



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

ASSISTANT ORGANIST
Information and job description



INTRODUCTION

As a new and exciting chapter in the musical and liturgical life of Belfast Cathedral begins following the appointment of Jack Wilson as Master of Music in May 2023, the Dean and Cathedral Board seek to appoint an Assistant Organist, the post commencing in September 2023. With the vision of reinstating Sunday services of Choral Eucharist and Choral Evensong, a talented organist is sought who will play a key role in the life of the Cathedral's Music Department, acting as principal accompanist for all choral services.

HISTORY

Belfast Cathedral (the Cathedral Church of St Anne) has stood for 120 years as a place of Christian worship in the heart of the City of Belfast, for the people of Belfast, and is one of the ecclesiastical and architectural highlights of Northern Ireland.

As well as Sunday Services, the Cathedral plays host to large diocesan and civic occasions throughout the year. Throughout the Cathedral's history, the Cathedral's choirs have sung on national and local radio and television, and have undertaken concerts and tours.

Belfast is one of the UK's most vibrant cities with a thriving musical, educational, and cultural life. The Ulster Orchestra, Northern Ireland Opera, regular professional chamber music concerts, an amateur symphony orchestra and amateur choirs combine with frequent visits by touring opera and ballet companies to make the city a modern cultural hub. Queen's University's Faculty of Music is in Belfast, and the University of Ulster has recently moved into its new site beside the Cathedral. The Ulster Society of Organists & Choirmasters also has a very active programme.



VISION

It is the ambition of the Dean and Cathedral Board that full choral services will resume each Sunday in the Cathedral from September 2023, with a goal of reinstating a week-day service of Choral Evensong in due course.

THE ORGAN AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

The splendid acoustic of the cathedral is home to a four-manual Harrison and Harrison organ, first installed in 1907, subsequently being completely rebuilt and enlarged in 1969 by the firm. It has 64 speaking stops, and is the second largest instrument of its kind in Northern Ireland. It is an extremely versatile instrument for both choral accompaniment and performance of solo repertoire. The cathedral also houses a four-stop chamber organ, built in 1985 by the Wells-Kennedy Partnership, and a Steinway Model O grand piano. The post holder will have access to these instruments for both private practice and tuition.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title:	Assistant Organist
Date of commencement:	1 st September 2023
Reporting to:	Master of Music
Contract:	The post holder will be engaged in a Service Level Agreement
Hours of work:	8 hours per week, 6 hours of which are expected on Sundays during term-time, and Principal Festivals (namely Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Ash Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Ascension Day)
Salary:	£8,000 per annum, plus an allowance of £1,000 for professional development

JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The Assistant Organist will play a vital role within the Music Department, working alongside the Master of Music, playing the organ for the majority of the choral services in the Cathedral, and when required, deputising for the Master of Music in his absence. The Assistant Organist will be expected to meet occasionally with the Dean and Master of Music, as appropriate, to discuss matters arising.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with the Master of Music in providing music for Cathedral Sunday services and principal festivals as listed.
- Accompany the Cathedral choirs in services and concerts both in the Cathedral and elsewhere.
- Accompany rehearsals of the Cathedral choirs when required.
- Conduct the Cathedral choirs in the absence of the Master of Music, and as required.
- Actively seek to undertake personal musical preparation and practice, and the learning of new repertoire.
- Work with the Master of Music in helping to encourage a collegiate atmosphere amongst the members of the choir, and the wider Cathedral family.
- Take part in the Cathedral's recital series.

- Maintain high standards in all aspects of the Cathedral’s musical activity.
- Select organ music for the regular services of the Cathedral, responding creatively to the liturgical context, planning to agreed deadlines in consultation with the Dean and the Master of Music.
- Assist with the tuition and training of the Cathedral’s Organ Scholar.
- Demonstrate willingness to encourage and foster a team approach in achieving the musical and educational objectives of the Cathedral.

SHORT LISTING CRITERIA

	Essential	Desirable
Organ Performance	ARCO standard	FRCO standard
Team working	Evidence of working successfully as a member of a team	Evidence of working successfully as a member of a team of musicians
Choral Conducting		Experience of choral conducting

A short letter (1000 words max.) outlining why you are applying for this post, should be addressed to the Dean, the Very Rev’d Stephen Forde, and sent to trevor@belfastcathedral.org alongside a completed application form, and equal opportunities monitoring form, by 12:00 noon on Friday 16th June 2023.

For an informal chat about the post itself, please feel free to contact the Master of Music:

jackwilson@belfastcathedral.org
028 9032 8332 ext 228

