

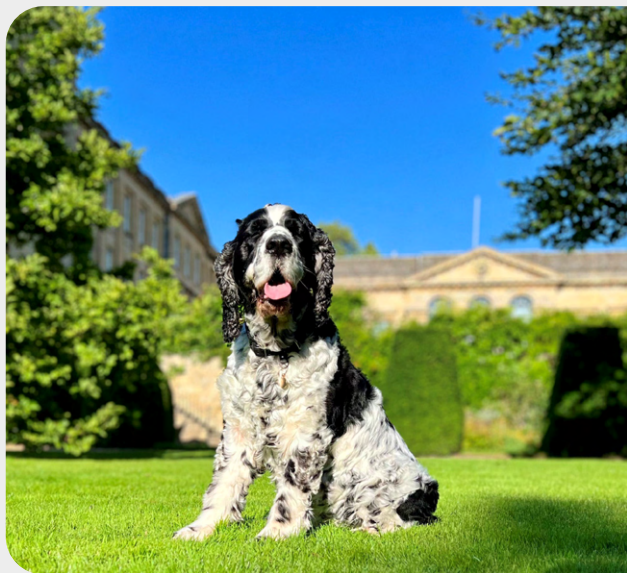
ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS



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.



Worcester's choral tradition



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.

The Director of College Music also supports our undergraduate Organ Scholars as they accompany the Choir in services. Under his guidance, the Scholars learn skills in management and practical arrangements of choir leading, as well as discovering how to train 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.



Organ Scholarships

An Organ Scholarship at Worcester College provides musical training and encouragement unique in Oxford and unusual in the musical world. We always aim to have two Organ Scholars, working together and learning from each other.

Worcester proudly possesses both the oldest working college chapel organ in Oxford and a brand-new chamber organ. We will support you to hone a wide range of skills on these instruments, including developing repertoire, choir accompaniment and continuo realisation. You will also learn how to rehearse boy trebles and conduct the whole choir under the supervision of the Director of College Music.

The experiences and backing offered to our Organ Scholars provide a distinctive opportunity for the life of an undergraduate. Any student championed by Worcester will not simply become a better organist: those seeking to prepare themselves for life as a professional musician will find no better scholarship anywhere.



'Being an Organ Scholar 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





Support offered to Worcester's Organ Scholars includes:

- Free organ lessons
- Specialist tuition in conducting, accompaniment & repertoire
- Financial support towards RCO diplomas
- Four free singing lessons per term with one of Worcester's exceptional teachers
- Free meals together with the Choir in Hall after each service, usually including two formal dinners each week
- A generous honorarium awarded each year
- Superior accommodation in College
- Bespoke workshops with singers, teachers and conductors
- Opportunities provided by the University network of organ scholars, the Betts Centre for Organ Studies
- Regular public concerts and national and international tours
- A thriving and supportive team of like-minded young singers



Additionally, Organ Scholars are invited to supplement their honorarium by participating in Worcester's local outreach projects such as accompanying the Allsorts Community Choir and the Jericho Youth Choir. Some Scholars have taken up occasional tutoring opportunities with the Choristers.

'Delectably sensitive performances...the sound is impeccable.'

BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE



How to make your application

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

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. Up-to-date information about choral and organ awards across the University can be found on the Music Faculty's website.

Learn about the University's Organ Trials on the Music Faculty website:

www.music.ox.ac.uk/organ-scholarships

There's no place like it



'The Worcester College Organ Scholarship was exactly right for me. I have always loved choral and organ music, and the work in the Chapel gave me a wonderful grounding, with me to this day. But it also gave me space to develop as a broader musician, and these experiences led to my subsequent orchestral and operatic career. With superb teachers (for me, including Kenneth Leighton), the opportunities and support that Worcester gave, continue to this day. I would choose Worcester College again!'

Nicholas Cleobury

*Orchestral, Choral & Opera Conductor,
Specialist in Contemporary Music,
Founder Laureate of the Britten Sinfonia*



'My time as Organ Scholar at Worcester challenged me in the best way possible to learn lots of new music, conduct a choir for the first time, perform in cathedrals and take part in live radio broadcasts. It

set me up for a very rewarding career as a professional musician and teacher. Being part of the College Choir was rewarding and a lot of fun, and I made lifelong friends.'

Katy Silverman

Director of Music, St Mary's Battersea



'My experience at Worcester College set me up for the multifaceted nature of a musical career. In the Chapel, I was able to learn the core skills and resilience needed as a musician, with the opportunity to learn 'on the job' in a supportive and ambitious environment. To develop confidence, one needs to be stretched, allowed to make mistakes and to be supported across three years. The community of the Chapel and College is friendly, welcoming to all, and committed to its core purpose of providing a space for reflection and peace in a busy world. I would recommend it to any aspiring musician.'

Thomas Allery

*Director of Music at Temple Church, London
Professor of Basso Continuo,
Royal College of Music*

Ready to apply?

We always look forward to hearing from prospective applicants. If you think that could be you, please read more about Worcester on our website and get in touch with our Director of College Music.

www.worc.ox.ac.uk/choir
caius.lee@worc.ox.ac.uk




‘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

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 **WorcesterCollegeChapel**

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