



A CHORAL SCHOLAR AT MERTON

- Sings three services a week during term, plus occasional special services
- Receives a generous honorarium
- Has singing lessons with the College's inspirational singing teachers
- Receives free meals in Hall after choral services
- Takes part in masterclasses. Recent visitors have included Rogers Covey-Crump, Iain Burnside, Steven Varcoe, and Robert Rice.
- Tours abroad regularly
- Sings on recordings and broadcasts regularly on the BBC
- Performs with orchestras (Bach *Passions* & *Mass in B minor*, Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius* & *The Apostles*, Mozart *Requiem*, Pärt *Passio* etc.)

"Being a choral scholar at Merton allowed me to be part of a tradition stretching back centuries, but one very much living and evolving. It was an opportunity to work with wonderful musicians in an exceptionally lovely space, creating music of the highest possible quality."

Alexandra Coghlan
Classical Music Critic for *New Statesman*

THE ORGAN SCHOLARS AT MERTON

- Share the duties of accompanying the College Choir in three services a week and the College Girls' Choir in one service a week
- Have unlimited access to the three-manual Dobson organ, installed in 2013
- Assist with the training and direction of the choirs
- Receive a generous honorarium and music allowance
- Take organ and singing lessons
- Receive free meals in Hall after choral services
- Take part in classes organised by the 'Betts Scheme'
- Tour abroad regularly
- Accompany the choir on recordings and broadcasts regularly on the BBC

"Merton Chapel is the most perfect place to be – singing in the choir was an absolute thrill."

Dame Emma Kirkby
Soprano

THE MUSIC TEAM



Professor Daniel Grimley is the College's Fellow & Tutor in Music and is a Professor of Music at the University. Daniel's research interests include Music and Landscape, with particular reference to Nordic and early twentieth-century British music. Recent publications are *Delius and the Sound of Place*, and *Carl Nielsen and the Idea of Modernism*. Daniel has edited the *Cambridge Companion to Sibelius*, the *Cambridge Companion to Elgar* (with Julian Rushton), and *Jean Sibelius and his World*.



Benjamin Nicholas is the Director of Music and a Bodley Fellow of Merton. He has responsibility for the daily running of the College Choir. In 2018, he became Principal Conductor of The Oxford Bach Choir.

Benjamin Nicholas is happy to meet with potential choral or organ scholars throughout the year. He can be contacted by emailing choir@merton.ox.ac.uk.

"Merton Chapel is one of the great spaces in the world for singing – an experience one never forgets. And the Choir has become one of the most sought-after of its kind."

Peter Phillips, Patron of Merton College Choir



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More information:

www.music.ox.ac.uk/apply/undergraduate/choral-and-organ-awards/

www.mertoncollegechoir.com

www.merton.ox.ac.uk/choir

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THE CHOIR OF MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD

Choral & Organ Scholarships



MERTON
COLLEGE
OXFORD



One of the UK's finest
choral ensembles

Gramophone

Merton College, the first fully self-governing College in the University, was founded by Walter de Merton in 1264. Over the centuries, many eminent scholars and cultural leaders have been based at Merton. They include four Nobel Prize winners, the mathematician who solved Fermat's Last Theorem, the physician who discovered the circulation of blood, and the founder of the Bodleian Library.

The thirteenth century Chapel is one of the most beautiful spaces in the University, and has become known as a stunning venue for choral music through the many recordings made in the building by such groups as The Tallis Scholars, The Brabant Ensemble and the BBC.

Merton College offers excellent facilities for musicians: there are six practice rooms, and performance spaces include the TS Eliot Theatre and the Chapel. Students have the opportunity to conduct The Kodaly Choir (the College's non-auditioning chorus) and the Fidelio Orchestra, and the College Music Society promotes weekly concerts.

"the superb performances are characterised by a phenomenal sense of control and restraint, with every note carefully crafted and bathed in the radiant acoustic of the college chapel"
Church Music Quarterly

The regular term-time schedule is:

Sunday	3.45pm-5.10pm	Rehearsal
	5.45pm	Choral Evensong/Sung Eucharist
Monday	1.15pm-2pm	Rehearsal
Tuesday	5pm-6pm	Rehearsal
	6.15pm	Choral Evensong
Thursday	5pm-6pm	Rehearsal
	6.15pm	Choral Evensong



TOURS

Tours are heavily subsidised and take place most years. The choir regularly tours in the USA, and other destinations have included Singapore and Hong Kong, Austria, France, Italy and Sweden.

RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS

Merton College Choir records for *Delphian*, with a recent CD being named Gramophone Critics' Choice of 2016. Regular radio broadcasts include *Choral Evensong* on BBC Radio 3 and *Sunday Worship* on BBC Radio 4. The choir was filmed for David Starkey's BBC series *Music & the Monarchy*.

NEW MUSIC FOR MERTON

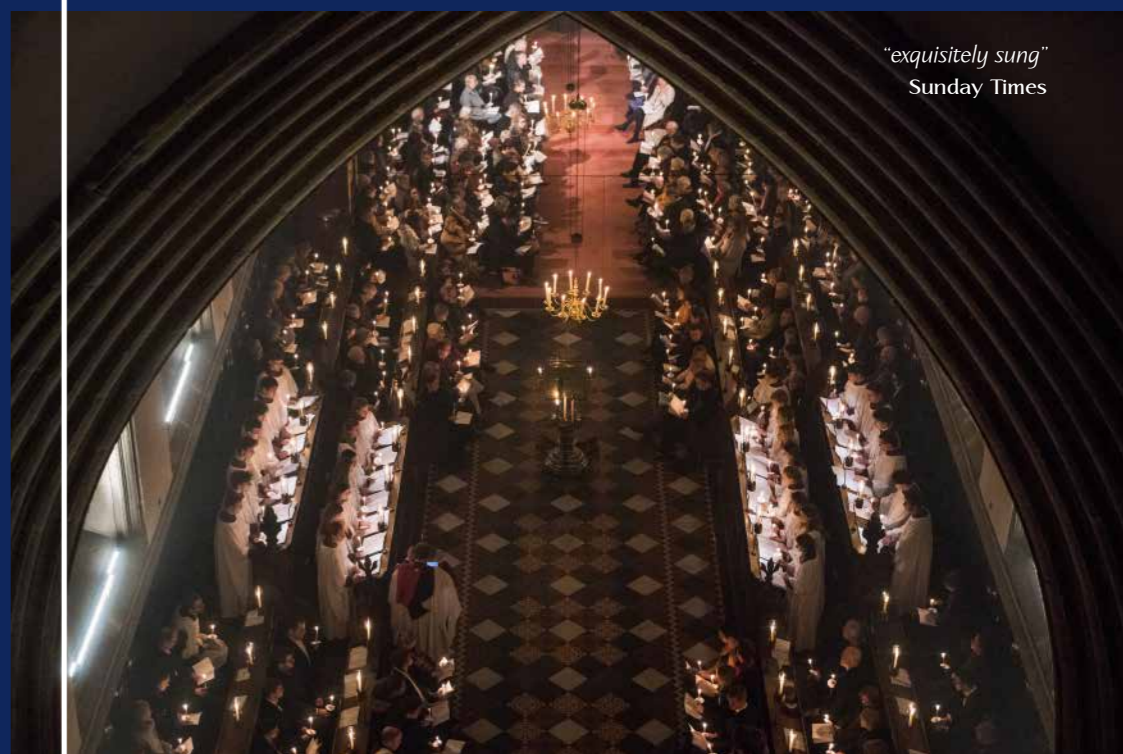
The choir has been exceptionally active in commissioning new choral works, and over the last few years has given the world premieres of works by Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Jonathan Dove, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Gabriel Jackson, Matthew Martin, James MacMillan, John Tavener and Judith Weir. The choir has also been involved in new music partnerships with Choir & Organ and the Royal Philharmonic Society.

THE CHOIR OF MERTON COLLEGE has established itself as one of the finest choirs in the country. The choir consists of thirty undergraduates and post-graduates, many of whom hold choral scholarships at Merton College. Members of the choir read a wide range of subjects, and some members of the choir are students at other colleges. The main focus of the choir's work is the singing of the services in Merton College Chapel where, in addition to Choral Evensong, special services such as the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Carol Services and the Requiem Mass for All Souls have a large following.

CONCERTS

The choir regularly gives concerts both in Oxford and further afield. Recent performances as part of *Passiontide at Merton* have been Bach's *St John & St Matthew Passions*, *Mass in B minor*, Handel's *Messiah* and Arvo Pärt's *Passio*. In the Sheldonian Theatre, the choir has sung Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. Regular London venues include The Cadogan Hall and St John's, Smith Square.

"outstanding"
Guardian



"exquisitely sung"
Sunday Times