



TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

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To: School Directors of Music

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I wanted to write to you about Trinity College Choir.

We have held a number of open days at Trinity for school Directors of Music, which many of you have already attended (if you have yet to receive an invitation to one, but would like to attend, please get in touch and we will make sure you are invited to the next one).

Talking to Directors of Music at these events, it is clear that people are often unaware of all the details of the application process for Choral Scholarships at Cambridge.

Please find attached some general information about Choral and Organ Scholarships at Trinity. If you have a musical student who is academically likely to gain a place at Cambridge, then a Choral or Organ Scholarship is an excellent way for them to play an active role in the musical life of the College, whatever subject they choose to read.

If you would like further information then I would be happy to supply it. The Choir website (www.trinitycollegechoir.com) also has general information about the Choir and Choral Scholarships.

I regularly meet and hear potential applicants informally in advance of the Choral Trials. This gives an opportunity for the student to ask any specific questions and for me to advise them on whether a Choral or Organ Scholarship at Trinity is right for them. They can also attend a rehearsal and service to see the experience being a member of the Choir provides.

I hope that this letter is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to set up an appointment for one of your students.

Yours sincerely,

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The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge



Trinity College's long and distinguished choral tradition dates back to the fourteenth century, when former Chapel Royal choristers studied in King's Hall, which later became part of Trinity College. Today's mixed-voice choir of around 30 Choral Scholars and two Organ Scholars has established itself as one of the leading mixed-voice choirs in the world.

The Choir performs regularly in the major UK concert venues. It tours internationally at least once a year (most recently a month touring Australia in 2010, performing in all the major cities, in 2011 a tour of Europe, in 2012 to the USA and Canada, and in 2013 a tour to Germany). In 2015 the Choir returns to the USA and in 2016 to Australia. The Choir records for Hyperion Records and can be heard frequently on radio and television, both in the UK and abroad. In addition, all choral services from the Chapel are now webcast live and available to listen again through the Choir website, with over 2000 music tracks now available to stream.

Trinity's Director of Music is the conductor Stephen Layton (www.stephenlayton.com). He is also the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the City of London Sinfonia, Music Director of Polyphony and of the Holst Singers, and Chief Guest Conductor of the Danish National Vocal Ensemble. He guest conducts a number of orchestras around the world, resulting in regular collaborations for Trinity Choir with orchestras such as Britten Sinfonia, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Academy of Ancient Music.

The Choir's main focus during term is the singing of services in the College Chapel. Choral Evensong takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and on one Sunday morning a term there is a service of Choral Eucharist. During the course of these services, the Choir explores a wide-ranging repertoire drawn from both Catholic and Protestant traditions. Music of all ages is sung and, in recent years, the Choir has collaborated with a number of contemporary composers and given several world premiere performances.

An important additional duty for the Choir is to sing at the six annual College feasts. Other traditional events include Singing from the Towers, when the Choir and Cambridge University Brass Ensemble perform from the three towers in Great Court; and Singing on the River, when the Choir sings from punts moored on the river. These events provide an opportunity for the Choir to explore a range of secular repertoire, from madrigals and partsongs to close harmony.

The Choir is socially rich and diverse. This is partly due to the range of academic subjects read by Choral Scholars – Natural Sciences, Maths, Engineering, Law, Theology, English, MML, Music etc. – as well as the range of backgrounds from which members come.

Tours and Concerts

Outside term the Choir enjoys a programme of high-profile performances and recordings, recently including Poulenc's *Gloria* with Britten Sinfonia in Norwich Cathedral, Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum* and *Chandos Anthems* with the Academy of Ancient Music in London and Cambridge, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* with the City of London Sinfonia in Aldeburgh and Cambridge, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in London. An ambitious programme of tours has taken the Choir to destinations including the USA and Canada, Australia, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Peru, as well as to many European cities.

Whenever the Choir is required outside term, food and accommodation are provided free of charge in College and travel expenses are covered if a special journey is required. Tours are also undertaken at no cost to the individual Choral Scholar.

Recordings and Broadcasts

Recent additions to the Choir's extensive discography include Howells' *Requiem & other works*, which won a Gramophone Award in 2012, *Beyond All Mortal Dreams*, settings of contemporary American a cappella music, which was nominated for a US Grammy Award in 2012, *Baltic Exchange*, choral music from the Baltic region, David Briggs' *Mass for Notre Dame*, Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*, Handel's *Chandos Anthems*, new works by Polish composer Pawel Lukaszewski, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and *St Nicolas*, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, all released on the Hyperion label. The most recent release is *Northern Lights*, a recording of the music of Eriks Esenvalds.

Music in College

Trinity is a very active College musically. Trinity College Music Society runs an orchestra and a chorus, and arranges regular concerts and recitals. There is a series of chamber music concerts given by professional musicians which takes place in the Drawing Room of the Master's Lodge twice a term and is free of charge to Trinity members. There are six music practice rooms next to the Chapel, each with a piano and one with a harpsichord, which can be booked by members of the college. In the Chapel there is a Steinway D piano and a harpsichord, and a further five grand pianos are available in College for pianists. Choral Scholars also have access to electronic pianos which can be loaned, free of charge, for use in individual rooms.

Choral Scholarships

Choral Scholars need to be enthusiastic and committed. The weekly schedule of rehearsals and services during term leaves ample time for Choral Scholars to pursue their academic studies fully, as well as to involve themselves in other activities. In addition to their choral award, Choral Scholars receive three free dinners each week, and are entitled to free vocal tuition – weekly during term – from visiting professional teachers such as Fiona Dobie, Sheila Barnes and Ann De Renais. The Choir is open to all students except those studying Medicine or Veterinary Medicine. Good sight reading skills are an advantage, but not essential, as there is plenty of time to prepare music in advance. Applicants with little church singing experience should also not be discouraged.

Organ Scholarships

Trinity always has two Organ Scholars in residence. Their duties are twofold: to accompany and to conduct services. In addition to their annual scholarship, Organ Scholars receive free organ tuition (with Colin Walsh, David Briggs and Stephen Farr) and three free dinners a week. A special annual bequest allows them to build up their own library of organ music. Organ Scholars study choral conducting with Stephen Layton and have the opportunity to work with him on projects in Cambridge and beyond. Frequently in demand as recitalists, accompanists, and conductors, Trinity Organ Scholars play a prominent role in the artistic life of the College and University. After graduating, many have taken up important positions, both sacred and secular, in the musical world.

Trinity College Chapel's renowned organ was built by Metzler Orgelbau of Zürich in 1975, who restored the original cases and surviving pipework of the organs installed by Father Smith in 1694 (Rückpositiv) and 1708 (Hauptwerk). The action is mechanical. The College also has a chamber organ, built by Robin Jennings, which is used as a continuo instrument for services and concerts, and a practice organ built by Mander. The Metzler's specification is:

HAUPTWERK	RÜCKPOSITIV	SCHWELLWERK	PEDAL
1* Principal 16	13* Principal 8	23 Viola 8	34* Principal 16
2* Octave 8	14 Gedackt 8	24 Suavial 8	35 Subbass 16
3 Hohlflöte 8	15 Octave 4	25 Rohrflöte 8	36 Octavbass 8
4* Octave 4	16 Rohrflöte 4	26 Principal 4	37 Bourdon 8
5 Spitzflöte 4	17 Octave 2	27 Gedacktlöte 4	38 Octave 4
6* Quinte 2 2/3	18 Gemshorn 2	28 Nasard 2 2/3	39 Mixtur V
7* Superoctave 2	19 Larigot 1 1/3	29 Doublette 2	40 Posaune 16
8 Sesquialter III	20 Sesquialter II	30 Terz 1 3/5	41 Trompete 8
9 Cornett IV	21 Scharf III	31 Mixtur IV	42 Trompete 4
10 Mixtur IV-V	22 Dulcian 8	32 Fagott 16	
11 Trompete 8	Tremulant	33 Trompete 8 *Father Smith ranks	
12 Vox Humana 8		Tremulant	COUPLERS: R-H S-H H-P R-P S-P

Further information

Stephen Layton is pleased to meet and hear prospective candidates for Choral or Organ Scholarships at any time of year. These informal meetings provide an opportunity to ask further questions about life as a member of the Choir and Trinity in general. To arrange an appointment, please contact:

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