE

8.1 Scholars are encouraged to hold the scholarship for the duration of their university studies. Subject to satisfaction for both parties, a new agreement for each subsequent year will be drawn up and signed.

AGREEMENT

I offer the Collegiate Choral Scholarship 2025-2026 according to the terms of this agreement:

_____ (Rector) _____ (date)

I accept the Collegiate Choral Scholarship 2025-2026 as offered according to the terms of this agreement:

_____ (date)