



Job Description

Job Title: Chapel Organist
Department: Music
Accountable to: Choral Director & Head of Vocal
Responsible for: NA

Purpose of the job: To provide appropriate musical accompaniment for Chapel services, choir rehearsals and other occasions as required

The Stowe Group

The Stowe Group comprises Stowe, Swanbourne House and Winchester House Independent Schools, situated on sites in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. Between the three schools, The Stowe Group can offer education for boys and girls from 3-18 years. Within The Group there are more than 1,400 pupils and 600 members of staff. The Schools occupy sites of historical significance in Swanbourne, in the market town of Brackley and in the beautiful landscape gardens at Stowe, where we work with The National Trust to manage the landscape gardens and open the grounds to over 200,000 visitors a year. Stowe House is open to the public during the School holidays and for guided tours during term time. The Stowe Group is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. In 2021, The Stowe Group launched its transformational and substantive Change Makers vision.

Vision & Ethos

We are Change Makers

Our goal is to inspire pupils and staff to be Change Makers who will shape positive futures for themselves, their families and the global community. Our World-class facilities support our educational aims and are shared with the wider community. We strive for excellence and celebrate achievement, valuing education as a journey and not a destination in the belief that all pupils can exceed their potential. Learning is learnable and everyone can improve. Our aim is to encourage personal development by creating a flourishing, vibrant, cohesive, caring and socially inclusive community which embraces pluralism, diversity and intercultural understanding. We celebrate differences by giving everyone a voice and then listening to multiple viewpoints. It is our collective responsibility to develop the cognitive, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of everyone in our community. We are committed to the development of character with particular emphasis on tolerance, resilience, honesty, humility, courage, compassion, gratitude and service. We strive to attract and retain employees of the highest calibre. The Group's talented and committed workforce is one of our greatest strengths. We are committed to fostering team engagement, attracting, mentoring, developing and retaining our best teachers and support staff. We focus on employee well-being, provide opportunities for professional growth and create a culture of community and partnership. Environmental stewardship and sustainability are cornerstones of The Stowe Group. Pupils and staff have a heightened awareness of their social and environmental responsibility in



preserving our unique eco-system. We have developed and implemented a comprehensive Environmental Stewardship Programme which confronts a variety of challenges, including climate change and environmental sustainability

Key Tasks:

- To attend all choir rehearsals as principal accompanist and to accompany school services which take place three times a week.
- To play the organ, conduct, sing (if appropriate), or musically assist for all or part of each service.
- Assist the Director of Choral Music in the individual training of theory to singers or helping individuals learn their voice parts, as required.
- To support the Director of Choral Music in the recruitment and training of Choristers.
- The Chapel Organist will also be expected to take part in any choir tours, broadcasts, concerts, recordings, as well as other events falling outside the regular timetable by negotiation, including playing for some services when the choir is not present (for which extra fees will be paid), and liaising with visiting choirs.
- Share in the administrative workload of the Music Department, including assisting with the administration for school choirs and visiting choirs.
- Attendance at the weekly music department meeting.
- By negotiation, recruitment of and teaching of pupil organists.

Person Specification

The selection of candidates for short-listing will be based on this specification and candidates should bear this in mind when preparing their application and completing the application form:

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	An Organist of ARCO standard or equivalent experience. A music degree or similar professional qualification/experience.	PGCE
Specialist Skills & Experience	Experience of accompanying choirs and capacity congregations	Knowledge of the standard Anglican repertoire.

	<p>to a high standard on a large instrument, in a large space.</p> <p>An understanding of current issues and best practice relating to Safeguarding, and a willingness to undertake training as necessary.</p>	<p>Some experience of choral conducting.</p> <p>Some experience of working in a Parish Church environment or similar.</p> <p>A clean driving licence.</p> <p>Flexibility towards the development of a wide range of musical and liturgical styles.</p>
Personal Qualities	<p>A communicator who can inspire singers, and who can also relate well to non-musicians.</p> <p>An individual who displays an enterprising and imaginative approach to personal musical development.</p> <p>Is able to work calmly, particularly when performing at high profile, pressured occasions.</p> <p>A maturity of character and a good sense of humour</p> <p>Good organisational skills.</p>	

This job description reflects the present requirements of the post and as duties and responsibilities change/develop, the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post holder.

Additional information – The Stowe Chapel Organ

The organ was built by the respected Liverpool firm of Rushworth & Draper to coincide with the Chapel's completion in 1928. It was a comprehensive 3 manual and pedal instrument, supplied with a small detached choir division of two stops, situated further East in the second bay of the long Nave in order to assist with projection of foundational tone during congregational singing.

In 1961, the organ was enlarged to 4 manuals and the Nave section grew considerably to form a useful small instrument in its own right for continuo work or for accompanying a choir in the Sanctuary. The Nave organ was also provided with an independent two manual and pedal console, though is also



controlled via the 4 manual West console. Interestingly, both portions of the organ are fed by the same blower!

The 1980s & 2003 saw a time of some overhaul and electrification as well as cleaning of the pipework, latterly by Ian Carter of Cousans Organs, who himself was an ex Rushworth tuning representative for the wider area. The organ is now in the care of Harrison & Harrison, Durham, and is one of the largest instruments in the area as well as the second largest in any school setting. It is used for concerts and recital work while its primary purpose remains in leading a 900 strong school congregation.

The organ numbers nearly 80 speaking stops though some extension work is particularly evident on the pedal organ. The Swell heavy pressure reeds are particularly fine in ensemble as is the 16' Trombone on the pedal division which underpins full organ to glorious effect. At the other end of the spectrum, the instrument boasts undulating strings on both the Swell and Choir divisions which make for delightful, ethereal, shimmering effects, particularly when used with their octave couplers.

A full specification and stop list may be found online on the National Pipe Organ Register.

In addition to the above, the Music Department has a Roland C-330 digital organ which is housed in the Uglund Auditorium and this may be used for teaching and practice.

Date agreed: February 2023