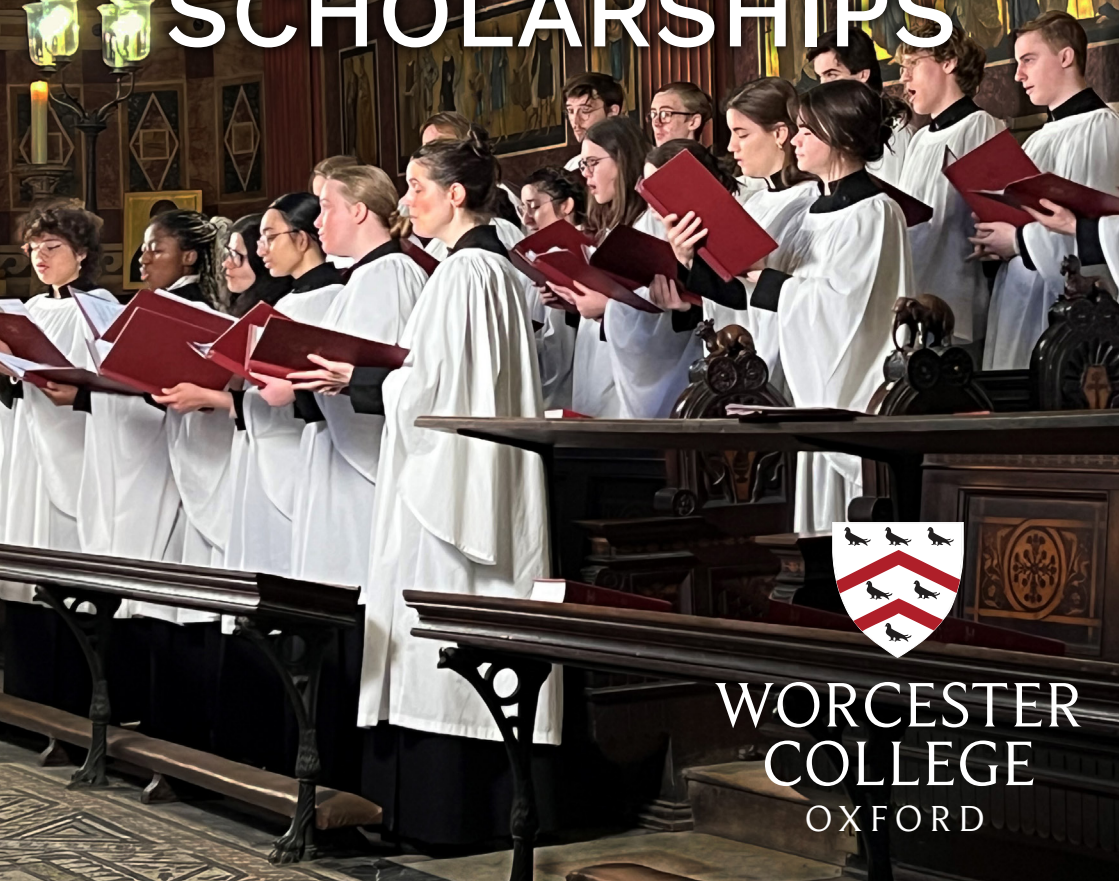


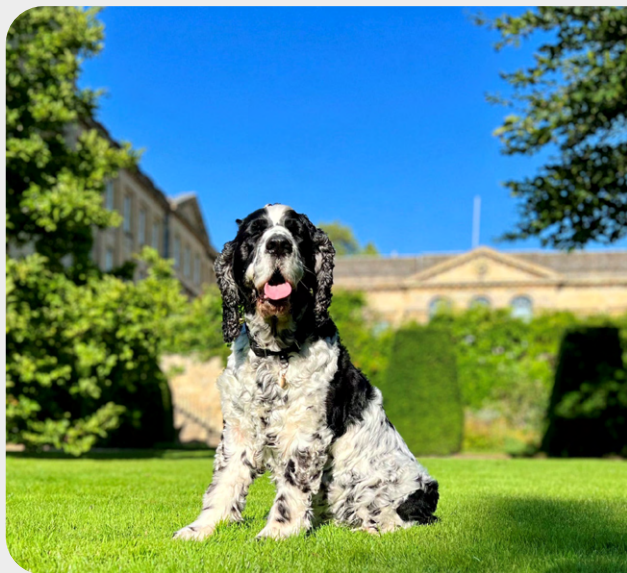
CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS



WORCESTER
COLLEGE
OXFORD

Introducing Worcester College

Known across Oxford as a tranquil green oasis at the heart of the city, Worcester is an historic college with a forward-looking attitude. We were founded at the start of the 18th century, but today we're an open and inclusive community which welcomes students from all over the world. We're particularly proud of our work to widen participation and increase access to Oxford for students from all walks of life.



At Worcester, you don't only benefit from our beautiful gardens, but can also enjoy three years of College accommodation and food that's out of this world. Throughout your student experience, our superb and dedicated welfare team is on hand to offer whatever support you need.

The Chapel is a jewel box of a building and rather different to most other college chapels in Oxford. Opening the door reveals a spectacular space which, despite the low light, sparkles with gold, mosaic and stained glass. The work of the acclaimed Victorian architect and designer William Burges, Worcester's Chapel is a cosy, tranquil place for reflection, prayer and music.



The College Choir



Worcester College Chapel enjoys choral services five times a week. It is unique in Oxford in maintaining a choral tradition in which our adult Choral Scholars are complemented by boy Choristers, with the adults normally singing on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and the boys on Mondays and Tuesdays. The boys are day pupils at Christ Church Cathedral School.

The Choir is led by our full-time Director of College Music, who also has responsibility for looking after the wider musical life of the College including student music-making, managing Worcester's programme of public concerts, and outreach initiatives.

There are also undergraduate Organ Scholars, who are responsible for accompanying the Choir in services, assisting with the management and practical arrangements of the Choir, and helping to train the boy Choristers.

The Choir performs a wide-ranging repertoire and a typical music list for the term might include everything from plainsong to newly commissioned works in the same week. Whether performing Byrd, Tallis and Palestrina, or contemporary pieces by living composers, the Choir is proud to be part of a rich heritage in a College whose Music fellows have always been distinguished composers. The Choir also gives regular concerts in College, tours across Europe, and has recorded several CDs.



Choral Scholarships


Twenty-four Choral Awards are available in the Choir across all voice parts. We support our Scholars with a wide range of financial, practical and social benefits, including:

- Four free singing lessons per term with one of Worcester's exceptional teachers
- Free meals together in Hall after each service, usually including two formal dinners each week
- A generous honorarium awarded each year
- One-to-one coaching and guidance
- Bespoke workshops with singers, teachers and conductors
- Regular public concerts and national and international tours
- A thriving and supportive team of like-minded young singers



‘Being at Worcester has changed my idea of who I am and what I am capable of. It has allowed me to work professionally with so many remarkable individuals and given me the confidence to stand up in front of a group of people and express my own opinion. To those who are considering applying: you must. You will grow so much faster than you think you can.’

Benedict
MUSIC STUDENT



A typical week for a choral scholar

SUNDAY

- 16:30 Rehearsal
- 18:00 Choral Evensong
- 19:30 Formal Hall

WEDNESDAY

- 17:00 Rehearsal
- 18:15 Informal supper/takeaway
- 21:00 Choral Compline
- 21:30 Drinks!

THURSDAY

- 16:30 Rehearsal
- 18:00 Choral Evensong / Eucharist
- 19:30 Formal Hall

‘Delectably sensitive performances...the sound is impeccable.’

BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE





How to make your application

Prospective Choral and Organ Scholars are warmly encouraged to visit us at Worcester: the Director of College Music will be happy to talk informally about choral and organ award opportunities, the wider music culture in College, and introduce applicants to current choral and organ scholars. Schools are welcome to enquire about bringing groups of students to sing with the Choir at Evensong.



Prospective applicants are always welcome to contact the Director of College Music with any questions: caius.lee@worc.ox.ac.uk

Discover more about the College and Choir on our website: www.worc.ox.ac.uk/choir

There are three main ways to join the Choir at Worcester, all of which involve an audition.

1. Choral Scholarships are awarded at the University's Choral Trials, which take place in late September each year for those applying to start a degree in October the following year (i.e. 12 months prior to arriving in Oxford). Choral awards are contingent on your being made an offer of a place after the academic interviews in December.
2. Every year the Oxford Choral Experience runs at Worcester College. This is a singing weekend for students, normally in Year 12, who attend state schools in the UK. It's a great opportunity to discover more about life in Oxford, singing in a college choir, and whether this might be a good option for you. Find out more at www.worc.ox.ac.uk/oce.
3. It is also possible to apply for a place in the Choir, if there are vacancies in your voice part, once you arrive in Oxford to begin your degree. Members of the Choir are usually, but do not have to be, students at Worcester. The Choir also welcomes applications from postgraduate students.

We don't distinguish between these routes and almost all members of the Choir are awarded scholarships and receive our full package of support and encouragement. In any case, you do not need to be reading for a degree in Music, and recent Choral Scholars have successfully balanced degrees in Physics, History of Art, Theology, Psychology and Anthropology with their Choir commitments.

Organ Scholarships are awarded solely through the University Organ Trials, which take place in September, again for those applying to begin their studies the following year. Please see our separate Organ Scholarships booklet for more information.

Our Director of College Music, Caius Lee, always welcomes enquiries from prospective choral and organ scholarship candidates. Whatever stage you're at, if you'd like to know more please make contact.

Learn about the University's Choral Trials on the Music Faculty website: www.music.ox.ac.uk/choral-scholarships

‘Singing in the Choir has been a highlight of my time at Oxford. Making music in such a beautiful space always leaves me feeling calmer, and the routine of rehearsals and services has been crucial to my work-life balance. The sense of community in the choir – possibly helped by enjoying (free!) formal dinners together twice a week – has really helped me settle in as a first year.’

Anna

HISTORY & SPANISH STUDENT

‘Before my first Evensong at Worcester, I had no clue how to even read a Psalm... that first rehearsal certainly involved a lot of learning, but doing it alongside such a kind and talented choir made the experience far less scary.’

Dan

MUSIC STUDENT

‘The frequent services at Worcester mean you get loads of experience, and I love the range of music we sing. There really is a thrill that comes with being part of making a piece come together – especially in such a sublime setting as Worcester Chapel.’

Visvapriya

THEOLOGY STUDENT

‘What is so great is a place like this, so invested in learning, is giving these people this opportunity – and they’ll never forget it.’



Bob Chilcott

CONDUCTOR & COMPOSER



WORCESTER COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Worcester College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HB | Registered Charity No. 1143479

Photography by Marcus Green, Charles Henderson & Nathan Stazicker | Printed on 100% recycled paper

www.worc.ox.ac.uk/choir | [WorcesterCollegeChapel](https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterCollegeChapel) on Facebook