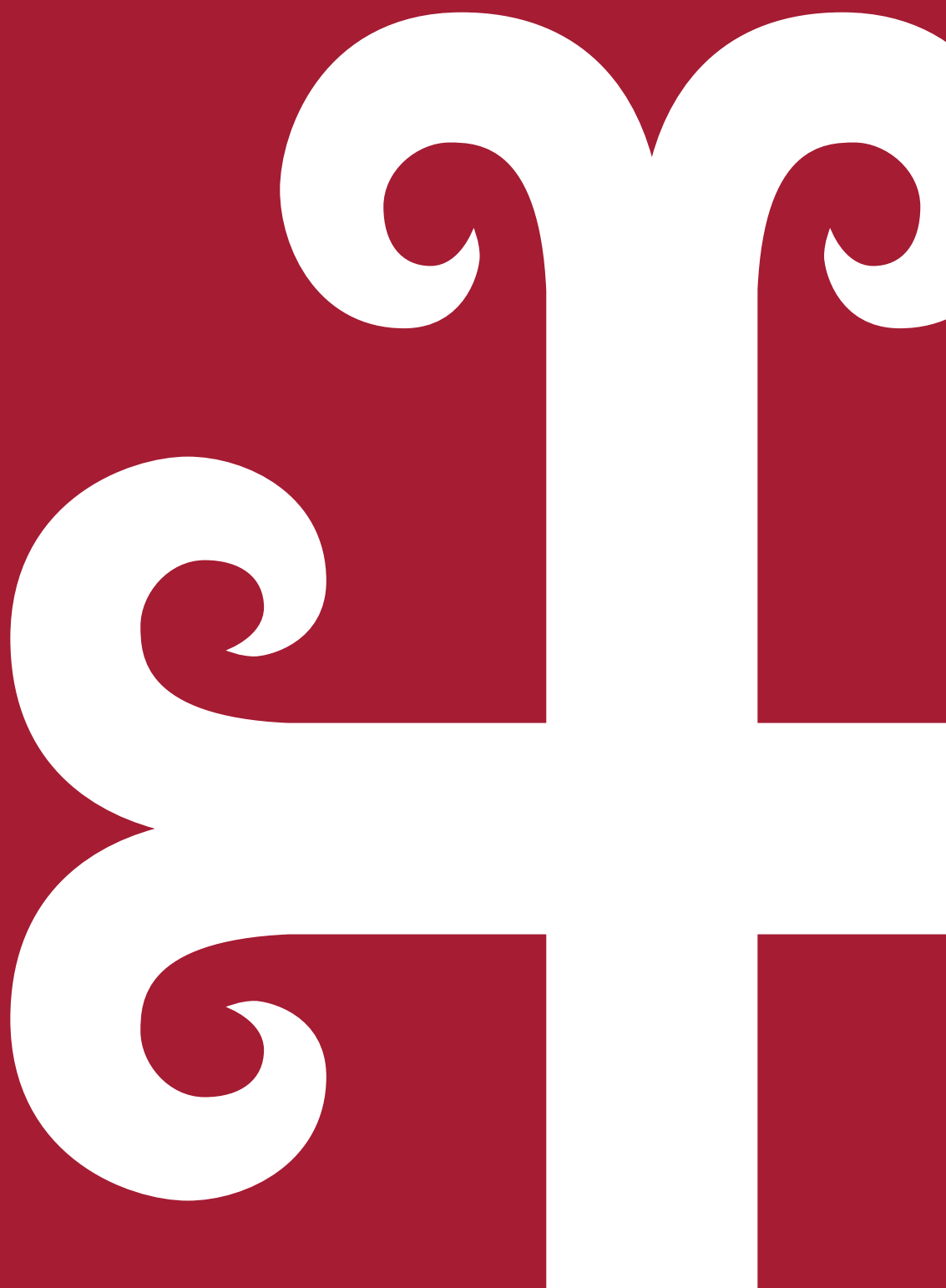


 DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

THE SILL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP



THE SILL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AT DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

Downside School has been fortunate to receive an exceptionally generous donation to fund organ scholars up to full fees from 13+ upwards.

The intention in endowing this award is to encourage the promotion of excellence in organ playing, both in relation to the liturgy and more widely in performance, and to enhance further the reputation of Downside on a national level.

Sill organ scholars are nurtured to develop as organists and are provided with suitable opportunities to perform throughout their time at the School. Where appropriate, scholars are trained in service playing and choral accompaniment, and encouraged to play the renowned 4 manual Compton organ in the school's Abbey Church, and the Sweetland 2 manual mechanical action organ in the Old Chapel. Organ scholars also have access to the School's modern fleet of pianos, including Steinway and Yamaha grand pianos, as well as a harpsichord and a digital practice organ.

More able organ pupils will receive training in broader keyboard skills such as improvisation, score-reading, transposition and figured bass, and as choral directors, in order to prepare them for future studies should they wish to continue their organ playing in higher education.

Downside has excellent, music facilities. In addition to the magnificent Abbey Church there are two recital halls, a fully equipped theatre, 20 practice rooms, a dedicated Mac Suite and a comprehensively equipped recording studio.

The annual performing calendar includes a weekly choral mass, large-scale choral and orchestral/instrumental concerts, solo recitals, competitions, band nights and fully staged musical theatre productions.

Our organ teacher is highly qualified and experienced, and we have had success in preparing several young organists for organ scholarship auditions at top institutions. Former Downside pupils have gone on to hold awards at a range of collegiate chapels and cathedrals.

Founded over a century ago, Downside's Schola Cantorum (chapel choir) is formed of boys and girls from all year groups and is proud to be the oldest Roman Catholic school choir in the United Kingdom. Building on the legacy of its distinguished founder, Sir Richard Runciman Terry, the Schola Cantorum maintains Downside's long tradition of excellence in liturgical music. Its repertoire embraces over 1400 years of composition, from the earliest Gregorian chant, via Renaissance polyphony and Classical masses, to contemporary works by living composers.

The Schola Cantorum gives concerts of large-scale sacred works accompanied by orchestra at various times throughout the year and is one of the choirs in Downside which provide the choral music for services in the Abbey Church. The singing of mass at regular Sunday services and Feast Days provide ample opportunities for our Organ Scholars to gain practical experience in accompaniment and choral direction.



TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A SILL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP, PUPILS MUST:

- be established, confident and enthusiastic musicians, with demonstrable, excellent potential;
- be organists of approximately grade 7 standard (16+) or grade 4/5 standard (13+)
- have an interest in a university or conservatoire organ scholarship after Downside;
- fulfill the School's standard academic entry requirements.

Alongside Downside's Music Scholars in other disciplines, Downside's Organ Scholars are expected to contribute with reliability and generosity to the School's wider musical life. The ability to play another instrument would be an advantage and may be used to differentiate between candidates, but is not a pre-requisite.

BENEFITS:

In addition to the fully funded scholarship:

- Organ scholars receive two free music lessons a week from the specialists in their chosen instrument and will receive dedicated support to ensure that they are able to balance their studies with rehearsals, private practice, and the wide range of co-curricular activities available;
- At least one masterclass every year;
- At least one recital every year, in successively prestigious venues as their performing skills develop;
- Regular contact with prestigious local churches, with an opportunity to accompany services;
- Possibility of accompanying the School's choirs on tour in UK and abroad

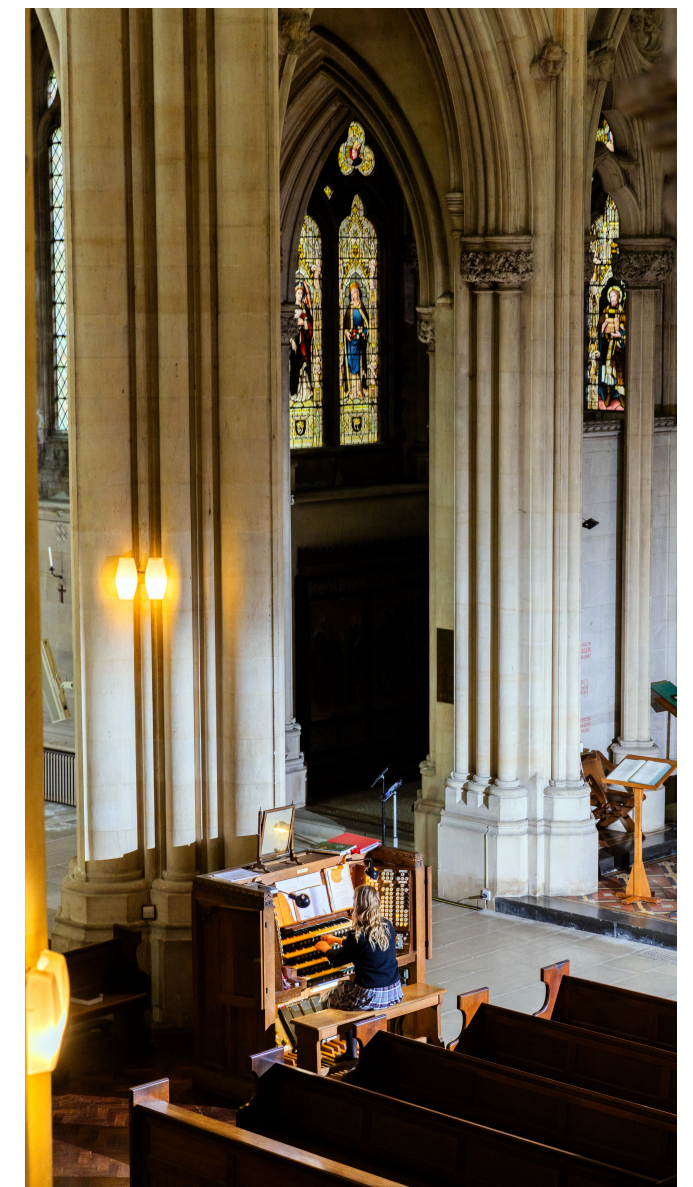
APPLICATION

Please contact the Admissions Team for an application form or to arrange a meeting with the Director of Performing Arts and Director of Choral and Liturgical Music at Downside.

Assessment day will be arranged on application.

admissions@downside.co.uk | +44 (0)1761 235103

www.downside.co.uk



STRATTON-ON-THE-FOSSE,
BATH, SOMERSET BA3 4RJ

admissions@downside.co.uk
www.downside.co.uk
+44 (0)1761 235103

