



‘Courage, Dear Heart’
Choral Contemplation
Michaelmas Term 2025 Term Card

Introduction: All are welcome to join us every Sunday at 5:30pm at Somerville’s un-denominational, multi-faith and creative Chapel for our Choral Contemplation programme. These programmes are a gentle and uplifting encounter with choral music, poems, Faith-based Writings in different languages, and reflections from speakers. To help ground and support our living and learning in what can feel like overwhelming and tumultuous times, our Contemplation theme for Michaelmas is ***‘Courage, Dear Heart’***. We’ll have reflections from **Dr. Xin Xu** and **Utsa Bose** who will explore the topic from their own lived and professional experience, shedding light on different dimensions of courage as it relates to ‘being different’ and ‘archives of hope’. We will also have a **Diwali** and **Arvo Pärt Contemplation**, and a collaborative Contemplation with Chiswick School choir. Each week our programme will be filled offerings which centre this theme, with accompanying choral music from Somerville College Choir that we hope will embolden and strengthen our hearts. Do feel free to reach out if you’ve got a particular poem, writing or prayer, in any language and from any tradition, you’d like to offer a programme during these 8 weeks: chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk

Photo: Street Art in Birmingham, 2024



Michaelmas Term 2025 Term Card on ‘Courage, Dear Heart’

1st Week, Sunday 12th October

‘Courage, Dear Heart’ Choral Contemplation Introduction

By Dr. Arzhia Habibi, Chapel Director and Fellow at Somerville College

Choral works by Daley, Melgas, Dyson

2nd Week, Sunday 19th October

‘Diwali Contemplation’

Choral works by Paranjoti, Powell, Ireland, Coldplay & Alexander

3rd Week, Sunday 26th October

‘Archives of Hope’ By Utsa Bose

Choral works by Tsurpryk, Rex & Chilcott

4th Week, Sunday 2nd November

‘A Moment to Arise’

Collaborative Contemplation with Chiswick School

Choral works by Beach, Daley, Purcell, Vaughan Williams, & Beatles

5th Week, Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Choral works by Duruflé, McDowall, Byrd & Andrew

6th Week, Sunday 16th November

‘Arvo Pärt Contemplation for Music at Oxford’

Choral works by Pärt

7th Week, Sunday 23rd November

‘On Being Different’ By Dr. Xin Xu 许心

Choral works by Whitacre, Schutz & Ireland

8th Week, Sunday 30th November

‘Christmas Carols Plus Carols for All to Sing’

Choral works by Nixon, Farrington, Whitacre, Victoria, Rutter,

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Chapel Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DNTAD-5tyWN/>

Choir Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/somervillechoir/>