

## **DEANS' CHORISTER AWARD**

The purpose of this award is to encourage musicianship, loyalty, and a growing awareness of faith, in choristers, and to give a tangible recognition of the attainment of such a standard.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. This Award is open to candidates of all ages and voices who are choristers in church or school choirs within the area covered by the Roman Catholic diocese of Brentwood and the Anglican diocese of Chelmsford. The Award is also open to choristers of other denominations in this area and to individual church singers and cantors.

2. There is no age limit on candidates for this Award. Candidates for this Award (validated at RSCM Bronze Standard) are encouraged to complete 'Voice for Life' BLUE level as preparation for entry.

3. The examination should take about 25 minutes, with the time allocated to each section in proportion to the marks available. Candidates will be offered a warm-up time in the examination room prior to the commencement of the examination.

4. The examination is held twice a year in late Spring and late Autumn in Brentwood and/or Chelmsford.

5. Application for entry. Careful note must be made of the following requirements.

Applications must be: -

- made by the choir-trainer, in the case of choir choristers. Candidates over the age of 16yrs can enter themselves or be entered by the choir trainer. In either case, a written testimonial, signed by the vicar/parish priest/minister/head teacher/director of music, confirming the candidate's commitment to the choir and general musical competence, must accompany the entry form. This testimonial should also give details of any RSCM singing courses or training events in which the candidate has participated.
- supported by a parent or bona fide guardian, for candidates under the age of 16yrs, as declared by their signature. Candidates who are over the age of 16yrs can enter themselves, or be entered by the choir trainer.

NB: On signing the entry form candidates, their trainers and representatives are deemed to be accepting the entry conditions and the examiners' judgements.

6. The cost of entry for each candidate is indicated on the letter accompanying the application form and on the website.

7. The closing dates for entry for the examination in each year are 24th March for the Spring session and 30th September for the Autumn session. Please note these dates may be subject to variation, dependent upon the actual date of the examination fixed in a particular year. Late entries will not be accepted.

8. An examiner's report will be prepared for each candidate, for which an A4 envelope stamped and addressed to the choir-trainer must be supplied. Examination results cannot be given over the telephone.

9. Successful candidates will be presented with their Award Certificate at the annual presentation service in either Brentwood Cathedral or Chelmsford Cathedral on a date to be notified to the candidates. Their names will be entered in the Awards' record book, which is displayed at the Award Ceremony. They will be entitled to wear the Deans' Chorister medallion which can be purchased at the price indicated in the results letter.

10. All cheques should be made payable to 'Deans' Chorister Award'.

11. Prospective candidates, together with those supporting their application, are encouraged to attend one or both of the Training sessions, as advertised, prior to each examination date.

12. Should there be any serious mitigating circumstances which might affect the candidate's performance at examination these must be made known to the Administrator as soon as possible before the examination in order that appropriate action if any, may be taken.