



In Search of Lost Time

SUPPORTING OUR 2020 LEAVERS

In September 2020, moved by the stories of Somerville's finalists who had lost their last months at Oxford to lockdown, Somerville Development Board Member Sophie Forsyth proposed to raise funds for a leavers' weekend by hosting an evening of opera at London's Wigmore Hall. The night featured an eclectic programme curated by celebrated bass Matthew Rose and performed by young singers who had been deprived of a stage for over 6 months. We would like to extend our thanks to Sophie and Hamish Forsyth for their organising genius, to Matthew Rose for bringing so many excellent performers together with an audience and, of course, to everyone who supported this event and gave generously.

The Wigmore Hall event raised £25,000, allowing our 2020 leavers

to return to the college in September 2021 to graduate with their friends and bid farewell to their time in Oxford. A BBQ one evening and Formal the next, with the beloved Somerville brunch in between, guaranteed plenty of opportunities for touchstone experiences. Conversations ranged long into the night and afternoons were spent lazing on the Quad; it's clear what these newly graduated alumni missed most was each other.



"After such an abrupt ending to the 2019-20 academic year, it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces again and find out what everyone had been up to since leaving. I can't thank the alumni enough for this chance to reconnect."

JOEL SUMMERFIELD
(2017, MATHS)

"The BBQ on the Terrace was wonderful and a great chance to catch up with our cohort while reminiscing late into the night. Thank you so much for making this week-end possible!"

ILONA CLAYTON
(2016, HISTORY AND GERMAN)

"I have been incredibly impressed by the stoicism shown by Somerville students who have missed out on so many of the 'rites of passage' experiences that we were lucky enough to take for granted. It felt profoundly important to raise funds for our leavers to celebrate their achievements. To do so through a remarkable concert that also provided work for young musicians was fantastic."

SOPHIE FORSYTH (1989, ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY)

