



THE CHOIR OF KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD

Graduate Choral Assistant

For Academic Year 2024-5

BACKGROUND

The Choir of Keble College is one of Oxford's leading mixed-voice ensembles, made up of around 25 undergraduate and postgraduate members of the University of Oxford. The choir is central to the life of the College's chapel, celebrated as the grandest ecclesiastical space in Oxford, where it sings three different liturgies each week: Eucharist, Evensong and Compline. A number of our recent choral scholars have gone on to sing with groups such as Genesis Sixteen and the Voces8 Scholars, or to careers as vocal soloists or conductors. In recent years the group has performed in France, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, and Italy, as well as widely in the UK. Recent highlights include performances at Oxford International Festival of song, and a staged performance of Handel's *Acis & Galatea* at the 2023 Keble Early Music Festival. The choir broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio, also making one or two commercial recordings each year, many of which have received glowing reviews. Recent releases include 'Ave Rex Angelorum', a sequence of music tracing the journey from Christ the King to Epiphany ('In sound and concept, a winner.' *Gramophone*), and a collaboration with the Academy of Ancient Music on the first recording of Francisco Valls' forgotten *Missa Regalis* ('a really confident performance, and a splendid recording' *BBC Record Review*). The latest, 'Resurrexi! Easter in Vienna with Mozart and the Haydn Brothers', conducted by Paul Brough, was released in 2022 ('...so sweetly done that you're immediately tempted to hit the replay button.' *The Arts Desk*).

Plans for 2024-5 include a choir tour to Hong Kong and Singapore, an operatic collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-on-Avon, performances with Fretwork at Keble Early Music Festival, and a recording of the choral music of Johann Heinrich Schmelzer. A further tour to the USA is planned for 2025.

PURPOSE OF THE ROLES

These one-year appointments, for the academic year 2024-5, provide an opportunity for proficient and experienced postgraduate choral singers to engage with our committed and hard-working student choir, adopting a mentoring role where appropriate. There will be potential for consort singing, and award holders will be encouraged to arrange recitals in association with the Keble College Music Society.

REGULAR AND OBLIGATORY COMMITMENTS

Termly:

0th week rehearsals (weeks beginning 06/10/24, 12/01/25, 20/4/25)

- Wednesday 4.00pm-6.30pm
- Thursday 4.00pm-6.30pm

1st-8th week:

- Sunday 3.30pm rehearsal, 5.30pm Sung Eucharist
- Tuesday 5.00pm rehearsal, 6.00pm Choral Evensong
- Thursday 5.00-6.45pm rehearsal, 9.00pm Choral Compline

MICHAELMAS TERM

- Advent Carol Services Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December
- Christmas Carol Service Friday 6 December

HILARY TERM

- Involvement in the annual Keble Early Music Festival, running 26 February-1 March

CONDITIONS

Remuneration:

Payable in 3 instalments at the end of each term, as follows:

The sum of £1,200 (one thousand, two hundred pounds)

Michaelmas Term: £400: Hilary Term: £400: Trinity Term: £400

In addition, the award holder is entitled each term to:

- Dinner in College Hall (free of charge) on Sundays in Full Term
- 4 x 40-minute singing lessons with the College's singing teacher Luise Horrocks (or equivalent contribution to lessons with preferred teacher).
- Access to the West Vestry and other music rooms for practice.

Additional events/services

Additional events and services involving members of the choir may take place on occasion (weddings, memorial services, alumni events etc.). These are not compulsory and do not form part of this agreement. They will attract additional fees by arrangement

Absences:

- A maximum of two absences per term from regular commitments is permissible. In these instances the award holder is responsible for finding and paying a deputy (if possible) from the College's approved deputy list of singers
- In the case of absence requests, the award holder (where possible) must request permission from the Director of Music for absences at least two weeks in advance

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SPECIFICATION**Requirements:**

Applicants should be experienced liturgical singers, confident sight-readers and able to commit fully to the weekly schedule. Some familiarity with quadratic plainsong notation is desired but not essential.

Expectations:

It is expected that the award holder will:

- Maintain sound vocal technique, taking full advantage of the offered singing lessons and masterclasses
- Take full responsibility for being adequately prepared for all services and events, with individual practice as necessary
- Regularly consult the choir schedule
- Maintain impeccable timekeeping
- Adopt a smart appearance for all services and concerts, adhering to required dress code
- be aware of the Choral Assistants' responsibility to set a good example to the undergraduate members and, where appropriate, adopt a mentoring role

APPLICATIONS

To apply please send a CV including the names and contact details of two referees to the Music Administrator, Pippa Thynne, music@keble.ox.ac.uk. Closing date: **12 noon on Monday 3 June 2024**. Auditions will be held on Thursday 6 June 2024