



### 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, to smaller chamber groups as well as well-known acappella groups. 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 student-directed and performs a wide variety of music throughout the year in termly concerts. It gives aspiring conductors an invaluable chance to work with a skilled orchestra and it is also a fantastic opportunity for solo instrumentalists to perform concertos with the orchestra too. In addition to the choir concerts the SMS present a weekly recital series throughout term, most often in our lovely chapel, which houses a new Steinway Grand piano as well as a two-manual harpsichord and the College organ. Smaller student-led chamber ensembles, jazz bands, popular musicians and music-theatre folk play a key role in this recital series, and we strongly encourage music-makers of all kinds to contribute to these events. 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](http://www.willdawes.co.uk)). During term, they rehearse on Thursdays (5-6.30pm) and perform on Sunday evenings in the 5.30pm service of Choral Contemplation. Last year they sang the Mozart *Requiem* in the Sheldonian Theatre, and became the first choir from Oxford University to tour India. 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 the Bach *St John Passion* and tour to Hong Kong and Singapore (September 2020). Please feel free to contact Will to arrange an audition, or with any questions relating to the choir: [william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk)

### Instrumental Awards

The instrumental awards, known as the Margaret Irene Seymour Awards, 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 instrument for three years and wishes to pick it up again, do get involved with music life in Somerville. We'd love to hear your ideas! The best way to start is to meet us at the 0<sup>th</sup> week SMS induction, join the SMS and perform in our Freshers' Concert.

### 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 Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, and return in hard copy to: Academic Office (Registration), Somerville College, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HD, 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 the College Orchestra?                  | Yes/No |
| Playing/singing in our recital series?             | Yes/No |
| Joining a chamber music group?                     | Yes/No |
| Taking part in instrumental/vocal masterclasses?   | 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 |

Something else? Please suggest your ideas here

\*\*\* Access to some music rooms and pianos is restricted. If circling 'yes' for either of these, please explain how you intend to use the music practice rooms or college pianos below. Also ensure that your previous musical experience is thoroughly explained above. Please attend the SMS induction in Week 0 for instructions on how to access these spaces, and to check whether your name has been added to the list.

I will use the college music rooms/pianos for \_\_\_\_\_



*By saying yes to any of the above questions, you consent to being contacted by members of the SMS, Samantha Dieckmann or Will Dawes. For any further information or questions regarding this form or anything to do with SMS, please don't hesitate to email the people below - we're more than happy to help!*

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