



monterverdi

Choir & Orchestras

# MONTEVERDI APPRENTICES PROGRAMME 2026/27

# 2026-27 MONTEVERDI APPRENTICES PROGRAMME

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We are now accepting applications from singers for the 2026-27 Monteverdi Apprentices Programme. This iteration of the scheme will run from **September 2026** until **July 2027**.

The programme is aimed at classically trained singers in the early stages of a professional career, with an interest in ensemble singing and the work of the Monteverdi Choir.

## INTRODUCTION

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The Monteverdi Apprentices Programme was established by the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras (MCO) in 2007 as the first of its kind in the UK. It continues to be a pre-eminent training scheme for young musicians, seeking to bridge the gap between higher education and a professional music career. The programme now has nearly 100 alumni, and several former Apprentices still perform regularly with both MCO and other leading ensembles.



By crafting a supportive learning environment for talented young artists, providing rewarding performance opportunities, and offering coaching and tuition from experts in a range of fields, the scheme is designed to nurture the next generation of musical talent. MCO hopes to address some of the myriad of challenges faced by emerging classical musicians by embedding Apprentices within our ensembles, equipping them with the skills, training and experience required to kickstart a sustained freelance career.



2025/26 Apprentices with Dame Sarah Connolly

Choral Apprentices are integrated into the Monteverdi Choir, together with MCO's two period instrument orchestras – the English Baroque Soloists and Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique – for concert projects in London and Europe. This gives them the opportunity to learn and perform alongside world-class professional musicians, under the baton of a range of leading specialist conductors. Apprentices also take part in a variety of workshops and masterclasses led by prominent international artists such as Dame Sarah Connolly, Mark Padmore and Sophie Daneman, Monteverdi Choir mentors, and other experts from across the classical music industry.

# WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME OFFER?

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## Concert and touring experience

Apprentices perform within the Monteverdi Choir for concerts in London and on tour in Europe. We believe it is particularly vital for young musicians to gain early experience of the rigours of international touring, and past Apprentices have emphasised how immensely valuable this aspect of the programme has been.

“The Apprentices Programme offers such a high level of training and music-making because you are embedded within the ensembles; you are held to the same account as everyone else. It is a level above other schemes I have been a part of.”

Jonathan Hanley, 2018/19 Apprentice

## Artistic coaching

Apprentices take part in a wide range of workshops and masterclasses with distinguished conductors, performers and industry experts. These involve specialised coaching on specific repertoire, language coaching, movement and stagecraft, as well as discussion on topics such as wellbeing, managing a portfolio career, and many other aspects of the classical music industry.



2023/24 Apprentices backstage at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam

## A platform to launch a career

Apprentices gain direct experience of the exacting demands and working practices of an internationally-renowned ensemble. The programme also offers opportunities to meet and perform for other musicians, supporters, and wider industry professionals, preparing Apprentices for marketing themselves in their burgeoning careers.

“The Apprentices Programme has dictated the direction of my career. It is because I was fortunate enough to be on this scheme that I am now working full-time as a singer.”

Rory Carver, 2014-15 Apprentice



“With a strong emphasis on performance technique...and a broad range of repertoire, the programme formed the best musical training experience of any that I received.”

Robyn Allegra Parton, 2008-09 Apprentice

## MONTEVERDI APPRENTICE AMBASSADORS

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We are extremely proud to have internationally-acclaimed soloists Dame Sarah Connolly and Mark Padmore as Ambassadors for the Apprentices Programme. Both Sarah and Mark have a long association with the Monteverdi Choir, having featured in several concerts and recordings, and both share a deep commitment to nurturing the next generation of vocal talent.



They bring with them a wealth of experience, a passion for ensemble singing, and a profound understanding of vocal artistry, stylistic versatility and the demands of a modern singing career. As inspirational role models, they offer invaluable coaching and guidance to the Apprentices over the course of the programme, drawing on their wide-ranging professional insight.

“I know from personal experience how daunting the leap from education to the professional world can be. This scheme lays vital foundations – not just artistically, but emotionally and practically – for a life in music.”

Dame Sarah Connolly

“What makes this programme so powerful is the way it places young singers at the heart of the music-making – not on the sidelines, but as valued contributors. That kind of trust and responsibility is transformative. Being part of a world-class ensemble like this at the start of a career is something I would have treasured.”

Mark Padmore

# OTHER INFORMATION

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## Remuneration

Touring expenses (travel, accommodation and per diems) are covered for MCO project dates outside of the UK. Apprentice concert fees are paid for performances and project rehearsals, along with any additional fees for memorisation, broadcasts, recordings, etc.

## Location

We are a London-based organisation; expenses incurred by travelling to/from and staying in London for MCO projects and Apprentice activities are not ordinarily covered. However, we are keen to ensure that location is not a barrier to entry – if you are concerned about the costs of personal travel and accommodation, this is something that can be discussed during the application process.



2025/26 Apprentices at Grittleton House with Jonathan Sells

# PROGRAMME DATES

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We aim to appoint eight Apprentices for the programme. Exactly which performances each Apprentice takes part in will be decided after the audition process, but they should prepare to be available for the dates below.\*

3-6 Sept 2026

Welcome Residency

12-18 Sept 2026

Rossini with **Jakob Lehmann**

25-30 Oct, 13-21 Nov 2026

Handel with **Christophe Rousset**

10-20 Dec 2026

Monteverdi, Schütz and Gabrieli with **Francesco Corti**

January 2027\*

Movement workshops with **Thomas Guthrie**

5-10 Feb, 3-7 March 2027

Bach with **Masaaki Suzuki**

April 2027\*

Career workshops with agents and industry professionals

May 2027\*

Beethoven with **Dinis Sousa**

8-15 May, 14-17 June 2027

Bach & Buxtehude with **Jonathan Sells**

20 June - 4 July 2027

Beethoven with **Pablo Heras-Casado**

July 2027\*

Apprentices Final Recital

\*precise dates to be confirmed

# APPLICATIONS

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The deadline for applications is **10am, Friday 12 June 2026**

To apply, please email **auditions@monteverdi.org.uk** with the subject 'Monteverdi Apprentices Application', along with the following materials (either as attachments or as a link to Dropbox, Google Drive, YouTube, etc.):

- A single page CV detailing relevant musical experience, and the names and contact details of a professional referee. Please name the file in the format: **Last name, First name - CV**
- One or two recent recordings (audio/audiovisual) - each no more than 5 minutes in length - of you singing a solo piece relevant to the work of the Monteverdi Choir. Recordings should represent your vocal ability as clearly as possible. Please name the file using the format: **Last name, First name - Recording**
- A completed MCO Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form: [download](#)



# AUDITIONS

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After an initial selection process based on the assessment of recordings and CVs, we will contact applicants who have been selected for an audition within two weeks of the deadline. We regret that it is not possible to acknowledge all applications, and only successful applicants will be contacted after the deadline has passed.

Auditions will take place in **London on Monday 6 July 2026**. Please ensure that you are available for this date, as well as the future projects listed previously, before making your application.



2025/26 Apprentice masterclass with Mark Padmore

Candidates must prepare **three** contrasting pieces, covering:

- At least **two** different historical periods, one of which must be Baroque
- At least **two** different languages that are **not** your first language

Please note there may only be time for the panel to hear two of your pieces. An accompanist will be provided, and candidates may choose to perform their repertoire at either A=440Hz or A=415Hz.

Candidates should also be prepared to speak briefly about why they are applying to the programme, and what they hope to get out of it.

## FINAL DECISION

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Successful applicants will be contacted about their availability for the programme within a week of their audition. We regret that it will not be possible to provide feedback on any auditions.

## CONTACT US

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If you would like any further information about the application process, or if any of the requirements above represent a barrier and you would like to discuss this, please email Orlando Jones: [\*\*orlando@monteverdi.org.uk\*\*](mailto:orlando@monteverdi.org.uk)



2025/26 Apprentice masterclass with Richard Stokes

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There is no upper or lower age limit for the programme, but applicants should be mindful that it is aimed at musicians who have recently completed their vocal studies, and are intending to embark (or who have recently embarked) on a professional career.

The Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras Limited is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to the equal treatment of all current and prospective employees, and we do not condone discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, gender identity, or marriage and civil partnership. We aspire to have a diverse and inclusive workplace, and strongly encourage suitably qualified applicants from a wide range of backgrounds to apply.

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Choir & Orchestras

Monteverdi Choir | English Baroque Soloists | Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique

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