



Welcome to Somerville!

First and foremost, on behalf of the Somerville Music Society, congratulations on earning your place at Somerville College; what an exciting time ahead! Somerville Music Society (SMS) is one of the most active and involved societies in college. We are a student run society which provides 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 College Choir. The orchestra is often student directed, and gives aspiring conductors an invaluable chance to work with a skilled orchestra. There is a termly conducting class directed by our Senior Music Associate, conductor Hilary Davan Wetton. 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 chamber ensembles are also encouraged to perform, and can be run entirely by students, such as the Mozart Clarinet Quintet which we have in store later this term. 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

The Somerville College Choir, one of Oxford's leading mixed-voice choirs, is directed by Will Dawes (www.willdawes.co.uk). Auditions for the choir take place on Thursday and Friday of Freshers week, with an open rehearsal at 4.45 on Thursday. Choral scholarships are available. 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, which is always a memorable event.

Annual Freshers' Concert

For several years now, the SMS Committee has organised 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 please, 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, 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?

Please turn over, complete, and return the attached form (whether you consider yourself interested in music life at Somerville or not) in hard copy by Friday 1st September 2017 to: Academic Office (Registration), Somerville College, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HD, UK



Please print your 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 joining a SMS ensemble? (orchestra/choir/jazz bands/ A cappella groups or joining the committee):

Yes / No

by circling 'yes' you agree to receiving contact from the above mentioned contacts

If 'yes' please specify which: _____

Please circle as interested:

Singing in the chapel Choir?	Yes / No
Applying for a Choral Award?	Yes / No
Playing in a College Orchestra?	Yes / No
Playing in lunchtime recitals?	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

For any further information or questions regarding this form or anything to do with SMS please don't hesitate to email either myself (Giordan Price, SMS president) or Will - we're more than happy to help!