



# SOMERVILLE

COLLEGE CHOIR  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# Choral Scholarships



# Somerville College Choir

Somerville College Choir is unique in Oxford in being the only choir that focuses on non-religious events. As an undenominational college (founded for those of all faiths and none), the Choir sings Choral Contemplation each Sunday: a restorative event which features a diverse array of sacred and secular music and readings.



Our beautiful Chapel, nestled in the lush gardens of Somerville



Heading to Chapel for Contemplation

One of the many advantages of Contemplation over Evensong is that we perform secular pieces alongside traditional Anglican sacred works. The Choir's repertoire is therefore one of the most varied in Oxford, and music by underrepresented composers forms a substantial part of our output.

## Our Schedule

Our regular term-time schedule looks a bit like this:

Thursday	17:15-18:45	Rehearsal
Sunday	15:45-17:00	Rehearsal
	17:00-17:30	Break for tea and biscuits
	17:30-18:15	Choral Contemplation
	18:15 onwards	Free dinner and wine (usually followed by optional socialising in the Bar!)

Because we only sing one 'service' a week in Chapel, our schedule usually contains other fun things too...

# Tours

Tours are a major part of the Choir's identity. In 2018, we were the first choir from Oxford to tour to India, and returned there in 2023. Other previous and upcoming destinations include Italy, the USA, and China. Tours are heavily subsidised, and offer incredible singing and social opportunities in amazing places.



*In India  
in 2023*



*After singing  
Sunday Mass  
at St Thomas'  
on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
in New York*



# Concerts and Dinners

The Choir sings at four major College dinners across the year (which come with exceptionally good food and wine), as well as other concerts and services aside from the weekly Contemplation.



*Here we are singing for 'Foundation  
Dinner', wearing black and red (the  
College colours) to mark the occasion*



*Performing J.S. Bach's St John  
Passion to a packed Chapel*



# Album Recordings



*All smiles having just finished recording a CD*



The Choir has released several award-winning CDs with commercial record labels, and we are often heard on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

# Choral Scholars at Somerville

- ★ have free singing lessons with the College's wonderful in-house singing teachers (usually 4 per term)
- ★ take part in masterclasses: recent visitors have included Emma Kirkby, Ben Parry, and The King's Singers
- ★ have plenty of solo opportunities including in the termly Choral Scholars' Recital, on album recordings, and in high-profile concerts
- ★ receive a free meal (plus wine) on Sundays, as well as at other major College dinners
- ★ travel on heavily subsidised tours abroad, and regularly sing on CD recordings
- ★ join one of the most forward-looking and approachable colleges, right next door to the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities
- ★ perform a wide variety of choral repertoire under the direction of professional baritone and conductor, Will Dawes
- ★ are part of a close-knit and good-humoured group of singers who strive for musical excellence and make friends for life!



*Our Conductor Will*

Choral Scholarships are open to those applying to read any subject, and who sing any voice part.

Somerville's Director of Chapel Music, Will Dawes, is always happy to hear from prospective Choral Scholars, and you can reach him by emailing [choir@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:choir@some.ox.ac.uk).



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