



Welcome to Somerville!

First and foremost, on behalf of the Somerville Music Society, congratulations on earning your place at Somerville College. Somerville Music Society (SMS) is one of the most active and involved societies in college. We provide each student, regardless of age, course or musical experience, the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of music making around the college. Oxford University has much to offer you musically: from its principal orchestras and ensembles such as the Oxford University Orchestra, to smaller chamber groups as well as well-known a cappella groups, like the Oxford Belles (which consistently boasts strong Somervillian representation). SMS offers a high-quality range of different music and performance opportunities within the College itself. Many of the members of our SMS ensembles and choir frequently perform with university orchestras and ensembles.

About us

Headed by a small student run committee, SMS consists of several ensembles. Our flagship ensembles are the College Orchestra (non-auditioned) and the professionally-directed College Choir (auditioned). The orchestra is normally student directed, and gives aspiring conductors an invaluable chance to work with a skilled orchestra. Both choir and orchestra give frequent concerts to large audiences in College, most often in our lovely chapel, which houses a new Steinway Grand piano. Last term alone the repertoire on show ranged from Vivaldi to Bernstein, from Bach to Holst. Smaller student-led chamber ensembles are also encouraged to perform. As well as these concerts, SMS also provides open-mic nights in the college bar as well as mid-term Blues nights to provide for all musical tastes. All involvement in the Somerville Music Society is relaxed and enjoyable whether you're organising events with the SMS Committee, playing at our live concerts, or relaxing in the terrace bar at open mic nights.

Somerville College Choir

Somerville College Choir is one of Oxford's leading mixed-voice choirs, and is directed by Will Dawes (www.willdawes.co.uk). They generally perform on Sunday evenings during term in the 6pm service of Choral Contemplation. Auditions for the choir take place on Thursday and Friday of Fresher's week, with an open rehearsal at 4.45 on Thursday. Choral scholarships are available, and this academic year will see the choir perform in the Sheldonian Theatre, and be the first Oxford College Choir to tour to India (December). Please feel free to contact Will to arrange an audition, or with any questions relating to the choir: william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk

Instrumental Awards

The instrumental awards, or Margaret Irene Seymour Awards (MIS), are granted annually to two students demonstrating an excellent standard of instrumental playing. These auditions are open to all, again regardless of age or course. Award holders receive a substantial contribution to the cost of their instrumental lessons and are expected to give an annual solo recital at a concert in Hilary term.

Annual Freshers' Concert

There is a concert in mid-October for incoming freshers to share their musical talent with fellow Somervillians. It is a good opportunity to introduce yourself to your musical colleagues in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The aim is to make every musician of every style and ability feel welcome in college and eager to continue their musical journey in Somerville. So whether you are a concert pianist or someone who hasn't picked up their violin for three years and wishes to pick it up again, do get involved with music life in Somerville. The best way to start is to perform in our Freshers' Concert and meet us all!

What to do in the meantime?

Whether you consider yourself interested in music life at Somerville or not, please complete the reverse side of this letter by Friday 31st August 2018, and return in hard copy to: Academic Office (Registration), Somerville College, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HD, UK

Thanks!

Frannie Millar
3rd year Music Student, President of SMS
francesca.millar@some.ox.ac.uk

Will Dawes
Director of Chapel Music
william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk



Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you sing and/or play an instrument? Yes / No

If 'yes' please specify which (voice type if singer): _____

Previous experience (exam boards/bands/choirs/enjoyment?): _____

Are you interested in.... (Please circle as applicable)

Singing in the College Choir?	Yes / No
Applying for a Choral Award?	Yes / No
Playing in a College Orchestra?	Yes / No
Playing in lunchtime recitals?	Yes / No
Joining a chamber music group?	Yes / No
Taking part in the Freshers' Concert?	Yes / No
Taking Part in the Open Mic Nights?	Yes / No
Getting involved in a College Jazz Band?	Yes / No
Djing at college events?	Yes / No
Producing electronic music?	Yes / No
Gaining access to college music rooms?	Yes / No
Gaining access to college pianos?	Yes / No
Helping run the Society through the SMS Committee?	Yes / No

By saying yes to any of the above questions, you consent to being contacted by SMS, or Will Dawes.

For any further information or questions regarding this form or anything to do with SMS please don't hesitate to email of the two people below - we're more than happy to help!

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Will Dawes
Director of Chapel Music
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