



# THE CHOIR OF KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD

## Graduate Choral Assistant

For Academic Year 2026-7

### BACKGROUND

The Choir of Keble College is one of Oxford's leading mixed-voice ensembles, made up of around 28 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. 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. Over the past five years the group has performed in the USA, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Finland, Italy, France, the Czech Republic and Sweden, as well as widely in the UK. Recent highlights include performances with the Scottish Ensemble marking the opening of the Schwarzman Centre for Humanities, concerts at Oxford International Festival of song, staged performances of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* and *Acis and Galatea* at the 2024 and 2025 Keble Early Music Festival respectively. The choir broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio (3 broadcasts in 2025-6, with one planned for 2027), also making at least one commercial recording each year, many of which have received glowing reviews. Recent releases include 'Resurrexi! Easter in Vienna with Mozart and the Haydn Brothers' ('...so sweetly done that you're immediately tempted to hit the replay button.' *The Arts Desk*), '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 choir's latest disc, *Aurora*, is due for release late in 2026 and includes works by Deborah Pritchard, David McGregor, Philip Wilby, Matthew Martin, Elizabeth Maconchy, Charles Wood, and Imogen Holst.

Plans for 2026-7 include a European tour, continued celebrations around the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the chapel, and a collaboration with the Sing-Akademie Berlin.

### PURPOSE OF THE ROLES

These one-year appointments, for the academic year 2026-7, 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 04/10/26, 10/01/27, 18/4/26)

- Wednesday 4pm-6.30pm
- Thursday 4pm-6.30pm

1st-8th week:

- Sunday 3.30pm-5pm rehearsal, 5.30pm Sung Eucharist
- Tuesday 5pm-5.45pm rehearsal, 6pm Choral Evensong
- Thursday 5pm-6.30pm rehearsal, 9pm Choral Compline

### **MICHAELMAS TERM**

- Advent Carol Services Friday 27 November and Sunday 29 November
- Christmas Carol Service Friday 4 December

### **HILARY TERM**

- Involvement in the annual Keble Early Music Festival, running 23-27 February 2027

## **CONDITIONS**

### **Remuneration:**

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

The sum of £1,350 (one thousand, two hundred pounds)

Michaelmas Term: £450: Hilary Term: £450: Trinity Term: £450

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 a deputy (if possible) from the College's approved deputy list of singers. Deputies will be paid by college for up to two absences per term, with prior approval. Beyond this, it will be the responsibility of the GCA to remunerate deputies
- 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, Elisabeth Nurse, [music@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:music@keble.ox.ac.uk). Closing date: **12 noon on Sunday 19 July 2026**. Auditions will be held thereafter by arrangement.