

**INFORMATION ON ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE COLLEGES  
AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY  
APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY IN 2022/3**

*Please note that the information here is provided by the individual colleges, and is subject to change.*

**BALLIOL COLLEGE** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)

**BRASENOSE COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)

**CHRIST CHURCH** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AND ACADEMICAL CLERKSHIPS)

**EXETER COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**HERTFORD COLLEGE** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)

**JESUS COLLEGE** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)

**KEBLE COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**LINCOLN COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**LADY MARGARET HALL** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)

**MAGDALEN COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**MERTON COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**NEW COLLEGE** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AND ACADEMICAL CLERKSHIPS)

**ORIEL COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**PEMBROKE COLLEGE** (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)

**QUEEN'S COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**ST EDMUND HALL** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**SOMERVILLE COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**ST PETER'S COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

**WORCESTER COLLEGE** (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

## BALLIOL COLLEGE

Balliol Choir has a warm and lively atmosphere. It is a wonderfully exciting place to be as an Organ Scholar. Balliol Chapel houses a three-manual electric action Harrison organ, complete with pistons and several channels. This is one of the larger college organs in Oxford and is among Oxford's most versatile for both accompaniment and solo playing. Balliol also has a second organ in the Hall, a splendid Willis instrument previously played at the beginning of celebratory meals and other events. Plans are being made for the Willis to be restored to its full glory. Meanwhile, and excitingly, the chapel organ is scheduled for a full restoration in summer 2021.

Balliol always has two Organ Scholars, or one Scholar and a graduate organ assistant, at any one time. In your first terms as Junior Organ Scholar you'll be guided by the Senior Organ Scholar in running the choir. Your responsibilities will increase gradually so you're prepared to take charge in turn.

Balliol is generous in rewarding its Organ Scholars. Accommodation on the main College site is guaranteed throughout your degree. The Junior Scholar's room is in Garden Quad. The Senior Scholar's set is in Front Quad. These are two of the best rooms in college, both with upright pianos. Organ scholars also receive a stipend of £300 in their first year of study, increasing to £500 for the remaining years. Fees for organ, conducting, and singing lessons are all covered separately by the College.

### DUTIES

- Choose and direct all Chapel music for weekly Sunday Evensong during term.
- Recruit, conduct, and accompany the choir.
- Play (and if appropriate rehearse the choir) for any other occasional special events, such as the annual Balliol Society Dinner.
- By arrangement, play at weddings and baptisms for old members (for which a fee, currently of £150 and £50 respectively, is charged).
- Organise choir tours: in recent years, tours have been to Florence, Venice, and Sicily.

The Choir is one of Oxford's best and largest voluntary College Choirs. It brings together students from across the university, with a strongly cohesive and friendly atmosphere. Alongside weekly Sunday Evensong, the Choir sings one joint Mass per term with our neighbouring Trinity College. Other choir events include carol singing on Broad Street and May Day singing from Balliol's Library Tower.

Balliol also stands out for the Balliol College Musical Society. The Society has a large budget for booking artists (this year including Paul Lewis, Mark Simpson, and Mark Padmore) to perform at Balliol every fortnight during term. Organ Scholars at Balliol have the opportunity to get involved, inviting musicians and helping to arrange these events.

For further information, please go to [www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/organ-scholarship](http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/organ-scholarship). We are always delighted to hear from prospective applicants. The Senior Organ Scholar, Yasar Cohen-Shah ([yasar.cohen-shah@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:yasar.cohen-shah@balliol.ox.ac.uk)), will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

## BRASENOSE COLLEGE

Brasenose College is celebrated for its vibrant musical community and inclusive atmosphere. **Organ Scholars** and **Choral Scholars** are encouraged to take a creative lead in stimulating the musical life of the college, promoting solo and group events, and providing leadership at choral rehearsals, services, concerts, and tours. In addition to weekly internal concerts, Brasenose supports a professional concerts series, inviting world-class musicians to the college from across the globe. Regular masterclasses are also provided for singers and organists, and the college offers awards for up to six instrumental scholars. Jazz and other non-classical genres have often provided a central theme to musical events at Brasenose, and the college currently boasts various jazz ensembles and vocal harmony groups.

Music at Brasenose is overseen by a professional Director of Music (Christian Wilson) who provides guidance and advice for all music scholars, overseeing activities in chapel and coordinating concert events. Central to the musical life of the college is the lively Chapel Choir which provides music for regular chapel services (currently Evensong each Sunday, and a small number of special services each term). The choir welcomes members from Brasenose and other colleges, and has a thriving social scene, holding regular events.

The college awards up to 8 **Choral Scholarships** and up to 4 **Choral Exhibitions**, auditioning both through the central university system, or later through internal college audition. Unfortunately, Brasenose does not accept Choral Scholar applicants for Music, but Organ Scholars are welcome to apply for this subject. **Choral Scholars** are offered a small honorarium (currently £150 per year) and up to four hours of vocal tuition per term free of charge and with the college's singing teacher, Stephen Taylor. Choral Exhibitioners are offered a modest honorarium (currently £75 per year) and receive up to two hours of vocal tuition per term, free of charge. Formal dinners and other choral events following chapel services are also offered free of charge.

Brasenose aims to appoint three **Organ Scholars** (ideally, one in each year). Applicants are invited for any of the standard subjects, and whilst the college no longer offers Music for other students, Organ Scholars are encouraged to pursue this subject at Brasenose where some tutorial teaching may be undertaken through a neighbouring college. The college owns a beautiful 5-stop chamber organ by Henk & Niels Klop and will soon be acquiring a new main organ to replace the current classical-style Bowers/Collins instrument. The Chapel is also equipped with an excellent Kawai grand piano with plans to acquire a harpsichord in the near future.

**Organ Scholarships** attract a modest honorarium of £300 per year (due for review), tenable for the duration of the student's course, and each organ scholar is entitled to up to four hours of organ tuition per term free of charge with an organ tutor of their choice. Organ Scholar rooms are among the finest in college, equipped with a piano, and offered at substantially discounted rates. Further remuneration and benefits are available for courses, masterclasses and other related requirements. Free formal hall is provided to scholars following all chapel services.

## CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

### ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Corpus Christi College has an active Chapel in which the music programme is led by the two organ scholars with the support and supervision of the College Lecturer and Advisor in Music and the Chaplain. There is a weekly Sunday evening service (Evensong or Eucharist), as well as occasional extra services (such as the Carol Service, Corpus Christi Day, Compline, and a termly slot to sing Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral).

The Chapel choir, which is recruited, trained and conducted by the organ scholars, sings at these services, and currently numbers about 30-35 singers. There are 8 choral bursaries awarded to singers who form the backbone of the choir and who receive singing lessons (arranged by the organ scholars the College Lecturer in Music) and a small stipend as part of their awards. Conducting lessons can also be arranged by the College Lecturer in Music.

The organ scholars receive a sum of £700 per year. The senior scholar is accommodated in the main quad in a set of rooms with a piano. The junior scholar also has main quad rooms with a keyboard. The College Lecturer and Advisor in Music, Dr Katie Pardee, provides professional mentoring to the Organ Scholars concerning the termly choral list and other aspects of leading a busy musical programme, as well as three to four organ lessons per term. In the case of Organ Scholars reading Music, she is also his or her director of studies for the degree course.

Organ Scholars may be admitted to read any subject that the College admits, and Organ Scholars may read Music at Corpus.

The choir frequently goes on a tour in the summer. Tours are arranged by the organ scholars. Choir trips have included tours to Dublin, Rome, Canada, Japan as well as around England. The choir has recorded three CDs, the most recent of which is a Christmas recording which was released in December 2016.

For more information about Organ Scholarships at Corpus, please go to: <https://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Organ-Scholarship/>

For more information about the admission process, please contact the Access and Admissions Officer at Corpus Christi College, Katherine Baysan, at [admissions.office@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.office@ccc.ox.ac.uk) or on 01865 276693.

The Chaplain and the College Lecturer and Advisor in Music are always happy to receive informal enquiries from potential candidates about this important role in the life of the College and the potential for professional and personal development it offers. Canon Maltby can be contacted at [judith.maltby@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:judith.maltby@ccc.ox.ac.uk) and Dr Pardee at [katharine.pardee@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katharine.pardee@ccc.ox.ac.uk).

Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby, Chaplain & Fellow  
Dr Katharine Pardee, College Lecturer & Advisor in Music  
Katherine Baysan, Admissions and Access Officer

## **CHRIST CHURCH**

### **CHORAL AND ORGAN AWARDS**

Christ Church is unique amongst the collegiate choirs in its Cathedral role, and this is reflected in the considerable opportunities afforded to the young singer and organist, to learn a vast musical repertoire and to participate in many recordings, broadcasts and tours. In the past few years, the choir has visited Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, China, Finland, France, Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, the Lebanon and the U.S.A.

Choir terms are normally as follows:

Michaelmas Term: Services start in 0<sup>th</sup> week and end on Christmas Day

Hilary Term: Services start in 0<sup>th</sup> week and end on Easter Day

Trinity Term: Services start in 0<sup>th</sup> week and end at the beginning of July.

Allowances are paid to cover accommodation and meals in College during the periods outside University term, in addition to the bursaries listed below.

For more information about the choir, visit the choir website: [www.chchchoir.org](http://www.chchchoir.org)

### **ACADEMIC CLERKSHIPS**

There are vacancies for 2022 and 2023. Academical Clerks are expected to have singing lessons, the cost of which is borne by the College. In addition, they receive a bursary of £1,000 each year in recognition of the extended terms. Academical Clerks have moved on from Christ Church into all areas of life. Some remain in singing whilst others follow careers governed by their degree choice.

At the choral trial, candidates are required to sing a prepared piece and to demonstrate musical aptitude through a few vocal exercises (scales and arpeggios), ear tests and reading at sight. The audition lasts approximately 10 minutes. Great care is taken to ensure that the duties of the Cathedral Choir do not interfere with academic work and progress.

### **ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Organ Scholar is normally required to read for the Honour School of Music. He/she assists the Organist with running the music in the Cathedral and attends most practices and services. There is an annual bursary of £2,000 in recognition of the extended choir terms, and in addition to free organ lessons, there is an allowance of up to £400 per year for purchase of music. The opportunity exists to give recitals in the Cathedral, and to conduct the choir in practices and services. The Organ Scholar is expected to play a prominent role in the musical life of the College and University.

## EXETER COLLEGE

Organ and Choral Awards at Exeter are unique: it is the only place in either Oxford or Cambridge where a choir, run entirely by the Organ Scholar, sings three services a week. This means it is both challenging and tremendously exciting, giving an unrivalled opportunity to develop as a fully-rounded musician with significant managerial and organisational abilities.

The main responsibility of the Organ Scholar, particularly in their second year, is to maintain, direct, and manage one of the leading student-led choirs in the UK. This creates an exceptional opportunity for the development of, both, one's organ playing as well as conducting skills. Other responsibilities involve choosing the music lists, organising tours and concerts (recently the choir toured Malta & Sicily [2016] and Vienna, Bratislava & Budapest [2017]), administering the termly organ recital series, and auditioning new members. The Organ Scholar is also expected to foster the Musical life of the College generally. In all matters they are required to work closely with the Chaplain.

There are significant rewards for Organ Scholars, including:

- A small honorarium credited against battels.
- Excellent rooms in College for three years (with piano). The very spacious Senior Organ Scholar's set, recently renovated, comprises three rooms including en suite bathroom.
- Free dinners after every sung service (Formal Hall on Sundays).
- Organ, conducting, and singing lessons paid for by the College.
- Additional payment for weddings, baptisms and occasional services.
- Practice and performance opportunities on the thrilling Walker organ.

Choral Awards at Exeter College are also unique in the regard of working in an extremely energetic and driven environment. Choral Scholars work closely with the Organ Scholar and can get involved in the running of the choir through various roles such as the choir treasurer position. Alongside a small stipend, the college provides all choristers with singing lessons and free food after every sung service, as well opportunities to earn extra money through weddings. The choir is not only a musical ensemble but is also underpinned by a very broad social dynamic comprising of people from across many colleges and stages of academic endeavours.

The choir also regularly leads Evensong services at home in the UK, having visited Westminster Abbey and Exeter, Truro, and St Paul's Cathedrals. The choir also performs alongside Oxford's leading instrumental ensembles, such as the Oxford Bach Soloists, and the Oxford Philharmonia. To mark the 700th anniversary of Exeter College's foundation in 1314, the choir was heard on BBC Radio 4 for a week of daily services and produced a landmark world-premiere CD recording of Stanford's Mass in G on EM Records. This disc was widely acclaimed, with Gramophone describing the choir's singing as "fully professional...with real delicacy, detail and momentum". In the summer of 2018, the choir's most recent CD will be released, featuring music by composers from Eastern Europe and the Baltic States, complimenting their upcoming tour to Estonia. Exeter's Organ Scholarship is highly regarded, with past holders going on to hold organist posts at various cathedrals and schools throughout the country. The choir's raison d'être is to provide music for services throughout the year in the college's magnificent Gilbert Scott chapel, modelled on the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. The chapel is famous as the site of the death of Inspector Morse and the final episode of this eponymous television series featured the choir singing excerpts from Fauré's Requiem. The choir returned to the screen in January 2016 where they appeared in the new series of ITV's Endeavour.

More information can be found on the Chapel Choir's website:

<http://www.exetercollegechoir.co.uk>

## HERTFORD COLLEGE

### Organ Scholarships

Hertford College awards two organ scholarships at any one time. These scholarships are available to students who apply to study music at the college, and are awarded via the University of Oxford's central organ-awards scheme.

Unlike organ scholarships at many other colleges, Hertford organ scholars are not deputies to a professional organist or music director, but organise the chapel's music, play the organ and direct the choir themselves. Thus, Hertford Organ Scholars graduate with a far greater experience of music planning and directing. This is a deliberate policy, intended to grow young leaders, many of whom go on to have successful musical careers. During the last ten years, Hertford has had equal numbers of male and female organ scholars, from a variety of educational backgrounds, including strong state school representation.

Further benefits include a stipend of £500 p.a., plus fully funded organ, conducting, and singing lessons. We also offer a unique Leadership Development Programme, which includes leadership training and mentoring. Organ Scholars are guaranteed accommodation for all three years, usually on the Catte Street site (city centre, next to the Bodleian Library). The Senior Organ Scholar's room is one of the best in college.

Remuneration: organ scholars receive a stipend of £500 per year with additional money available for organ, singing and conducting lessons. Accommodation is guaranteed in the main college site on Catte Street (next to the Bodleian Library, as well as close to central city shops and pubs).

There are two services a week. These are a Sunday-evening Anglican evensong and a mid-week Eucharist. In addition there is a rehearsal during the week, which the organ scholars lead. There is a large choir membership with approximately 30 members who regularly sing on Sunday evenings. The choir is non-auditioned but there is a system of choral awards in place which ensures there are eight (two to a part) choral-award holders present at each service. The mid-week Eucharist involves a smaller chamber choir, made up of the choral-award holders.

The organ is a three-manual instrument with 1518 pipes built by Alfred Hunter and Sons, and refurbished by Harrison and Harrison. While particularly suited for romantic repertoire, the organ has a wide range of stops making it a versatile instrument, good both for accompaniment and solo repertoire. It has a number of solo stops and several finger and toe pistons for registration. The pedalboard is concave and radiating. The magnificent organ case and the chapel itself were designed by Thomas Jackson, the architect who is also responsible for Hertford's beautiful bridge of sighs.

The choir regularly goes on choir tours to destinations within Europe as well as further afield, such as Japan and the United States. Hertford college has a very musical student body, and the music society is one of the largest and most active in the University. There is a close relationship between the chapel choir and the music society. The choir enjoys a warm collegiate atmosphere, with dinners provided free of charge for the choir after each service by college, which are always convivial occasions.

Choral awards of £250 per year are offered at the start of the Michaelmas term each year for eight singers, two for each vocal part. (NB this is outside of the central choral-scholarship scheme). For more information see: <https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/myhertford/chapel/about-chapel/choir>

## JESUS COLLEGE

Jesus College welcomes applicants as Organ Scholars to begin study as undergraduates in the following October. Applicants will be eager to commit to further training and development in Organ and Conducting studies, and to contribute fully to the musical life both of the Chapel and the College as a whole.

Jesus Organ Scholars work alongside the Chapel Music Co-ordinator, and do so with the wholehearted support and careful supervision of the Chaplain. Other musicians who are members of our College community are also on hand to assist if need be. Organ Scholars receive the opportunity to build a portfolio of highly transferable skills involving the recruitment of musicians, communications, events organisation, music programming, social development, and basic administration, all as part of a team.

The chapel organ is an historically informed instrument, built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century English style by the leading UK organ builder William Drake in 1993. A refined instrument with sensitive action and musical voicing, it is kept in excellent condition, with significant maintenance works completed in 2016. It is a superb organ for practice and to enhance technique. A grand piano and a harpsichord by Goble (1975) are also available for use in the Chapel. A music practice room with grand and upright pianos may be booked during music hours.

The Choir is led by the Chapel Music Co-ordinator in tandem with the Organ Scholars. Membership of the choir is open, without audition, to all who can meet the weekly commitment. An auditioned Octet, known as The Consort, is at the core of the choir, its members acting as section leaders supporting less-experienced singers. The Choir sings at Sunday Choral Evensong, a few occasional services, and one or two special events throughout the year, with two rehearsals a week (Thursday and Sunday evenings). The College provides free singing lessons every week during term time to choir members. Choir tours take place every year, most recently to Italy, Hong Kong and China, Georgia and Germany. Together we maintain both a high standard of music, and a warm, inclusive character.

### **Supervision and Support**

The college recognises that Organ Scholars will need support, both practically and musically. This is provided by the Chapel Music Co-ordinator, a professional musician, whose own passion for church music is shared with the organists he works with! They meet once a week, and the Chapel Music Co-ordinator's own experience and musical connections play an important part in helping to nourish and resource the work of the Organ Scholars. The Chapel Music Co-ordinator and the Chaplain are keen to help Organ Scholars to balance the demands on their time so that they are fully able to achieve their academic potential, which is the priority for any student. Meanwhile the College simply enjoys raising the profile of Chapel music, valuing highly our Organ Scholars and the work they do, and being open to whatever potential musical developments come our way.

### **Other Benefits**

Organ Scholars receive £450 per year. Organ Scholars receive a generous allowance of organ and conducting lessons, at present provided by Steven Grahl and Paul Spicer respectively. They are also encouraged to take up singing lessons as offered to the choir. The College also pays for Organ Scholars to have one attempt at each of the Associateship and Fellowship Examinations of the Royal College of Organists. As a Scholar, the holder is entitled to dine in Formal Hall free of charge on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Organ Scholars are allocated some of the best rooms in college for the duration of their course, and will have an electronic piano in their rooms. Their Scholars' Gowns are provided by the College.

Want to know more? Look at our website:

[www.jesus.ox.ac.uk](http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk)      <http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/admissions/a-week-in-the-life-of-the-organ-scholar>  
and other pages at <http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/about/jesus-college-chapel>

The Chaplain would be delighted to meet and chat with you if you have any questions:

chaplain@jesus.ox.ac.uk 01865 279757

## KEBLE COLLEGE

Keble College boasts one of the finest mixed choirs in Oxford and the most luxurious acoustical space in the city – a sought after recording venue for many prominent ensembles. It is also home to what is arguably the best organ in Oxford: a four-manual, 43-stop Tickell instrument, recently expertly revoiced by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy.

The liturgy and music at Keble has a distinctive flavour within Oxford. Latin polyphony and Gregorian chant feature prominently and provide a basis for a broad repertoire of choral music ranging from the sixteenth to twenty-first centuries. Choral award holders all receive regular vocal tuition and masterclasses, and some of them have gone on to sing with groups such as Genesis Sixteen and the Voces8 Scholars. A number of former organ scholars now occupy prominent posts within the profession.

The choir undertakes regular foreign tours and in recent years has performed in France, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sweden. Closer to home, we featured in the 2018 Cheltenham International Festival of Music, singing a concert which included Duruflé's Requiem, and will return to the Edington Arts Festival in December 2021. We regularly broadcast Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 and our CD recording of Francesco Valls: 'Missa Regalis' was described on BBC Record Review as "a really confident performance, and a splendid recording".

**Duties and Schedule:** During Full Term the choir sings three choral services per week: Eucharist on Sunday at 5.30pm followed by Formal Hall, Evensong on Wednesdays at 6pm, and Compline on Thursdays at 9pm. We rehearse every Thursday from 5.15-6.45pm.

### **Choral Scholarships:**

There are eight choral scholar vacancies (SATB) for entry in 2022. Applicants should be of approximately Grade 8 ABRSM (or equivalent) standard with a fluent sight-reading facility and a desire to develop their solo singing.

Choral scholars can expect:

- To sing regularly in the finest and most generous acoustic in Oxford
- Free singing lessons and vocal masterclasses with distinguished singers and coaches
- An annual stipend and regular free meals
- Frequent foreign tours
- To participate in regular BBC Radio broadcasts and recordings
- To take part in the annual Keble Early Music Festival

### **Organ Scholarships:**

The organ scholarship is available for entry in 2022. Organ scholars must apply to read Music.

Organ scholars can expect to:

- Accompany the choir up to three times per week during Term
- Have opportunities to conduct the choir, give organ recitals and perform on recordings, broadcasts and foreign tours
- Receive an annual stipend and various regular free meals in College
- Receive free organ, conducting and vocal tuition

For more information please email [music@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:music@keble.ox.ac.uk) and visit [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/music](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/music)

## LADY MARGARET HALL

**Lady Margaret Hall (LMH)** is located in spacious riverside grounds beside the University Parks. The College was founded in 1878 with a dual passion for learning and for equality, making it possible for the first time for women to study at Oxford; today, as a vibrant co-educational academic community of 400 undergraduate and 180 postgraduate students, the College is committed to scholarship, teaching, and learning for students from all backgrounds.

**The Chapel** at LMH is a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone – and ‘everyone’ really does means ‘everyone’ – is welcome. Open every day for prayer if you are the praying sort, or for anyone who wishes simply to light a candle and enjoy the atmosphere, the Chapel building is Byzantine in style and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott; inside, it is light and airy and has a pleasingly resonant acoustic. Christian worship is offered regularly, and all members of College and members of the public are welcome to attend.

**LMH Chapel Choir** is a friendly non-auditioned choir, supported by eight auditioned choral scholars, two organ scholars, and the Director of Chapel Music. The Choir sings a service every Friday evening during term, performing diverse repertoire to a good standard in a relaxed environment. LMH is not part of the inter-collegiate choral scholarship scheme, and choral scholarships are awarded after admission to choir members selected by audition.

**Organ Scholars** at LMH play a vital role, assisting the Director of Chapel Music in conducting, accompanying, and preparing the choir for weekly services and rehearsals as well as extra concerts, events, and tours. Organ Scholars are also at the heart of LMH’s extensive musical activities, where they can pursue their own projects and make use of facilities such as the College’s 1934 Harrison organ, two-manual harpsichord, and seven grand pianos (including one Steinway A). In short, Organ Scholarships are a brilliant opportunity to develop your all-round musical skills!

There are usually two Organ Scholars at LMH at any one time, both of whom receive:

- three one-hour conducting lessons per term, given by Paul Spicer
- four one-hour organ lessons per term, given by Stephen Farr
- a stipend of £500 per year, with opportunities for paid extra services
- accommodation in specifically-designated rooms with pianos, and priority in room balloting

This is in addition to the perks open to all members of LMH Chapel Choir; two free meals per week, SCR drinks, and lots of fun choir socials including inter-college choir football, overseas tours, and Christmas dinner cooked by the Chaplain! Organ Scholars also run LMH Chamber Choir, a small auditioned group which covers a range of sacred and secular repertoire and which sings one or two services or concerts per term.

LMH is part of the inter-collegiate organ scholarship scheme, organised centrally by the Music Faculty. In general we expect candidates for Organ Scholarships to have developed some skills in organ playing before they start at LMH, but the main things we’re looking for are enthusiasm, potential, and a willingness to learn – and we’re also very happy for potential applicants to visit LMH informally, to meet students, see the Chapel and organ, and get a feel for what we do.

Further information can be found at [www.lmh.ox.ac.uk](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk), but if you have any questions, need advice, or just want to find out more, please do contact the Director of Chapel Music at [paul.burke@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:paul.burke@lmh.ox.ac.uk). We’d be glad to have you as part of the team of scholars at LMH!

## LINCOLN COLLEGE

### **Organ Scholarships:**

Lincoln offers two organ scholarships at any one time. Organ Scholars may read Music, English, Engineering, or Biochemistry. Between them, they accompany the choir and assist the Chapel Precentors with the organisation of services, concerts and tours. The organ scholars may also be given the opportunity to conduct the choir.

The Hillingsworth Organ Scholar receives an annual stipend of £500, while the Junior Organ Scholar receives £350 per annum. The college also pays for organ lessons. Both scholars are guaranteed accommodation with a piano in college for all three years of their study. There is also a grand piano in the College's Oakeshott Room available for practice and recitals. For details of our fantastic Drake organ please visit our website.

### **Choral Scholarships:**

Lincoln does not participate in the inter-collegiate choral scholarship scheme, so there is no need to apply and audition before you start your course. Choral Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded post-admission, from among the choir members selected by audition. Both Scholars and Exhibitioners receive an annual stipend of £100, and free weekly singing lessons. For further information please visit our website (link below).

We are happy to hear from prospective candidates at any time. Please contact us via the email address or website below.

Chaplain: Melanie Marshall

Email – [lincolnchapelchoir@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnchapelchoir@gmail.com)

Website - <http://www.lincolncollegechapelchoir.com>

## MAGDALEN COLLEGE

Magdalen College was founded in 1458 and its beautiful chapel has been home to a number of distinguished musicians in their role as choristers, organ and choral scholars and as Informator Choristarum (the ancient title still retained by the Director of Music). These include the composers John Sheppard, Sir John Stainer, Ivor Novello and Bernard Rose, the comedian Dudley Moore, the conductor Harry Christophers and singers John Mark Ainsley, Robin Blaze and Roderick Williams, amongst many others. The College is set in large grounds by the River Cherwell with medieval, classical, Victorian and modern buildings standing amidst expansive gardens, the famous Addison's Walk and Oxford's only deer park. There are many opportunities for broader musical activities in the College, which boasts a fine auditorium, and the College Music Society mounts regular concerts and recitals. The current Informator is Mark Williams and he is very happy to be contacted on [choir@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:choir@magd.ox.ac.uk) at any time, with a view to meeting prospective applicants informally. More information on the College and Choir may be found at [www.magd.ox.ac.uk](http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk) and [www.magdalencollegechoir.com](http://www.magdalencollegechoir.com) and the Choir has active Facebook and Twitter profiles.

### CHORAL & ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Those elected to Choral Scholarships (Academical Clerkships for alto, tenor and bass) at Magdalen are expected to commit fully to the Choir. Clerks enjoy a busy and varied schedule, and it is perfectly possible to balance choral duties with the demands of academic study. Clerks receive a number of benefits as part of their scholarship including a termly stipend, fees for recordings, concerts and other projects, singing lessons provided and paid for by the College, pianos in rooms, the opportunity to travel internationally through regular foreign tours (recent destinations have included Belgium, France and the USA), and a number of free meals.

The Academical Clerks sing four services per week with the boy choristers, who are educated at Magdalen College School, one service for lower voices only and, on Saturdays, the Clerks sing Evensong alongside female singers from the University in the College's recently-established and highly-regarded Consort of Voices, offering them the unique opportunity to sing regularly with both trebles and sopranos. A number of former Clerks from Magdalen have gone on to pursue successful musical careers, whilst others have entered a range of different professions. Although a certain level of technical ability is necessary, we also expect to train singers during their time here, so potential is just as important as proven ability. Good aural and sight-reading skills are desirable, owing to the range of music covered in a typical term. It is not required that those who sing be members of the Christian Church, but only that they be prepared to respect the traditions and purpose of the Chapel.

Candidates for Organ Scholarships are expected to have well-developed skills in organ playing to at least ABRSM Grade 8. They assist the Informator Choristarum in all aspects pertaining to the training of the Choir. Organ tuition is paid for by the College, and in addition to regular service playing and conducting, there are opportunities for continuo playing, concerts, tours, recordings and collaborations with professional instrumental ensembles. Organ Scholars are given accommodation in large rooms with a piano, and have regular access to the Chapel organs and other instruments in College. Magdalen organ scholars are normally required to read for a degree in Music and receive a number of benefits as part of their scholarship including free singing, organ and conducting lessons, free meals, and various other perks. Recent former organ scholars of Magdalen include a number of cathedral organists, conductors and composers.

Organ and Choral (ATB) Scholarships at Magdalen are open to all applicants, regardless of gender.

## MERTON COLLEGE

A Choral or Organ Award at Merton gives you the opportunity to make music in a medieval building renowned for its outstanding acoustics and to study in a vibrant academic community. The choir has toured in the USA, France, Italy and Sweden in the last few years, and has made a series of recordings for the Delphian label. A number of discs have been in the Classical Charts, and a recent recording led Gramophone to describe the choir as “one of the UK’s finest choral ensembles”. The choir regularly appears on BBC Radio 3, with the most recent broadcast being from St Peter’s Basilica in The Vatican. Concert work is often with professional orchestras and soloists, and recent works have included Bach’s Mass in B minor and Elgar’s The Dream of Gerontius. Merton has an active College music scene (Kodaly Choir, Fidelio Orchestra and a programme of weekly concerts), and the facilities include a Steinway Grand Piano in the TS Eliot Theatre and six music practice rooms. The Chapel is home to the annual ‘Passiontide at Merton’ festival and is in demand as a regular concert and recording venue.

### **Organ Scholarships**

The main duties of the Organ Scholars are to accompany the services and to assist with the running of the choir. Organ Scholars have full access to the 2013 Dobson Organ, which is one of the outstanding new organs built in Oxford in recent years. Regular tours, broadcasts and recordings offer exciting playing opportunities for the Merton Organ Scholars, and they regularly contribute to the weekly recital series in the Chapel. The two Organ Scholars between them are responsible for accompanying the College Choir in services on a Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, and the College Girls’ Choir on a Wednesday. There are conducting opportunities with both choirs in services and rehearsals. Organ Scholars receive an annual bursary of £500, an organ music allowance of £200 p.a., organ tuition, singing lessons and free Formal Hall after choral services. The College also reimburses expenses associated with professional development (e.g. examination and course fees). The organ scholars are fully involved in the choir projects outside term, for which the cost of accommodation, meals and travel are covered by the College.

### **Choral Scholarships**

As a Choral Scholar you would sing a wide range of music – works from the early Renaissance through to premieres of new pieces especially commissioned for the choir. The principal duties during term are singing at three services a week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday), together with occasional special services. Outside term, the choir undertakes an exciting programme of recordings, broadcasts and tours. A Choral Scholar receives £350 each year, free singing lessons (with Giles Underwood, Carys Lane or William Purefoy) and masterclasses with visiting teachers (most recently James Oxley, Steven Varcoe and Iain Burnside). All members of the choir receive free Formal Hall after choral services, and, for projects outside term, accommodation, meals and travel expenses.

Further information can be found at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk) and at [www.mertoncollegechoir.com](http://www.mertoncollegechoir.com) Benjamin Nicholas, the Director of Music, is happy to meet prospective candidates throughout the year; he can be contacted at [choir@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:choir@merton.ox.ac.uk)

## NEW COLLEGE

New College is the oldest of the Oxford choral foundations, and its student Organ Scholars and Academical Clerks (choral scholars) play a central role in the daily work of its famous choir.

### Academical Clerkships

**Academical Clerks** provide the alto, tenor and bass voice parts in New College Choir, together with the six professional Lay Clerks. They are admitted to the college on the basis of their ability and potential both as singers and as students. Former academical clerks include Toby Spence, Daniel Norman and Nick Pritchard, to name three tenors.

Like the organ scholars, clerks have a daily choir commitment (Wednesdays are the usual day off, and there is no Sunday morning commitment), and take part in all choir activities outside university term. They receive an annual bursary of £600, weekly singing lessons, and fees for concerts and recordings. A dedicated room in college is assigned throughout a clerk's tenure. New College plays host to a lively series of chamber concerts, and New Chamber Opera (directed by Professor Michael Burden, Tutor in Music) offers opportunities for young singers to participate in opera and masterclasses. In many choir concerts substantial solo movements are allotted to members of the choir as 'step-outs'.

### Organ Scholarships

The **organ scholars** assist the Organist (Director of Music) and Assistant Organist with the training of the choristers, taking particular responsibility for teaching the 'probationer' choristers; they play the organ in chapel services and organ recitals; they perform in concerts at home and on tour, and take part in choir recordings. New College Choir collaborates regularly with other ensembles, period instrument orchestras in particular, and organ scholars may expect to gain valuable experience (and enjoyment) from involvement in these projects, often as continuo players.

There are usually two organ scholars at any time; candidates are encouraged to apply to read Music, though various other subjects are capable of combination with the duties of an organ scholar. Candidates should in any event bear in mind that excellent organisation and time management are required in order successfully to fulfil the dual obligations of organ scholarship and degree, which are of equal importance. A gap year organ scholarship at a cathedral or similar institution is encouraged, since this gives a candidate a valuable opportunity to gain experience and learn repertoire. Many candidates apply post A-level, having already secured a placement for their gap year.

In addition to the daily term-time commitment, organ scholars are required to be in residence from early September and at other times outside university term, depending on choir activities. Special rooms in college are provided for the duration of the organ scholarship. Organ scholars receive an annual bursary of £750, in addition to which the college meets the cost of regular organ lessons and weekly singing lessons. In addition, organ scholars receive fees for performing in concerts and on recordings with the choir.

Further information about music at New College may be found on the college website [www.new.ox.ac.uk](http://www.new.ox.ac.uk), and the choir website [www.newcollegechoir.com](http://www.newcollegechoir.com) provides information about the choir, the organ, the current music list and forthcoming events, together with webcasts of recent services and a full discography of the choir's many recordings.

## ORIEL COLLEGE

Oriel is the fifth oldest of the Oxford Colleges. Its friendly environment, central location and elegant Stuart architecture make it a sought after destination for students in every academic discipline that it teaches.

### **The Chapel Choir**

The Chapel Choir is a mixed ensemble of about 30 singers. It sings in different configurations three times a week during term: Sunday Evensong, Wednesday Compline, and Thursday Eucharist. There are also occasional extra services, concerts and cathedral visits. The academic year culminates in a European tour (Portugal, Poland, Malta, France etc.). The choir cultivates a warm, blended tone suited to the intimate acoustic of the Chapel. Its repertory ranges widely across the historical corpus of sacred music with a particular commitment to contemporary music. In recent years it has premiered works by Judith Bingham, David Briggs, Phillip Cooke and Mark R. Taylor.

### **Organ Scholarships**

Organ Scholars are appointed so that there are two in residence at any one time. They play the organ for choral services, assist the Director of Music with the direction of the choir and Chapel music and are responsible for rehearsing and directing the Oriel Consort for Compline and Eucharist.

The organ scholarship is worth £400 a year, plus free organ and/or conducting lessons. Organ scholars are accommodated in specifically designated rooms on the main college site throughout the duration of their award. Free meals are provided after services. Additional fees are payable for weddings and memorial services.

Applicants will normally be at ABRSM Grade 8 level or higher. Assessment is directed, though, as much at potential as at achievement and it is sometimes possible to consider applicants who are not yet at the level if they demonstrate the potential to make rapid progress. Applicants need to be committed to the schedule of rehearsals and services and to continuing development of their instrumental technique and musicianship.

### **Choral Scholarships**

Choral Scholars sing at all choral services in the chapel. There are 16 choral scholars, and they provide vocal lead, assist with the running of the choir and take solos where appropriate. They constitute the Oriel Consort, which sings for Compline and Eucharist services.

The choral scholarship is worth £200 pa plus free singing lessons. Free meals are provided after services. Additional fees are payable for weddings and memorial services.

In addition to strong vocal qualities, applicants will normally have secure sight-reading or the facility to assimilate music quickly. Assessment aims to address potential as much as attainment. Applicants need to be committed to the choir's schedule of rehearsals and services and to continuing development of their vocal technique and musicianship.

### **Further information**

Further information on music in Oriel Chapel can be found at:

<http://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/about-college/chapel/choir-and-music>

Interested applicants for both organ and choral scholarships are encouraged to contact the Director of Music, David Maw, in advance of their applications:

[musicdirector@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:musicdirector@oriel.ox.ac.uk)

## PEMBROKE COLLEGE

### Organ Scholarships

Pembroke College aims to have two Organ Scholars in residence at all times. The next elections will be for commencement in October 2021. Although the Organ Scholar usually studies Music, this is not compulsory and candidates for the post wishing to read other subjects are encouraged to apply.

The Chapel features an organ by Fernand Létourneau, installed in 1995 at the instigation of the well-known organist David Titterington, a graduate of the College, with funding from the Damon Wells endowment. One of only a few examples of Létourneau's work in Europe, it was specifically designed to accommodate the needs of an Oxford chapel in terms both of accompanying choral worship and performing a wide range of organ literature. Following consultation with Gillian Weir and Lawrence Phelps, the organ incorporates a good suspended tracker action and complete two-manual and pedal specification. Since its inauguration by Gillian Weir it has attracted many celebrated recitalists.

Pembroke has a thriving music society and attracts talented musicians from a wide range of academic disciplines. The Choir, Chapel and Organ Scholars enjoy significant support and encouragement from the Master and Governing Body, and enthusiastic appreciation from the Chaplain, Rev Andrew Teal, and the College's Tutor in Music, Dr Guy Newbury. The Senior Organ Scholar is responsible for the organisation and conduct of the musical side of the chapel services with the Chaplain. This consists of weekly Choral Evensong on Sunday evenings during term time (one Choral Eucharist per term), and further occasional services on special events. The Organ Scholar receives payment for weddings and occasional offices, as well as feasting at Gaudy celebrations if she or he can present. The Senior Organ Scholar trains and directs the Chapel Choir, and is expected to act as an animator of other music in the College. The Senior Organ Scholar inducts the Junior Organ Scholar to assist, deputise, and eventually, to succeed him/her. The Junior Organ Scholar will assist the Senior Organ Scholar in the performance of his/her responsibilities, become sufficiently familiar with those responsibilities to be able to succeed to them, and take part in the musical life of the college. Throughout their tenure both Organ Scholars receive an award of £300 pa, a termly contribution towards the cost of music tuition, a room on the main college site (for which the normal charge is made) and access to all College pianos including the Steinway D, housed in the Pichette Auditorium, and the Kawai grand housed in the Chapel.

Any considering application for these posts are encouraged to contact the College, and to visit at a convenient time to play the organ and meet current Organ Scholars, Chaplain, and Tutor in Music.

## THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE

Queen's Choir was recently described by *BBC Music Magazine* as 'an undoubted jewel in Britain's choral scene'. Becoming part of the choral establishment at Queen's enables you to give professional concerts around the world, perform with leading orchestras and regularly make CD recordings and BBC broadcasts, and can provide all-round training for those aiming at a career in the profession. Queen's records on the Signum label, the label of The King's Singers and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. The choir's last CD was awarded a *Diapason d'Or*. Queen's Choir has recorded at the world-famous Abbey Road studios, for the soundtrack of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Tours in recent years have included China, the USA, Sri Lanka, Italy, Portugal, and Germany. With three choral services a week in term, the demands allow ample time for other commitments. The musical facilities at Queen's are outstanding, including an award-winning auditorium with Steinway piano and state-of-the-art recording equipment permanently installed in the chapel, allowing webcasting of choral services and for students to record their own performances. Prospective applicants are welcome to contact Professor Rees at any time of year. Scholarship 'taster' days – an opportunity to sing with the Choir for Evensong, have dinner in Hall, and meet the Director of Music – are available throughout the academic year.

### Organ Scholarships

Organ Scholarships at Queen's provide opportunities to work within one of the UK's finest university choral establishments and to play a world-class organ. Queen's always has two Organ Scholars, who play for services, concerts, recordings, and broadcasts, including opportunities to perform as continuo players with professional ensembles such as the Academy of Ancient Music. They also assist with the training and running of the choir, and have regular opportunities to conduct services. They help to run the organ recital series, which attracts top players from the UK and abroad.

The organ at Queen's is recognised as one of the finest in the UK. Built by Frobenius in 1965, it set the standard for the classical organ revival in Britain. Its design and voicing make it a consummately musical and notably flexible instrument in terms of the repertoire which it can successfully project. The College is currently commissioning a new chamber organ, and the chapel also has a fine two-manual harpsichord.

The Organ Scholarship is worth £800 each year, including funding for organ, conducting, and singing lessons. Organ Scholars at Queen's study with leading organists. They have large en-suite rooms on the main college site, with piano, for the duration of their course.

Former Organ Scholars have gained significant posts in the profession, including Organist at Wells Cathedral, Director of Music at St Andrews University, and Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral.

### Choral Scholarships

Choral Scholarships at Queen's are open to all voices, including both male and female altos, and Choral Scholars can study any of the academic subjects offered by the College. Queen's choir's schedule is rich enough to provide a focused and exciting choral experience, but also allows Choral Scholars to pursue a variety of other interests, and ensures that there is plenty of time for student life.

The duties of the Choral Scholars are to sing at the three weekly choral services in term-time and the choir's concerts. Scholars receive an award to the value of £840 a year, which includes funding for singing lessons. In addition, dinner (formal hall) is provided free of charge after every choral service. Up to eight Choral Scholarships are available each year. We have no strict quota for each voice type in a given year.

Many Choral Scholars gain scholarships to study postgraduate singing at the conservatoires. Former Choral Scholars have gone on to sing with such top professional groups as the Monteverdi Choir, The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen, and the BBC Singers, and alumni have appeared as soloists with major opera companies such as the Royal Opera.

The Director of Music, Prof. Owen Rees, is very happy to be contacted by prospective applicants at any time on [choir@queens.ox.ac.uk](mailto:choir@queens.ox.ac.uk). For further information, see [www.queenschoir.com](http://www.queenschoir.com)

## ST EDMUND HALL

St Edmund Hall has a vibrant music scene with the College Choir at its centre. Organ and Choral Scholars take an active part not only in chapel music making but also in the activities of the College Music Society. The choir has two homes: our intimate seventeenth-century chapel, famed for its later Burne-Jones and William Morris glass, and the magnificent twelfth-century Cistercian Abbey in Pontigny, Burgundy (where St Edmund is laid to rest) where we reside for a week in September.

Organ Scholarships are usually available in two out of every three years. The Organ Scholarships are currently worth £300 per year, in addition to which money is available for organ, conducting and singing lessons. Organ Scholars are accommodated in College and have rooms with a piano or electric piano.

The Organ Scholars assist the Director of Music, Dr James Whitbourn, in the running of the chapel music. In addition to playing the chapel organs and harpsichord, they play a significant part in the organisation of the choir and are called upon to contribute repertoire ideas, assist with the training of the choir and undertake other related musical duties. They also receive tuition in conducting and have opportunities to conduct rehearsals and performances. The Organ Scholars also assist the Director of Music in arrangements made for the summer choir tour to Pontigny and any other outside events.

We encourage applications both from experienced organists and also from musicians with excellent keyboard skills for whom organ playing is still a developing study. Organ Scholars have a two manual classical instrument by Wood of Huddersfield at their disposal and they have the opportunity to learn the discipline of continuo playing on our beautiful Robin Jennings chamber organ and Andrew Garlick harpsichord. The college also has a Steinway B grand piano and several other pianos, including a Bechstein, which the organ scholars can access.

Choral Scholarships (up to 8 Choral Scholarships and up to 4 Choral Exhibitions) are offered by the College on the basis of auditions held both through the central university system and later through the internal college system.

Choral scholarships are currently worth £200 per year and singing lessons are provided throughout the year by the College singing teachers. In addition, Choral Scholars receive extra tuition and mentoring from visiting vocal teachers as part of various annual projects.

The choir is made up of about 25 members of St Edmund Hall and rehearses every Saturday morning before brunch, and on Sunday afternoon before Evensong. During full term, they sing at the Sunday service (usually at 5:30pm) in the College Chapel, and then eat at Formal Hall (free of charge for choir members) afterwards. The choir is also active outside Chapel and performs at various events over the academic year. In the past year, this has included the St Edmund's Feast dinner, Christmas Carols in the Quad, concerts and a medieval mystery play. Recent tours have seen them travel to France and Poland and to several UK Cathedrals.

The duties of Organ and Choral Scholars can be combined with the requirements of any undergraduate course offered by the College (please note that the list of courses offered does not include music).

The Director of Music, Dr James Whitbourn is always pleased to hear from potential candidates ([james.whitbourn@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:james.whitbourn@seh.ox.ac.uk)) and is happy to describe the life of a Choral or Organ Scholar at St Edmund Hall. Further information about the Scholarships can be found at <https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/organand-choral-scholarships>

## SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

**Somerville College Choir** is the place for you if you want to be part of an ambitious yet supportive choir that's professionally directed and meets to rehearse and perform only twice per week. Its members flourish within an atmosphere of inclusion, mutual respect, and good humour, achieving a very high standard of performance. It is the only auditioned college choir to sing as part of a non-denominational format in the weekly service, meaning our repertoire draws from a diverse range of secular works in addition to favourite anthems from the Anglican choral tradition. A significant proportion of our output is by female composers and/or poets.

Somerville College Choir plays a central role in the life of the college - including singing services and regular concerts within the fine acoustics of the College Chapel, and supporting the college's endeavours elsewhere in the UK and abroad. Dinner and wine is provided each Sunday evening, and the choir also sings and dines at the major college dinners through the year, all of which are free of charge.

The **regular weekly commitments** are:

- Thursday afternoon rehearsal (5.15-6.45pm)
- Sunday evening service of Choral Contemplation (3.45-5pm rehearsal for 5.30pm service, with refreshments provided during the break)

Concerts, often in conjunction with the excellent Somerville Music Society, range from full operatic productions through oratorios and other choral and orchestral works, including biannual performances of Bach's John Passion. The choir has toured the USA and Europe several times in recent years. In December 2018, the choir was the first Oxford college choir to visit India. Upcoming tours include Hong Kong & Singapore and the USA, in addition to plans for a new CD recording.

Somerville offers up to eight **Choral Scholarships** each year to join the 28-strong choir. Scholarships are open to applicants wishing to read any subject at Somerville and for any voice part. Choral Scholars receive free singing lessons and have plenty of solo-singing opportunities. Masterclasses over the last year have taken place with Ben Parry (Director of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain), Rachel Nicholls, and The King's Singers. Choral Scholars also give an annual recital of solos and duets and have the opportunity to put on their own recitals. Recent Somerville Choral Scholars can currently be found at the Royal College of Music and in the group VOCES8.

**Organ Scholars** at Somerville are provided with an honorarium of £300pa, as well as £750pa for organ, conducting, and singing lessons, as well as the purchasing of sheet music. Like every undergraduate at Somerville, they are guaranteed rooms in college for the duration of their course. The College also subsidises expenses associated with professional development (eg. RCO examinations or course fees). Organ Scholars take a leading role in fostering all aspects of the choir's activities – the exact commitments vary from scholar to scholar, but all organ scholars play, conduct, and sing as part of their role. The organ is by Harrison & Harrison. There is also a Steinway grand piano within the chapel, as well as a two manual harpsichord. There are at least two organ scholars at any one time.

The **Director of Chapel Music** is Will Dawes ([william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk)), a choral professional who was trained in conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and is also a member of Stile Antico – a triple GRAMMY nominated vocal ensemble. Will is available throughout the year and would be delighted to meet prospective Choral and Organ Scholars and/or provide further details about Organ and Choral Scholarships at Somerville.

## **ST PETER'S COLLEGE**

The Choir of St Peter's comprises some 25 mixed voices. It has an established reputation in Oxford, and further afield, for its choral excellence, diverse repertoire, and collegiality. During University term, it sings two Choral Evensongs in chapel a week, under its professional director, Quintin Beer. The choir gives at least three concerts over the year, with the possibility of regular recordings and tours (in 2016 the choir visited Israel & Palestine, and in 2019 Eastern Europe). St Peter's College students are not generally expected to contribute to the costs of these tours. The choir can also boast one of the most cherished acoustics in Oxford in its impressive chapel.

The choir values friendship, high musical standards, and commitment. Music plays a significant role in the life of the college and the choir is a valued part of the College's culture. Choral and organ scholars can therefore expect to enjoy substantial privileges that accompany membership.

### **Organ Scholarships**

There are two organ scholars at St Peter's at any one time. Organ scholars at St Peter's are required to follow the Music degree course, as one of five students admitted to the College each year to read Music. Organ scholars receive organ tuition from Stephen Farr, and also formal tuition in choral conducting and singing. They are given rooms in College throughout the three years of their undergraduate study. Academic studies are supervised by Tutorial Fellow Dr Sarah Hill and stipendiary lecturer Dr Andrew Gant. Organ scholars at St Peter's have practice keyboards in their room and full access to the coveted Father Willis grand organ, the Nicholson chamber organ, the Goble harpsichord, and the recently restored Blüthner grand piano, all of which are meticulously maintained and housed in the chapel. The organ scholars regularly have the opportunity to direct the choir and the senior organ scholar acts, when required, as the deputy Director of Music.

### **Choral Scholarships**

St Peter's offers two dozen undergraduate choral scholarships (roughly eight per year across all voices: countertenors and female altos are equally welcome). St Peter's also offers four postgraduate scholarships of £1,250 each per annum. A choral scholarship can always be found for a candidate who shows real promise and who is interested in singing at St Peter's. Choral scholars may study any subject offered by the college (a complete list is available at [spc.ox.ac.uk](http://spc.ox.ac.uk), but briefly, subjects not offered include Biomedical Sciences, Classics, Computer Science, Fine Art, Materials Science, Oriental Studies, and Psychology). Undergraduate choral scholars at St Peter's are paid £300 per year and entitled to free singing lessons (provided by the College). Choral scholars live in college for their first and third years, and will generally have a practice keyboard in their college room if they are studying Music. Members of the choir are entitled to free Formal Hall on Thursdays after Evensong.

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### Organ Scholarships

Univ considers applicants for Organ Scholarships in each academic year and usually has at least two in residence at any one time. For 2021, applicants will be welcomed straight from school, or after a gap year. Organ Scholars are not required to be studying for a music degree, but applicants should consult the College to ask about the compatibility of certain subjects with Organ Scholarships.

Organ Scholars are each awarded an annual stipend of £500. They are also offered organ, conducting and singing lessons at the College's expense, and are permitted to wear a Scholar's Gown. Each Organ Scholar may have either a piano or an electronic keyboard in his or her room. They also have access to the grand pianos in the College Hall, Master's Lodgings and 10 Merton Street Lecture Theatre, a fine Peter Collins box organ, and the newly refurbished Walker organ in the Chapel which is available for practice each day and evening.

They work closely with the Director of Music, who oversees their training and development as musicians, and with the Chaplain. Their duties include accompanying the choir, playing before and after services, and conducting some rehearsals and services. However, The Director of Music conducts most services. When not playing, they are expected to sing in the choir, thus giving them a fuller experience of being on both sides of the conductor's stand. There is usually one sung service each week – most often Choral Evensong, but sometimes a Sung Eucharist – as well as rehearsals on Wednesday and Friday evenings, so the time-commitment expected of an Organ Scholar is relatively modest. The repertoire is wide-ranging, and Organ Scholars are encouraged to develop their own interests. There are also opportunities to involve other instrumentalists in chapel services, and to organise concerts and tours, as well as play with Univ's ensemble in residence, The Martlet Ensemble ([www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music)).

The Choir also tours (Malaga, Paris, Prague, Florence, Dublin and Belfast, Luxembourg and Venice in the last six years) and performs concerts in Oxford, London and elsewhere in the UK. In 2016 the Choir released a CD of Advent Carols, entitled Dayspring Bright and in 2019 released a Lent and Passiontide disc; Redeeming Cross ([www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music)). More recordings are planned.

### Choral Scholarships

Univ considers applicants for Choral Scholarships in each academic year. Awards may be made to Sopranos, Altos (including counter-tenors and mezzo-sopranos), Tenors and Basses, but there is no strict quota for any one part. Choral Scholars are able to read any subject offered by the College (please check the College website for details of which subjects). They are each awarded an annual scholarship of £150, are offered singing lessons paid for by the College, and are permitted to wear a Scholar's Gown. It is expected that Choral Scholars will take a central role in the life of the choir, and that they will also be active in the wider musical life of the college.

Choral Scholarships are also awarded internally, i.e. after a student has already begun his or her degree ([www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music)).

There is usually one sung service each week – most often Choral Evensong, but sometimes a Sung Eucharist – as well as rehearsals on Wednesday and Friday evenings, so the time-commitment expected of a Choral Scholar is relatively modest. There are also opportunities to organise and participate in concerts, tours and recordings, as mentioned above. Choral Scholars may also get the opportunity to sing in Martlet Voices, Univ's solo voice professional consort in residence. More details can be found at ([www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music)).

Giles Underwood, Director of Music, is always pleased to hear from prospective Organ and Choral Scholars and can be reached via email, [giles.underwood@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:giles.underwood@univ.ox.ac.uk).

## WORCESTER COLLEGE

Worcester College was founded in 1714 on the site of a Benedictine house of studies dating from 1283. Today its beautiful 18th-century Chapel is home to a varied and dynamic programme of services and concerts, run by the Director of Chapel Music and organ scholars. Uniquely in Oxford it maintains two choirs, which share the duties of singing services in the chapel week by week. Two services per week are sung by the boy trebles and choral scholars, and two are sung by the undergraduate sopranos and choral scholars. The organ scholars at Worcester College are involved in four choral services per week (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday).

The coexistence of the two choirs provides a unique opportunity for them to hone the musical skills needed for a career in music, including: organ and keyboard playing, continuo realisation, conducting, working with boy trebles, and training and rehearsing a choir. The Choral scholars appointed by competitive audition will gain experience in preparing and performing a wide range of service music with a high turnover of repertoire; rehearsing for and performing in concerts in Oxford, London, and elsewhere; and working on technique and solo repertoire with professional tuition.

### Organ Scholarships

#### Duties:

The different activities of the two choirs and the number of services and engagements for the choirs means that the duties and responsibilities of a Worcester organ scholar falls somewhere between the college chapels entirely run by professional staff and those where an organ scholar runs the choir. By the time an organ scholar is in their third and senior year, they are able and encouraged to take a leading role in conducting, planning and training the choirs alongside the Director of Music and it is this responsibility with both the choristers and mixed choir that makes this such a unique opportunity. The choirs at Worcester are auditioned and perform to a high standard, performing a huge span of repertoire including regular commissions.

A typical day for a Worcester organ scholar might involve (in addition to academic work): rehearsing a group of choristers, playing for Evensong, rehearsing with a choral scholar for a performance in a recital, posting something to the choir's Twitter or Facebook page, having an organ, conducting or singing lesson, conducting the mixed choir in Evensong.

#### Benefits:

In recognition of the commitment of an organ scholar, and to enable students to develop a wide range of skills, Worcester College provides its organ scholars with:

- Organ lessons
- Conducting lessons
- Singing lessons
- A £200 stipend
- A large suite of rooms in College with a piano
- Free three-course meals after each service
- Financial support towards study trips
- Separate help and tuition towards organ diplomas
- Annual tours with the choirs and regular trips within the UK and abroad

### Choral Scholarships

#### Duties:

Worcester choral scholars rehearse for an hour before each service and at a weekly plenary rehearsal. Other rehearsals take place in preparation for major performances. All scholars take part in all activities of the Choir for which they are engaged.

#### Benefits:

In recognition of the commitment of a choral scholar, and to enable students to develop a wide range of skills, Worcester College provides its choral scholars with:

- Singing lessons
- A £200 stipend
- Free three-course meals after each service
- Annual tours with the choirs and regular trips within the UK and abroad

### Further information

Please see the Chapel website for news, details of services, and the choir's blog [www.worcesterchapel.co.uk](http://www.worcesterchapel.co.uk).

The Assistant Chaplain, Matthew Cheung-Salisbury ([matthew.cheung-salisbury@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.cheung-salisbury@worc.ox.ac.uk)), is always pleased to hear from and meet potential candidates, and is happy to answer any questions.