



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**

SUB-ORGANIST AND ASSISTANT MASTER OF MUSIC

**APPLICATION PACK
2025**

THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND



WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

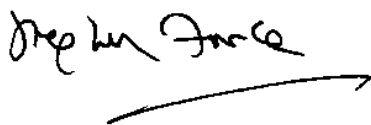
The newly created post of Sub-Organist and Assistant Master of Music at Belfast Cathedral offers the successful candidate the opportunity to contribute to building and strengthening a vibrant and forward-looking music department within the life of this 121-year-old cathedral, set at “the heart of the city, with the city at its heart.”

We seek to appoint a candidate who brings their skill, enthusiasm and passion as an accomplished organist to contribute collaboratively to the life of a growing body of choir members, choral scholars and young choristers.

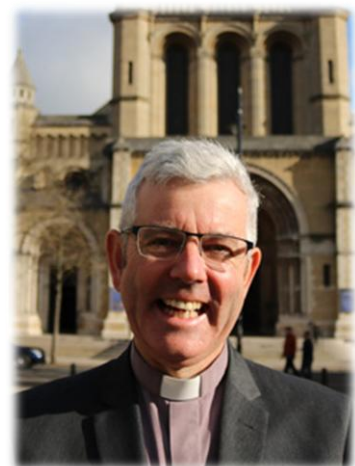
Working closely with our Organist and Master of Music, Mr Jack Wilson, and an experienced liturgical team, it is my hope that our new Sub-Organist and Assistant Master of Music will help to build up the worshipping life of Belfast Cathedral, to be a source of pride and inspiration for the cathedral congregation and visitors alike.

Whether from the intimacy of a weekday Choral Evensong, an inspirational Choral Eucharist or to the demands of a service of national significance, the successful candidate will make their vital contribution to enhancing the musical life of Belfast Cathedral within a choral tradition which stretches to the foundation of the cathedral at its consecration in 1904, and which traces its roots to the earlier Belfast Parish Church of St Anne.

I look forward to welcoming a new colleague whose commitment is to the life, wellbeing and future of Belfast Cathedral in the second quarter of the twenty-first century.



The Very Rev'd Stephen Forde
Dean of Belfast





INTRODUCTION

Standing proudly at the heart of the city, Belfast Cathedral, the Cathedral Church of St Anne, is one of Northern Ireland's most recognisable and inspiring sacred spaces. It is a place where architecture, liturgy, and music come together in the worship of God.

The Cathedral has a long and distinguished choral tradition, offering weekly services of worship, hosting major diocesan and civic services, and a rich programme of concerts and special events. The Music Department is central to the Cathedral's mission, enriching the spiritual life of the city and offering a beacon of beauty, creativity, and faith within the Church of Ireland tradition.





THE INSTRUMENTS

The cathedral's magnificent acoustic is home to a thrilling array of instruments, centred around its four-manual Harrison & Harrison organ. First installed in 1907 and completely rebuilt and enlarged by the firm in 1969, the instrument now boasts 64 speaking stops and stands as the second largest of its kind in Northern Ireland. Renowned for its versatility, it excels equally in the grandeur of choral accompaniment and the expressive demands of solo repertoire.



Complementing this flagship instrument is a beautifully crafted two-manual Copley/Pipe Organ Preservation Company instrument in the Chapel of Unity, as well as a distinctive four-stop chamber organ built in 1985 by the Wells-Kennedy Partnership. A Blüthner grand piano further enriches the cathedral's musical resources.

The new Sub-Organist and Assistant Master of Music will enjoy full access to this exceptional collection of instruments for both private practice and teaching, providing an inspiring environment in which to develop artistry and support the cathedral's vibrant musical life.



THE ROLE

Belfast Cathedral is seeking to appoint a dynamic, accomplished, and collaborative musician to serve as Sub-Organist and Assistant Master of Music. This is a key role within the Cathedral's Music Department, offering an exceptional opportunity to contribute to, and help shape, one of Northern Ireland's leading choral foundations.

Job title: Sub-Organist and Assistant Master of Music

Date of commencement: Easter 2026 (by negotiation)

Reporting to: Organist and Master of Music

Contract: Part time, permanent

Expected hours of work:

Day	Hours
Sunday	9.30am-4.30pm
Thursday	5.00pm-9.00pm
Friday	4.15pm-6.15pm

Alongside 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). Four additional, flexible, hours are expected to be agreed with the Organist and Master of Music. It is understood that duties will be lighter outside of academic term-time.



Working closely with the Organist and Master of Music, the successful candidate will:

- ✦ Act as principal organist for all Cathedral services with sensitivity and reliability to a high standard.
- ✦ Accompany the Cathedral Choir in rehearsals, services, and concerts.
- ✦ Assist in the training and musical development of the Cathedral Choristers and adult singers.
- ✦ Support the administration of the Music Department.
- ✦ Deputise for the Organist and Master of Music when required, including rehearsals, directing the choir and managing services.
- ✦ Assign service accompaniments to the Organ Scholars.
- ✦ Actively seek to undertake personal musical preparation and practice, and the learning of new repertoire.
- ✦ Demonstrate willingness to encourage and foster a team approach in achieving the musical and educational objectives of the Cathedral.

Beyond the organ bench, the successful candidate will play a vital part in maintaining the smooth running of the Cathedral's music ministry; from assisting with rehearsal preparation and library organisation, to participating in outreach projects, concert planning, and engagement with visiting musicians.

This is a post for someone eager to be immersed in the musical and spiritual life of a thriving Cathedral, and to make a genuine contribution to its future direction. In addition to the role, the successful candidate may undertake a wide variety of external freelance work, as desired.



PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

Essential Criteria:

- ✦ Excellent keyboard and sight-reading skills, with experience accompanying choirs to a high standard.
- ✦ Experience in choral directing.
- ✦ A deep understanding of the Anglican liturgy and choral repertoire.
- ✦ The ability to work collaboratively within a professional team.
- ✦ Flexibility, dependability, and a positive, proactive approach.
- ✦ Sympathy with the ethos, worship, and mission of the Church of Ireland and the Anglican choral tradition.

Desirable Criteria:

- ✦ Experience in a Cathedral, Collegiate, or Parish Church music context.
- ✦ Experience with training choristers.
- ✦ Administrative or organisational skills relevant to a busy music department.
- ✦ A degree or equivalent qualification in music or performance.



WHAT WE OFFER



- ✦ A salary of £13,000- £15,500, depending on experience.
- ✦ Additional income opportunities for weddings, funerals, and special services.
- ✦ Support for ongoing professional development, including study or qualification pathways such as ARCO, FRCO, or other relevant accreditations.
- ✦ The chance to work in one of Belfast's most iconic buildings at the heart of the city's cultural life.
- ✦ A friendly, supportive, and forward-looking Music Department committed to excellence.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send for the attention of the Dean:

- ✦ A completed application form.
- ✦ A covering letter outlining your interest and suitability for the role, with reference to both the outlined essential and desirable criteria.
- ✦ A completed equal opportunities monitoring form.

to dean@belfastcathedral.org

Closing date for applications, **Monday 8th December at 11.59 pm.**

If desired, prospective applicants are welcome to have an informal conversation with the Organist and Master of Music to discuss the role, via jack@belfastcathedral.org

Belfast Cathedral is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates, regardless of background.



Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB

admin@belfastcathedral.org

+44 (0)28 90 328 332