

INFORMATION ON ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE COLLEGES AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY IN 2024/5

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)
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CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)
EXETER COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
HERTFORD COLLEGE (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)
JESUS COLLEGE (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)
KEBLE COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
LADY MARGARET HALL (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)
LINCOLN COLLEGE (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)
MAGDALEN COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
MERTON COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
NEW COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
ORIEL COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
PEMBROKE COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
ST EDMUND HALL (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
ST PETER'S COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
SOMERVILLE COLLEGE (ORGAN AND CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS)
TRINITY COLLEGE (ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP ONLY)
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 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. 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, to Florence, Venice, Sicily, and Vienna.

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. We have eight Choral Exhibitioners (two per voice part), more experienced singers who support and encourage our volunteer choir. Alongside weekly Sunday Evensong, the Choir sings one Mass per term and an annual joint service with Hertford 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 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. We are always delighted to hear from prospective applicants.

BRASENOSE COLLEGE

Brasenose College is celebrated for its vibrant musical community and inclusive atmosphere. The college welcomes a new romantic style organ from early 2024. **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 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 at the college. **Choral Scholars** are offered a small honorarium (currently £150 per year) and up to four hours of vocal tuition per term free of charge with the college's singing teacher, and fees for other events. 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 from the firm of Orgues de Facto in Belgium. 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 with conducting tuition offered in addition. 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.

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, 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 2024 and 2025. 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.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Corpus Christi College has an active Chapel in which the music programme is co-led by the Director of Music and organ scholars, with additional 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, and regular Compline).

The Chapel choir currently numbers about 20-25 singers, and is made up of volunteers from the wider college community supported by 8 choral bursars, who receive singing lessons and a small stipend.

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 Director of Music, Dr Jonathan White, and College Lecturer and Advisor in Music, Dr Katie Pardee, provide 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, Dr Pardee is also his or her director of studies for the degree course. Conducting lessons can also be arranged by the College Lecturer in Music.

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 or on 01865 276693.

The Chaplain and Director of 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 White at jonathan.white@ccc.ox.ac.uk.

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

EXETER COLLEGE

Organ and Choral Awards at Exeter are unique: it is the only place in either Oxford or Cambridge where a choir, run by the Organ Scholar, sings three to four services a week. The Chapel is a significant part of College life, and both Choir and Chapel are well supported within the College.

The Organ Scholarship at Exeter has many benefits: it gives an unrivalled opportunity to develop as a fully-rounded musician through leading, conducting, organising, and supporting music making in the chapel. The Organ Scholars are supported by the Graduate Organist and Singing Teacher, who assist, mentor, and help to provide a supportive and enjoyable atmosphere in the College. The Chaplain is very supportive of the musicians, and in all matters all are required to work closely with him. He, and the College are committed to developing and nurturing young musicians. Former organ scholars have gone on to be cathedral organists, opera directors, music teachers, aeroplane pilots, as well as academic musicians.

The main responsibility of the Organ Scholars 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 organ playing as well as conducting skills. Other responsibilities involve choosing the music lists, organising tours and concerts (recently the choir toured Germany in 2022, Croatia in 2019, and Vienna, Bratislava & Budapest in 2017), and, along with the Singing Teacher, auditioning new members. There are significant rewards for Organ Scholars, including:

- An honorarium credited against battels.
- Excellent rooms in College for three years (with piano). The very spacious Senior Organ Scholar's set 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 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.

During the Pandemic the choir recorded and provided musical offerings and services, and, as the pandemic retreats further into the past, the choir, with its organ scholars, graduate organist, and singing teacher is looking forward to new and exciting ways to make music. This will include resuming singing evensong in cathedrals, going on tour, producing CDs, as well as expanding the choral repertoire through singing under-represented composers and commissioning new works, but also to provide an excellent, stimulating, enjoyable, and good musical education for both singers and organists. For more information please see: <https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/about/choir/> or email andrew.allen@exeter.ox.ac.uk

HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE

Harris Manchester is a college within which music is greatly valued and appreciated by the whole community. The college uniquely offers Organ Scholarships and Choral Scholarships equally to undergraduate or graduate students, without an upper age restriction. Harris Manchester College is for students who are over the age of 21 at the time of the start of their course.

Much of the college's music takes place within the walls of our large and beautiful chapel - with its famously complete and vibrant set of William Morris and Burne-Jones windows. The chapel is also well known for its large, romantic, 3-manual organ by Nicholson & Co Ltd. Unlike other college chapels in Oxford, it is not affiliated to the Church of England. Founded as a Unitarian Chapel, its college function today caters for a range of high-end cultural, artistic and faith traditions. Whilst our weekly services (each Wednesday) draw on several elements of Anglican Choral Evensong, its final form has greater freedom and inclusivity than is typically seen in most other college chapels.

Choral Scholarships

The choir is directed by a professional Director of Music, Dr James Whitbourn. Choral Scholars are required for the rehearsal and service on Wednesdays (4.45-5.30pm; 5.45-6.30pm) and for a rehearsal on Fridays (5-6.30pm) during Full Term (and the Friday immediately before Full Term). There are no regular weekend duties for Choral Scholars. The Wednesday service is followed by formal dinner, which Choral Scholars attend free of charge and at which they often sing grace. The choir occasionally sings at other college events, such as Carol Services, Ascension Day singing from the tower (followed by a delicious breakfast) and the annual garden party. Application can be via the university's intercollegiate scheme or by direct contact with the Director of Music. Choral Scholars receive a stipend of £200 per annum or £300 per annum for those with additional designated leadership roles.

Organ Scholarships

The Organ Scholarship comprises a double set of duties. As well as playing for the college's Wednesday choral services and attending Friday rehearsals (as listed above), the Organ Scholar also plays each Sunday morning during Full Term for Oxford's Unitarian community. At this hour-long service, the Organ Scholar plays a prelude, interlude and postlude together with three hymns. Previous Organ Scholars have noted that it provides an excellent opportunity to develop repertoire (or improvisational skills) and to play for an appreciative and supportive congregation. There is an expectation that the Organ Scholar will be fully involved in other aspects of the college's musical life and will work with the Director of Music to develop this, occasionally also conducting the choir. There is also a 2-manual pipe organ in the college's dining hall, and the Organ Scholar is sometimes asked to play this at college dinners and events. Application can be via the university's intercollegiate scheme or by direct contact with the Director of Music. The Organ Scholar receives a stipend of £1,200 per annum to cover all aspects of the role.

For further information or expressions of interest, please contact the Director of Music at james.whitbourn@music.ox.ac.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 of the College as a whole.

Jesus Organ Scholars work alongside the Chapel Music Co-ordinator, and do so with the wholehearted support of the Chaplain. 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 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. 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. The choir currently numbers over 40 members and 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 Consort often performs as a discrete ensemble, both during chapel services and also for college events. Consort members receive an honorarium of £300 per year, and additional fees are payable for events such as weddings. Auditions take place at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, or as vacancies arise (N.B. this is outside the central Choral Scholarship scheme). 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 evening and Sunday pre-Evensong). The College provides free singing lessons during term time for all choir members, as well as free Formal Hall on Sunday evenings. Choir tours take place every year, most recently to The Netherlands, 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 with whom he works. 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. 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 together with a generous allowance for organ and conducting lessons. They are also encouraged to take up singing lessons as offered to the choir. The College pays for Organ Scholars to have one attempt at each of the Colleague, 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 a digital 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

and other pages at <http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/about/jesus-college-chapel>

The Chaplain and the Chapel Music Co-ordinator would be delighted to meet you if you have any questions: chaplain@jesus.ox.ac.uk 01865 279757 | Chapel Music Co-ordinator: peter.parshall@jesus.ox.ac.uk

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 Finland, 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 2024. 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 2024. 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/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 mean ‘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
- four one-hour organ lessons per term
- 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, 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. We’d be glad to have you as part of the team of scholars at LMH!

LINCOLN COLLEGE

Organ Scholarships:

Lincoln College provides an amazing and unique opportunity for organ scholars to have full control and direction of a fully auditioned choir. Lincoln offers two organ scholarships at any one time. Organ Scholars may read Music, English, Engineering, or Biochemistry. Between them, they accompany and direct the choir for services, concerts, CDs and tours.

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 and conducting 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: Andrew Shamel

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 composers John Sheppard, Sir John Stainer, Ivor Novello and Bernard Rose, the comedian Dudley Moore, the conductor Harry Christophers, organist Anna Lapwood, 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 meet prospective applicants informally. Please email choir@magd.ox.ac.uk to arrange.

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 six services per week – four 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 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. A new four-manual organ by Eule Orgelbau was installed in 2022 and opened in January 2023. Organ and Choral (ATB) Scholarships at Magdalen are open to all applicants, regardless of gender.

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.

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 (most recently in 2022), France, Italy, Sweden, Hong Kong and Singapore in the last few years, and has made a highly successful 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”. In 2020 the choir won the BBC Music Magazine ‘Choral Award’. The choir regularly appears on BBC Radio 3, including a recent broadcast from St Peter’s Basilica in The Vatican. Concert work is often with professional orchestras and soloists and in 2023 the choir made its debut at the Barbican with the Britten Sinfonia. Recent works have included Bach’s Mass in B minor and St John Passion 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 £600, 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. The organ scholarship is available for entry in both 2024 and 2025.

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 £400 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 all costs associated with projects outside of term, including tours, are covered.

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, Benjamin Hulett and Nicholas Pritchard, to name three tenors.

Clerks have a near-daily choir commitment (Wednesdays are the usual day off, most Thursday services are sung by the choristers, 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 performances, including Bach Cantatas and Passions, 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, and 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, though in some years there is a single organ scholar. 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 Communion, and Thursday Compline. There are also occasional extra services, concerts and cathedral visits. The academic year culminates in a European tour (Poland, Malta, France, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic 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 usually 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.

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. However, our assessment process aims to discern potential for future development as well as achievement to date, and it is sometimes possible to consider applicants who are not yet at the level if there is evidence of a capacity for rapid progress. Applicants need to be committed to the schedule of rehearsals and services and to the continued 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 some Communion services.

The choral scholarship is worth £200 a year plus free singing lessons. Free meals are provided after services; and all choir members receive a stipend of up to £45 per term. 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. Our assessment process aims to address potential for future development as much as attainment to date. 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 2023. 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 streaming of choral services and for students to record their own performances. Prospective applicants are welcome to contact Professor Rees, the Director of Music, 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 has recently commissioned a new five-stop chamber organ by Robin Jennings, 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, Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral, Assistant Director of Music at St David's Cathedral, and Assistant Conductor at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

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. For further information, see www.queenschoir.com

ST EDMUND HALL

St Edmund Hall has a vibrant music scene with the college choir at its heart. 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 typically reside for a week in September. The mandatory duties of organ scholars and choral scholars are usually only at weekends.

Organ scholarships are 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 lessons (arranged by the college) and other music tuition as appropriate. Organ scholars are accommodated in college throughout their undergraduate years and have rooms with a high quality 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 part in the organisation of the choir and are called upon to contribute repertoire ideas, assist with the training of the choir when required and undertake other related musical duties. They also receive tuition in conducting and have opportunities to conduct rehearsals and performances.

Organ scholars have a well-maintained 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. The rhythm of college life dictates that the instruments are available to the organ scholars for most times on most days, making St Edmund Hall an excellent choice for organists who wish to develop their repertoire while maintaining manageable liturgical duties.

Choral awards (up to 8 Choral Scholarships and up to 8 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 professional singing teachers engaged by the college.

The choir is made up of about 25-30 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 Evensong (at 6.15pm), and then sing grace before formal dinner (provided 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 Feast, Carols in the Quad, concerts and a live Sunday Morning broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

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) 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>.

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, in 2019 Eastern Europe, and in 2023 The Netherlands). 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 Alex Flood, 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 Professor 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 usually 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 scholars at St Peter's are paid £300 per year and entitled to a number of singing lessons from Lucy Cox, Edmund Saddington and Daniel Norman. These lessons are paid for 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.

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

Somerville College Choir is an outstanding 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 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 the works the choir performs is by composers from underrepresented groups.

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)

Somerville College Choir plays a central role in the life of the college - including singing services and supporting the college's endeavours elsewhere in the UK and abroad. Dinner and wine are provided each Sunday evening, and the choir also sings and dines at the major college dinners throughout the year, all of which are free of charge. Concerts range from full operatic productions through oratorios and other choral and orchestral works, including biannual performances of Bach's St John Passion. As well as numerous concerts within the fine acoustics of the College Chapel over each year, the choir regularly appears in concerts with groups including the Instruments of Time and Truth, the Oxford Philharmonic, and the Basin St Brawlers. In December 2018, the choir was the first Oxford college choir to visit India. A fully funded return visit is taking place in December 2023, with a US tour planned for 2025. The choir's recent recording: *The Dawn of Grace* (20 tracks by women composers) was named as Christmas Album Choice by BBC Music Magazine ahead of many other Oxbridge college choirs and received significant airtime on BBC Radio 3. Further recordings in line with the college's vision and history are planned.

Somerville offers up to eight **Choral Scholarships** each year to join the 32-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 throughout the year and have plenty of solo-singing opportunities. Masterclasses over the last few years have taken place with Ben Parry (Director of the National Youth Choir), Rachel Nicholls, and The King's Singers. Choral Scholars also give an annual recital of solos and duets and are encouraged to put on their own recitals. Recent Somerville Choral Scholars can currently be found undertaking postgraduate study at various music colleges in the UK and abroad, as well as in the membership of VOCES8.

There are at least two **Organ Scholars** in post at any one time. With both posts filled for the next three years, the next vacancy will fall in Oct 2026, but there is significant financial support for these positions despite the duties of the position being relatively light

The **Director of Chapel Music** is Will Dawes (william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk), a choral professional who was trained in choral conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and is also a former 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. With the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities opening in September 2025 on a site adjacent to the College, it's a very exciting time to be a Somervillian.

Twitter and Instagram: @somervillechoir

facebook.com/somervillechoir

www.some.ox.ac.uk/about/chapel-choir/

TRINITY COLLEGE

Over the past few years, Trinity College has made significant investments in its provision of musical facilities, and support of musical education. These include, but are not limited to the expansion of the admissions of music students, to include more than just the organ scholar; the provision of a fleet of industry-standard Steinway pianos in the Levine building; a state-of-the-art auditorium; and recent investments in smaller projects pursued by the chapel choir. The college counts among its alumni some of the most distinguished contributors to English music, many of whom have had a profound impact on the cultural life of this country. These include figures such as Basil Harwood, whose compositions are staple repertoire of all Anglican choirs, and George Butterworth, one of England's finest song-writers. Trinity is also unique in counting a Saint among its alumnae, John Henry Newman. During his undergraduate years, Newman was president of the College Music Society, and had a prodigious talent on the violin.

The chapel is one of Christopher Wren's most distinguished works, and provides a stunning and inspiring surrounding for music-making. The non-auditioned choir works to an extremely high standard, but maintains a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Recent works performed include Parry's complete *Songs of Farewell* and Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. The choir's repertoire is broadly traditional; its voices are particularly at home in the Romantic era.

Choral scholarships are awarded on an annual basis, with auditions typically held towards the start of Michaelmas term. There are usually four choral scholars, one for each section, who act as section leaders. These scholarships offer a £100 honorarium, and free singing lessons. Organ Scholars at Trinity have at their disposal one of the city's most flexible and exciting instruments, built in the 1960s by Harrison and Harrison along neo-classical lines, and renovated by Mander in 2000. The organ scholars direct the choir between them, and work closely with the chaplain to select appropriate music. There is a choir committee, consisting of a secretary, treasurer and social secretary, which the organ scholars chair. Organ scholars are generously remunerated and are accommodated in fine rooms overlooking either Durham or Garden Quad, also equipped with a clavichord. So too, they are paid an annual stipend towards music lessons, be it organ, conducting, Alexander technique or singing.

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 2023, 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 their 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).

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). 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). Choral Bursaries are also available for non-Univ members of the Chapel Choir.

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).

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 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, Caius Lee, and two organ scholars. Uniquely in Oxford its choir maintains two top lines, which share the duties of singing services in the chapel week by week. The trebles (from the Cathedral School) sing Tuesday evenings and some Sundays with the lower voices, while the sopranos join the altos, tenors and basses on Mondays and Thursdays and the remaining Sundays. The organ scholars at Worcester College are involved in all choral services.

The presence of the boy trebles alongside the student choir provides a unique opportunity for our organ scholars 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 top lines, the level of singing in the lower voices and the number of services and engagements for all the choirs means that the duties and responsibilities of a Worcester organ scholar are a serious commitment. The Director of Music guides them through each week and helps them think through choral training and organ repertoire, so that 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 tasks as varied as (in addition to academic work): an early morning rehearsal with the boy trebles, playing for Evensong, rehearsing with a choral scholar for a performance in a recital, contributing to the choir's social media output, having an organ, conducting or singing lesson, and occasionally standing in for the Director of Music at a midweek 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 £500 stipend plus a £200 annual music budget
- A large suite of rooms in College with a piano
- Free meals after each service, including at least two full formal meals a week
- 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.

Four section-leader scholarships are available for graduate students with more experience, offering mentoring to junior members.

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 basic £300 stipend
- Double stipend for choir administrator and choir librarian
- Four Section-leader scholarships at £1,500 for graduate scholars
- Free meals after each service, including at least two full formal meals a week
- 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.

The Director of Music, Caius Lee (chapel@worc.ox.ac.uk), is always pleased to hear from and meet potential candidates, and is happy to answer any questions.