

**INFORMATION ON ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS
IN THE COLLEGES AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY
APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY IN 2019/20**

***Please note this information refers to applications for entry in 2019/2020.
Information for entry in 2020/2021 will be updated soon.***

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)
QUEENS COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
ST EDMUND HALL (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
SOMERVILLE COLLEGE (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS AND CHORAL EXHIBITIONS)
ST PETER'S COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
WORCESTER COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

BALLIOL COLLEGE

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Balliol Chapel houses a three manual, electric action Harrison organ. This is one of the larger college organs, and it fulfils the purpose of accompanying both congregation and choir very well, providing a warm diapason tone on which to build. As a solo instrument it handles all genres well. The College is unique in that it also possesses a second organ in the Hall, a splendid Willis instrument previously played at the beginning of special meals and some other events. The College is currently in the process of arranging for the organ to be thoroughly refurbished.

Balliol usually elects an Organ Scholar every alternate year, and the post is normally held for three years. During your first year, you are an assistant to the Senior Organ Scholar, and the responsibilities increase during your time. As with all Organ Scholars, you would be given rooms in college for the duration of the scholarship. This means guaranteed College accommodation for your time at Balliol, and when you become the senior Scholar you occupy what is arguably the best set of student rooms in college next to chapel on the front quad. The scholarship itself is worth £300 in the first year, increasing to £500 for the remaining years. In addition, the College will pay for your organ lessons.

DUTIES

- Choose and direct all Chapel music for the weekly Evensong during term
- Plan a termly music list in advance
- Train and conduct the choir
- Play at Evensong for Gaudies (usually Saturday of 9th week of Hilary and Trinity Terms)
- Play at Evensong on the occasion of the Balliol Society Dinner (Saturday before 0th week of Michaelmas Term)
- Play (and if appropriate rehearse the choir) for any other occasional special events
- By arrangement, play at weddings and baptisms for old members (for which a fee of currently £150 and £50 respectively is charged)
- If/when the Hall organ is fixed, play before Dinner on special occasions - Gaudies, Balliol Society Dinner, etc., as advised by the Development Office
- Assist in the organization of occasional choir tours: in recent years, tours have been to Florence, Venice, and Sicily.

The Choir is one of the best and largest voluntary College Choirs in the University (peaking at around 30 last year), and comprises students from Balliol and other colleges, with a strongly cohesive and friendly atmosphere. It is trained by the organ scholars, who also choose and direct all of the chapel music; a termly music list is produced in advance. The major challenge in training a voluntary choir is being able to achieve your objective without upsetting the members, since no real punitive measures are in existence. Recent organ scholars have worked hard at building and maintaining a large and good choir, and this is seen as an important role in the life of the College.

The Choir sings at a weekly Sunday Evensong service and at several other special occasions throughout the year. The Choir sings one joint Mass per term with our neighbouring college, Trinity College, and this offers a great opportunity to work with other singers and Organ Scholars. This may not seem much but, given the academic pressures at Balliol, it is quite enough. In addition, the Choir frequently tours and performs concerts. Of recent times, the Choir has been to Sicily, Venice and Florence, has sung Evensong at Durham Cathedral, and participates in the annual Intercollegiate Evensong at the University

Church. The choir also performs occasional concerts. Recent concert arrangements have included a performance of the Fauré Requiem at the University Church, joint with other choirs across the University. Such events offer an excellent opportunity for the Organ Scholar to develop their orchestral conducting skills.

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 run by the two organ scholars in consultation with the College Lecturer and Advisor in Music. 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) and a small stipend as part of their awards.

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, Suzie Giles, at 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 and Dr Pardee at katharine.pardee@ccc.ox.ac.uk

Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby, Chaplain & Fellow
Dr Katharine Pardee, College Lecturer & Advisor in Music
Suzie Giles, Admissions and Access Officer
April 2018

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 0th week and end on Christmas Day

Hilary Term: Services start in 0th week and end on Easter Day

Trinity Term: Services start in 0th 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

ACADEMIC CLERKSHIPS

There are vacancies for 2019 and 2020. 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

There are vacancies for 2019. 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.
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- 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 Bodlean Library). The Senior Organ Scholar's set is one of the best in college.

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.

The next available year of entry for an organ scholar is October 2019.

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/my-hertford/chapel/about-chapel/choir>

Jesus College

Jesus College welcomes applicants as Organ Scholars to begin study as undergraduates in the following October. There are at least **two undergraduate Organ Scholars at any one time**. Applicants will be academically capable of gaining a place to read **Law, Music, Modern Languages, History, or Engineering**; and musically capable of playing the Jesus College Chapel Organ to a good standard. They 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 take a **lead in directing the Chapel Music themselves**, and do so with the **wholehearted support and careful supervision of the Chaplain** (a former Choral Scholar). Other highly-qualified musicians and organists who are members of our College community are also on hand to assist if need be. Organ Scholars also therefore get the opportunity to build a portfolio of highly transferable skills involving recruitment of musicians, communications, events organisation, music programming, social development, and basic administration, all as part of a team.

The **Organ** is an historically informed instrument, built in the early 19th 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, as well as sparkling in performance both on a secular level and in the worship offered in the Chapel. 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 **John Wellingham Organ Studies Library** for the University opened in Jesus in March 2017, providing easy access particularly for our organ scholars to a range of scores and musical literature that would often be beyond a student's pocket.

The **Choir** is led by the organ scholars with considerable support from the Chaplain. Rather than offering choral scholarships to a select few, the College provides free singing lessons every week during term time to anyone who wishes to join the choir, ensure that each member can benefit from such training. The Choir sings at Sunday Choral Evensongs, a few occasional services, and one or two special events throughout the year, with two rehearsals a week. Choir tours take place every year, most recently to Italy and Hong Kong and China, and in 2018 we plan to take up an ambassadorial invitation to the country of Georgia. We have just released a CD with Regent Records. Together we maintain both a high standard of music, and a warm, inclusive character.

The **Chapel** is well-attended and supportive of the music we offer. Passionate about musical outreach, and as a flagship of the Young Organ Scholars' Trust in Oxbridge colleges, we are also looking for ways to enthuse local secondary school students about music. We offer a variety of further opportunities such as Choral masterclasses arranged within the College with prominent English church musicians such as Andrew Parrot, Nicholas Cleobury and Kerry Beaumont. Recitals are welcomed, and Organ Scholars are further encouraged to make the most of their own individual musical skills and interests.

Supervision and Support

The college recognises that although this is an exciting task for a student organist, he or she will need support, both practically and musically. This is provided by the Chaplain, who happens to be a former Oxbridge Choral Scholar, and whose own passion for church music is shared with the organists she gets to work with! We all meet at least once a week, and the Chaplain's own experience and musical connections play an important part in helping to nourish and resource the work of the Organ Scholars. Through such regular discussions, the Organ Scholars also have the opportunity to grow in knowledge of liturgy and to reflect on the relationship between music and worship.

The Chaplain is also 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 a priority for any student.

Meanwhile the College simply enjoys raising the profile of Chapel music, highly valuing our Organ Scholars and the work they do, and being open to whatever potential musical developments come our way.

Other Benefits

Each Organ Scholar receives £450 per year.

Each Organ Scholar receives a generous allowance of organ and conducting lessons (which has not yet been exhausted by any of our scholars). At present the Organ Scholars receive lessons from both Steven Grahl and Paul Spicer respectively, and are also encouraged to take up some singing lessons as offered to the choir by David Crown.

The College also pays for each Organ Scholar 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. The Organ Scholars are allocated some of the best rooms in college for the duration of his or her course, each will have an electronic piano in their rooms.

The College also buys all scholars their Scholars' Gowns.

Future hopes: We are currently setting up a Friends of Music scheme which we hope will further resource our musicians, in particular through hands-on, ongoing mentoring by a professional Church Musician who would be present at all choral commitments and contribute significantly to the musical life of the Chapel.

Want to know more? Look at our website: 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:

The Revd Dr Megan Daffern, 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, since 2016, has performed in France, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong and Singapore. We have recently broadcast Choral Evensong twice on BBC Radio 3 and our CD recording of the music of William Hayes was described on BBC Record Review as "very punchy, bags of atmosphere, wonderfully balanced singing".

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. The choir also makes regular appearances outside Oxford; this year (2018) we will be performing at the Cheltenham International Festival of Music and the Edington Arts Festival.

Choral Scholarships:

There are six choral scholar vacancies (SATB) for entry in 2019. Candidates may now apply to read Music at Keble.

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*
- *a generous 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 2019 and 2020. 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
and visit www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/chapel/music-in-the-chapel

Lady Margaret Hall

Organ Scholarships at LMH

Scholars find themselves at the heart of a thriving musical culture, in which their initiative counts. Organ Scholars develop skills in choral accompaniment, conducting, administration and leadership, and organ study. Choral Scholars play a major role in our choir, receiving outstanding opportunities to participate in liturgical music as well as experience in performance, touring, and recording, and conducting if they wish. There are two Organ Scholars at LMH at any one time, and candidates for Organ Scholarships are expected to have developed skills in organ playing to at least ABRSM Grade 8 standard.

Organ Scholars assist the Director of Music in the training of the choirs and accompaniment of services. Student initiative is important to the life of LMH; with the guidance of the Chaplain and Director of Music, scholars have freedom to explore the riches of traditional church music. Scholars are also encouraged to contribute to the wider musical life of the college. The scope of activities depends very much on the initiative of the Senior Organ Scholar, with the support of the Junior Organ Scholar and Choral Scholars and Choral Scholar Deputies.

In recent years the LMH Chapel Choir has established itself as a lively and thriving college institution. We have a steady number of committed members who meet each week for a practice on a Friday afternoon (before dinner) and another practice on a Sunday afternoon, before singing for a Choral Evensong or Eucharist in the College Chapel. Previous highlights include singing evensong at St George's Chapel, Windsor, Coventry Cathedral, and a joint service with the choir of Pembroke College Cambridge. The choir went on tour to Rome in 2015 and Sicily in 2016.

The value of an LMH scholarship is £350 per annum, with grants for organ and singing tuition, and an annual grant to attend an organ course. Organ Scholars receive tuition from the Director of Music, in addition to lessons with agreed external teachers. Scholars are encouraged to participate in the Betts programme of classes and study visits. Other benefits include a room in College for three years, which includes a piano. The college has a double-manual harpsichord and now boasts a very fine 2004 Steinway, all of which are available for the use of the Organ Scholars.

Organ Scholars are appointed via the inter-collegiate admission process. Applicants for Choral Scholarships apply, via an audition process, once they are in residence. Prospective applicants are welcome to contact the Director of Music at any time, Dr Nicholas Prozzillo:
nicholas.prozzillo@lmh.ox.ac.uk

Commitment

Sunday rehearsal and service in Full Term

Week day rehearsal

Occasional extra services/concerts

Friday Evensong (four per term) with separate rehearsal (Sung by Scholars and Deputies)

The organ scholarship at LMH gives me a wide range of experience and skills - from solo and accompaniment organ playing to the leadership needed to successfully direct a choir.

Guy Steed ARCO (Second-Year Physics Student) Kaifeng Senior Organ Scholar

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

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 Renaissance composer John Sheppard, the Victorian composer Sir John Stainer, the comedian Dudley Moore, the conductor Harry Christophers and singers John Mark Ainsley 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, formerly of St Paul's Cathedral and Jesus College, Cambridge. He is very happy to be contacted on 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 and www.magdalencollegechoir.com and the Choir has active Facebook and Twitter profiles.

CHORAL & ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Those elected to **Choral Scholarships** (Academical Clerkships for countertenor, 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 (in the last year, destinations have included Poland and the USA), and a number of free meals.

The Academical Clerks sing Eucharist on Sunday morning, and Evensong on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday with the boy choristers, who are educated at Magdalen College School. There are ordinarily no services on a Monday. Evensong on Tuesday is sung by the boys alone, and on Friday by the Clerks alone. 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, it is understood that the spirit of the scholarship is one of education; we 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 Church of England or indeed any Christian Church, but only that they be prepared to respect the traditions and purpose of the Chapel.

Candidates for **Organ Scholarships** at Magdalen 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 the current Directors of Music of four Oxbridge colleges.

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 and at 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

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, Dan 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 – these include recordings and international concert tours. They receive an annual bursary of £600, free weekly singing lessons, and *per diem* payments on tours. 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, and the choir website 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

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 2019 and October 2020. 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
www.queenschoir.com

Queen's Choir was recently hailed 'one of the world's most renowned choirs' by Classic FM and the Director Owen Rees's interpretations of choral music have been described as 'revelatory and even visionary' (*BBC Music Magazine*). 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 enjoyed 10 weeks in the official charts. 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. 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, such as John Butt and James O'Donnell.

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. An Organ Scholarship will next be offered for undergraduates coming into residence in 2020.

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 £800 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.

St Edmund Hall

Organ Scholarships

Assuming all the offers made to date come to fruition, we have the following vacancies:

2019-2020: One

2020-2021: One

The organ scholarships are currently worth £300 a year, and in addition there is money available for organ and conducting lessons. The organ scholars prepare the termly music list in collaboration with the Director of Music, share the playing at the weekly Sunday service and Saturday morning rehearsal plus the occasional extra services in the college calendar and direct the chapel choir in the absence of the Director of Music. They also have the opportunity to arrange a short UK choir tour in the Christmas or Easter breaks. The Director of Music arranges the longer summer tour.

In addition to the main organ in chapel there is a fine one manual chamber organ and we encourage applications not only from organists but also keyboard players with an interest in choral conducting.

Choral Scholarships

Maximum of 8, ideally 2 per part, are available.

Assuming all the offers made to date come to fruition, we have the following vacancies (but we would be happy to elect scholars for any voice part):

2019: in total

Choral scholarships are currently worth £200 a year, and in addition there is money available towards the cost of singing lessons. There is one service a week, on Sunday evening, followed by a free dinner, and one rehearsal a week, on Saturday morning 10:30-12:00, plus a few compulsory college events at which the choir sings. Choral Scholars are entitled to take 2 weekends off a year with the agreement of the Director of Music. More detailed information is available on request.

Somerville College

Somerville College has a flourishing musical life and excellent facilities for music. Somerville College Choir is unique in being the only auditioned college choir to sing at weekly services but in a non-denominational format, meaning that the repertoire possibilities are much larger than any other college choir, including a significant quantity of secular works, in addition to anthems from the Anglican choral tradition.

Directed by Will Dawes (a professional singer, member of Stile Antico, and choral conductor trained at the Royal Academy of Music), the choir plays a central role in the musical life of the college, being involved in both services and regular concerts, all taking place within the fine acoustics of the College Chapel. The choir also provides entertainment at key dinners in the college hall through the year.

The regular commitments are a Thursday afternoon rehearsal, and Sunday evening Service where multiple works are performed each week to complement the intriguing talks on subjects arising from a wide range of different religious and ethical traditions. Dinner and wine is provided after the service, free of charge. Concerts, often in conjunction with the Music Society, range from full operatic productions through oratorios and other choral and orchestral works to solo recitals. Choral scholars also give an annual recital of solos and duets and have the opportunity to put on their own recitals. The choir has toured the USA twice in recent years, as well as visiting Germany and Italy, and has recorded several CDs. In December 2018, the choir will be the first Oxford college choir to visit India.

Choral Scholarships

Somerville offers up to eight Choral Scholarships each year, to applicants wishing to read any subject at Somerville, and for any voice type. Other Choral Exhibitions may be awarded to other members of the University on an annual basis. Scholars receive free singing lessons, as well as free dinner after each choral performance. Masterclasses over the last year have taken place with Ben Parry (Director of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain), Rachel Nicholls, and Giles Underwood.

Organ Scholarships

Organ Scholars at Somerville are provided with generous funding for organ, conducting, and singing lessons, and are guaranteed rooms in college for the duration of their course. The Organ Scholars take a leading role in fostering both the sacred and the concert aspects of the choir's activities – the exact commitments vary from scholar to scholar. The organ is by Harrison & Harrison. There is also a Steinway grand piano within the chapel, as well as a two manual harpsichord.

For further details about Organ and Choral Scholarships at Somerville, please contact the Director of Music (william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk). Will is available during the year to meet prospective Choral and Organ Scholars, and open days are taking place on 27th and 28th of June and 14th September 2018. More information is available from the college website: www.some.ox.ac.uk

St Peter's College

Organ Scholarships

There are two organ scholars at St Peter's. The college is looking to appoint an organ scholar in September 2018 to begin in October 2019. The college choir is conducted by Jeremy Summerly: there are two Choral Evensongs in chapel per week, at least three evening choir concerts per year, and the possibility of recordings and tours (the 2016 tour was to Israel & Palestine and a tour to Eastern Europe is planned for 2019); St Peter's College students do not pay to go on choir tours. Organ scholars at St Peter's are required to study Music, as one of five students per year who read Music within college. Organ scholars also receive organ tuition from Stephen Farr, study conducting with Paul Spicer, and have singing lessons from Nicholas Warden. Organ scholars live in college for all three years of their undergraduate degree; their academic studies are supervised by Dr Rachel Moore and Dr Andrew Gant and their practical studies by Jeremy Summerly. Organ scholars at St Peter's have practice keyboards in their room and full access to the Father Willis grand organ, the Nicholson chamber organ, the Goble harpsichord, and the Blüthner grand piano, all of which are meticulously maintained and reside exclusively in chapel. A St Peter's organ scholar generally welcomes the opportunity to direct the choir from time to time, and Jeremy Summerly is there to steer them through this process. Occasionally an organ scholar may not wish to conduct, and that is perfectly allowable, although by their second year, most organ scholars feel ready to assume some responsibility for training the choir. Certainly, the senior organ scholar is regarded as the deputy Director of Music where chapel is concerned, and this experience pays enormous benefits to St Peter's organ scholars in their life after Oxford. A St Peter's organ scholar is highly employable, both within the music business and outside of it.

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 generous 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, but briefly, subjects not offered include Biomedical Sciences, Classics, Computer Science, Fine Art, Materials Science, Oriental Studies, and Psychology). Undergraduate choral scholarships at St Peter's pay £300 per year and entitle the holder to singing lessons within college. St Peter's has two Choral Evensongs in chapel per week, at least three evening concerts per year, and the possibility of recordings and tours (the 2016 tour was to Israel & Palestine and a tour of Eastern Europe is planned for 2019); St Peter's College students do not pay to go on choir tours. Choral scholars live in college for their first and third years and will generally have a practice keyboard in their college room. The choir is conducted by Jeremy Summerly, who is responsible for all practical music-making within college, including the teaching of Keyboard Skills and Musicianship within the Music degree.

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. Applicants are 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. 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).

The Choir also tours (Paris, Prague, Florence, Dublin and Belfast, Luxembourg and Venice in the last five 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 further recordings are planned (www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/music).

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. 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).

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 and tours. Recent tours have been to Florence, Prague, Dublin and Belfast,

Luxembourg and Venice. In 2016 the Choir released a CD of Advent Carols, entitled Dayspring Bright. Their most recent disc of Lent and Passiontide music is about to be released and further recordings are planned (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.

Worcester College

Worcester College Chapel

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 to read the choir's blog www.worcesterchapel.co.uk. The Director of Chapel Music, Thomas Allery (thomas.allery@worc.ox.ac.uk), is always pleased to hear from and meet potential candidates, and is happy to answer any questions.