



SOMERVILLE

COLLEGE CHOIR

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Somerville Sings

A Tour Of The USA 2025



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



James MacMillan (b.1959): A new Song

O sing unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord all the whole earth.

Sing unto the Lord, and praise his name : be telling of His salvation from day to day.

For he cometh to judge the earth : and with righteousness to judge the world and the people with his truth

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611): Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.

Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, regina cæli, dulcis et pia, o Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus, ut cum electis te videamus.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

*Holy Mary, queen of heaven, gentle and loving, O mother of God,
pray for us sinners that with the chosen we may look upon thee.*

Cecilia McDowall (b.1951): Ave Regina caelorum

Ave Regina caelorum,
Ave Domina Angelorum,
Salve radix, salve porta,
Ex qua mundo lux est orta.

Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa,
Vale, O valde decora!
Et pro nobis Christum exora.

Hail, Queen of Heaven.
Hail, Lady of Angels
Hail, thou root, hail, thou gate
From whom into the world, a light has arisen:

Rejoice, glorious Virgin,
Lovely above all others,
Farewell, most beautiful maiden,
And pray for us to Christ.

Arvo Pärt (b.1935): The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted

Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be filled

Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God

Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called the children of God

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you : and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad : for great is your reward in heaven:

For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Amen

Joanna Marsh (b1970): Refugee

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,

Or cosy in a crib beside the font,

But he is with a million displaced people

On the long road of weariness and want.

For even as we sing our final carol

His family is up and on that road,

Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.
But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.
Alleluia

JS Bach (1685-1750): Prelude and Fugue in Gmaj BWV541

Organ Solo

William Byrd (1540-1623): Ave Verum Corpus

Ave verum corpus
de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine
cuius latus perforatum
unda fluxit et sanguine
esto nobis prægustatum
in mortis examine.

O Iesu dulcis, O Iesu pie,
O Iesu, fili Mariae.
Miserere mei.
Amen

*Hail the true body, born
from the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.
O sweet, O merciful,
O Jesus, Son of Mary.
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

Roderick Williams (b.1965): Ave Verum Corpus Reimagined

As above

John Rutter (b.1945): It was a lover and his lass

It was a lover and his lass,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
That o'er the green cornfield did pass,
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

Between the acres of the rye,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
These pretty country folks would lie,
In the spring time,...

And therefore take the present time,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino;
For love is crowned with the prime
In the spring time...

Matthew Martin (b.1976): Ut unum sint

I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one, I in them, and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me. Ut unum sint. That they may be one.

**John Lennon (1940–1980) & Paul McCartney (b.1942) : I wanna hold
your hand**

Oh, yeah, I'll tell you somethin'
I think you'll understand
When I say that somethin'
I want to hold your hand

Oh, please, say to me
You'll let me be your man
And please, say to me
You'll let me hold your hand
I want to hold your hand

And when I touch you
I feel happy inside
It's such a feelin' that my love
I can't hide

Yeah, you got that somethin'
I think you'll understand
When I say that somethin'
I want to hold your hand

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946): Toccata from Plymouth Suite

Organ Solo

arr. James Erb (1926–2014): Shenandoah

O Shenandoah, I long to see you,
And hear your rolling river,
O Shenandoah, I long to see you,
‘Way, we’re bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smiling valley,
And hear your rolling river,
I long to see your smiling valley,
‘Way, We’re bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

‘Tis sev’n long years, since last I see you,
And hear your rolling river,
‘Tis sev’n long years, since last I see you,
‘Way, we’re bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

Sarah Quartel (b.1982): How can I keep from singing

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth’s lamentation.
I hear the real, though far-off tune
that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars,
I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close,
songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of Heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing.

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it,
and day by day this pathway smooths
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of love makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine in love and joy!
How can I keep from singing?

The Choir of Somerville College, Oxford

Will Dawes: Director of Chapel Music

Emanuel Bor, Alfred Kelsey: Organ Scholars

Somerville College Choir is made up of 32 singers from Somerville College and the wider Oxford community. Consisting of choral scholars and volunteers, the choir meets twice weekly and is the only Oxford College Choir that sings primarily secular events. The focal point of each week is Choral Contemplation which takes place every Sunday evening in term and plays a central role in College life.

They are thrilled to be back in the USA for the first time in nearly 10 years.

Members of the Choir also sing in the National Youth Choir, the Rodolfus Choir, Gabrieli Roar, Genesis Sixteen, and Schola Cantorum of Oxford, and former members can be found at various music colleges, and as part of VOCES8.

Recent highlights include workshops with Ben Parry (Former director of the National Youth Choir), the King's Singers, Giles Underwood, Dame Emma Kirkby (an alumna of the college), and Rachel Nicholls, performances of Bach St John Passion and Mozart Requiem with the Instruments of Time and Truth, as well as a concert for refugees from Afghanistan with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, a gig with the Basin St Brawlers, Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle, and Handel Solomon with Imperial College Chamber Choir and the Oxford Baroque Players. The choir was the first Oxford College Choir to tour to India engaging in outreach with multiple charities and performing three concerts to capacity audiences in Mumbai and Goa in 2018, revisiting the country in 2023.

Choir members

Jack Abbott, Zeena Abdalla, Ursula Batchelor, Louis Benneyworth, Evie Brenkley, Ben Carter, Tim Chan, Kaia Cochran, Francois de Robert Hautequere, Isobel Glen, Henry Hart, Luca Hayes Lorente, Emma Hunt, Will Jacobs, Tiger Li, Franco Lopez, Ella Machtynger, Helen Matthews, Sacha Meadowcroft, Ciara Morris, Luke Mulholland, Caitlin Ryan, Clara Price, Anna Samosudova, Phoenix Solti, Miranda Storey, Erin Townsend, Yusuf Üşümez, Martha Wall, Myles Wilkinson, Angie Wyatt, Yueshi Yang.

The choir's recent album 'The Dawn of Grace' featuring music for Christmas by women composers has received wide ranging acclaim from around the world, and was named as Christmas Choice Album by BBC Music Magazine, 2022. The choir's next Album 'Divine Light', choral music associated with India will be released in July 2025, and they'll record an album of the works of upcoming UK composer Christopher Churcher in June 2025.

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/about/chapel-choir/>

www.facebook.com/somervillechoir/

email: choir@some.ox.ac.uk

Will Dawes is the Director of Chapel Music at Somerville College, and Director of Music at the church of St Mary Magdalen. He is a graduate of Edinburgh University and the Royal Academy of Music where he studied Choral Conducting and Singing. He is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, and has worked with choirs all over the world, including in Auckland, Shenzhen, Mumbai, Guanajuato, Ramallah, and numerous venues across the USA.

He was the founding Director of Frideswide Voices, has directed the BBC Singers, worked as Chorusmaster for the Aurora Orchestra, and next year will work with the Netherlands Radio Choir for the first time.

Will started singing aged 4 as part of the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust and was then a chorister at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. He is now active as a consort singer and for 16 years was a member of the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble Stile Antico, performing regular concerts at Wigmore Hall, Boston Early Music Festival, and at the BBC Proms, was nominated for three GRAMMYs (including performing at the 2020 awards ceremony in Madison Square Garden) and winning numerous international awards. He is a former Lay Clerk of Christ Church, Oxford, and has sung with The Sixteen, the BBC Singers, Collegium Vocale Gent, Dunedin Consort, Gabrieli Consort, and Polyphony.

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