



# CHOIR OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

## CHORAL & ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

*'An undoubted jewel in Britain's choral scene'*

—BBC Music Magazine



[www.queenschoir.com](http://www.queenschoir.com)

Queen's is one of the most musically active colleges in Oxford and has a worldwide reputation for excellence. The Choir is among the finest university ensembles in the UK: it performs an exciting and varied repertory in concerts and services at home and abroad, as well as through CD recordings, film work, and broadcasts. We provide rich opportunities for our students to develop their skills as singers and instrumentalists alongside their academic studies. The musical facilities at Queen's are outstanding, including an award-winning auditorium with Steinway piano, and state-of-the-art recording equipment permanently installed in the chapel, allowing livestreaming of choral services and for students to film their own performances.

## LIFE AS A CHORAL OR ORGAN SCHOLAR

A Choral or Organ Scholarship at Queen's provides an exciting musical experience, with vocal, choral, and organ training to the highest standard. Around twenty of the choir's singers are Choral Scholars. Eight Choral Scholarships are offered each year, across all voice types: soprano, contralto, countertenor, tenor, and bass.

Queen's always has two Organ Scholars at any one time. Organ Scholars at Queen's have great opportunities to develop their skills and experience in solo playing, accompanying, and conducting. They accompany the choir in services and concerts, and on broadcasts and recordings, and they assist the Director of Music in training the choir, conducting it regularly. The next Organ Scholarships are available for undergraduates coming into residence in 2023 and 2024.

Choral & Organ Scholarships are worth £850 per annum, including funding for singing/organ lessons. Choral & Organ Scholars can study any of the academic subjects offered by the College.

- Three choral services per week during term-time, plus occasional special services
- Free dinner in Hall after each service
- Free singing tuition for Choral Scholars with inspirational teachers including Carys Lane, Bronwen Mills & Giles Underwood
- Free organ and continuo tuition for Organ Scholars with teachers such as Stephen Farr & Thomas Trotter
- Organ Scholars are guaranteed large en-suite rooms in the College's historic Back Quad, with piano, for the duration of their course. They receive additional funding for RCO exams.



*'One of the world's  
most renowned choirs'*  
– Classic FM

## INTERNATIONAL TOURS

The Choir tours abroad annually, most recently to Taiwan, Spain, Portugal, and the USA.

## CONCERTS

The Choir performs across the UK, and with professional ensembles (e.g. the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Academy of Ancient Music, with whom the Choir performs *Messiah* annually). Organ Scholars accompany the Choir in concert and usually have the opportunity to play continuo when the Choir works with professional orchestras.

## CD, RADIO & FILM

The Choir records at least one CD each year, usually accompanied by the Organ Scholars. Its CDs are released on the Signum Classics label, which also promotes groups such as The King's Singers, Tenebrae, and The Gabrieli Consort. Two of the Choir's recent discs went straight to No.1 in the Specialist Classical Chart, while another was awarded a *Diapason d'or*. Queen's Choir undertakes regular radio broadcasts both at home, for BBC Radio, and while touring overseas. The Choir has recorded at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London for the blockbuster film *Harry Potter & the Half-Blood Prince*.



## SCHEDULE

### Sunday

4.30–6 pm Rehearsal  
6.15 pm Service

### Tuesday

1.15–1.40 pm Rehearsal

### Wednesday

5-6.10 pm Rehearsal  
6.30 pm Service

### Friday

5-6.10 pm Rehearsal  
6.30 pm Service

The Choir's term-time schedule is rich enough to provide a focused choral experience, but also allows Choral and Organ Scholars to pursue a variety of other interests, and ensures that there is plenty of time for student life. Many Choral and Organ Scholars at Queen's have excelled academically, in Music and other subjects. Many also sing in other choirs and play in orchestras, and some develop their solo singing/playing in particular, opportunities for which are abundant at Queen's.



*'Glorious'  
'...the singers at their radiant best'  
—BBC Music Magazine*

## THE ORGAN

The College's famous organ, built by the Danish firm of Frobenius in 1965, set the standard for the classical organ revival in Britain, and remains one of the finest instruments in the country. The weekly organ recital series is run by the Organ Scholars, who engage leading recitalists from at home and abroad. Every year, each Organ Scholar gives one recital in the series. The College is currently commissioning a chamber organ, and the chapel and practice rooms also have excellent harpsichords.

FROBENIUS  
1965

*I auditioned for the Queen's choir because of its reputation as Oxford's leading mixed-voice choir, and its fine music director, Prof. Owen Rees, a noted conductor who has led the choir from strength to strength. My experience with the choir over my three years as an undergraduate at Queen's was extremely rewarding. Queen's offers a healthy balance in terms of its time commitment, maintaining high musical standards while allowing Choral Scholars to devote ample time to their academic work through a routine of thrice-weekly services and a broad repertoire. I have found that, in my own career since leaving Queen's, studying at the Royal Academy of Music and singing with groups such as The Sixteen and the Monteverdi Choir, the training I received under Prof. Rees has proved invaluable. The sight-reading skills, focus, musicality, and professionalism that are such an integral part of a Choral Scholar's training are still absolutely essential in the professional world.*

Esther Brazil, former Choral Scholar



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many former Queen's Choral & Organ Scholars have gained scholarships for postgraduate study at conservatoire and/or gone on to distinguished careers in the music profession. Former choir members now sing with the foremost professional ensembles, including The Sixteen, The Tallis Scholars, Tenebrae, Stile Antico, the Academy of Ancient Music, the Dunedin Consort, the Monteverdi Choir, and the BBC Singers. Others have taken up Lay Clerkships at cathedrals across the country. Some Queen's alumni have gone on to careers on the opera stage, including at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and at Glyndebourne. Organ Scholars have gained cathedral posts at home and abroad, including at Westminster, Bristol, Wells, and Gloucester. Others have become Directors of Music at universities or schools, and at major London churches.



## TASTER SESSIONS

Sample life as a Choral/Organ Scholar at Queen's by coming on one of our taster sessions. These give you the opportunity to sing Evensong with the Choir, have a tour of the College, and join the current Choral & Organ Scholars for dinner in Hall following the service. Prospective Choral & Organ Scholars are welcome to attend individually or in groups of up to three. Dates run throughout the year. For further details, including a full schedule of the afternoon, and to book your place see: [www.queenschoir.com/taster-sessions](http://www.queenschoir.com/taster-sessions)

## OWEN REES, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Owen Rees is renowned for his work as a choral director with professional and university ensembles. He conducts the professional early-music consort Contrapunctus, in addition to his work at Queen's. With these and other groups he has made numerous CD recordings and has three times been nominated for a *Gramophone* award. His conducting work has taken him to many parts of the world, and his interpretations have been hailed as 'revelatory and even visionary' (*BBC Music Magazine*). He is also Fellow in Music at Queen's, tutoring the College's Music students, and is a Professor in the Faculty of Music. He is always happy to be contacted by prospective Choral & Organ Scholars. Email: [owen.rees@queens.ox.ac.uk](mailto:owen.rees@queens.ox.ac.uk)

## CONTACT & FURTHER INFORMATION

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