



## ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AT SHERBORNE

### SHERBORNE

The Abbey and the School seek to appoint an Organ Scholar each September. The appointment runs from the beginning of September until the Sunday after school term ends in the summer (usually in the first week of July) and includes Christmas and Easter.

The town of Sherborne is steeped in history. Prior to the Norman Conquest, it served as the seat of the Saxon bishops and for over 350 years there was a cathedral church on the site of the present Abbey — situated in the very heart of the town. Towards the end of the 10th Century Benedictine monastery, now the site of Sherborne School, was established in Sherborne and Sherborne Abbey remained a monastic church until the time of the Dissolution in 1539. The School was linked with the Benedictine Abbey until the Dissolution, and was then refounded by Edward VI in 1550. Today the Library, Chapel and Headmaster's rooms, which adjoin the Abbey Church, are all modifications of the original buildings.

Sherborne Abbey Choir consists of up to twenty-four boy choristers and twelve gentlemen who contribute to the weekly pattern of worship. Opportunities exist for counter-tenors, tenors or basses who, having completed their school or university education, are looking for the chance to sing with the Abbey Choir and work at Sherborne School and Sherborne Preparatory School for a year.

Sherborne School is one of the country's leading independent boys' boarding schools and enjoys a national reputation for the fine quality of its musical provision, not least because almost all of the music making is run jointly with Sherborne Girls and Leweston. The opportunity to become involved with the schools' music-making is unrivalled. The Abbey and School also enjoy a close relationship, and much of the School's worship takes place in the Abbey as the School is now too big for its own chapel of some 300 seats.

The work involves playing at the four or five services each week (a Eucharist and a Sunday Evensong for the Abbey, and two choral services for the School) as well as their associated rehearsals. An Organ Scholar will be expected to be a good sight-reader, as the repertoire of both choirs is wide and varied: in both cases rehearsal time is limited. The work at Sherborne School may be tailored to the strengths of the successful candidate.

It is expected that successful organ candidate will be drawn from those who are likely to go on to organ scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge Colleges or in other cathedrals. (Previous Sherborne Organ Scholars have gone on to Corpus Christi, Cambridge and Worcester College, Oxford).

Spacious accommodation is provided within the town, free of charge, and three free meals are available daily during the School term in the Dining Hall which has a reputation for good food. Remuneration is currently £130 per week. Commitments during the school's Christmas and Easter holidays are restricted to Friday evening rehearsals and Sunday services apart from four extra services associated with Christmas (including Christmas Day itself) and three Holy Week services (including Easter Day): weddings and funerals are optional and carry their own fee.