

CHRIST CHURCH



Christ Church is unique amongst the collegiate choirs in its Cathedral role, and this is reflected in the considerable opportunities afforded to young singers to experience a vast musical repertoire and to participate in regular recordings, broadcasts and tours. There are 12 men and 16 boys in the choir, the same number as in Cardinal Wolsey's original foundation of 1526. Of the men, six are young professional Lay-Clerks and six are Academical Clerks, and a large number of them pursue a career in singing after leaving Christ Church.

As well as their daily services in the Cathedral, the choir's reputation inevitable leads to a busy annual programme of concerts and overseas tours. In the past few years the choir has visited Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Portugal, Germany Finland, France, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Switzerland, as well as undertaking a major tour of the USA in Spring 2011. The choir has many award-winning recordings to its credit and has worked with several international orchestras and soloists. The choir broadcasts regularly both on radio and television and has a demanding recording schedule.

Academical Clerks are expected to have regular singing lessons, the whole cost of which is covered by the College. In addition they receive a scholarship of £200 per annum and are paid professional rates for all concerts and recordings. Also, the Cathedral provides a daily allowance for staying up for special seasons of the year, such as Christmas and Easter. Obviously, these exciting opportunities are demanding, but great care is taken to ensure that the choir's commitments do not interfere with academic work and progress. There are vacancies for all voices in 2012 and 2013, and the College runs a quota system which means that subject tutors can claim an extra place for a singer. Of course, candidates must show that they can read for an Honours Degree at Oxford, but this need not be Music.

Organ Scholars are normally required to read for the Honour School of Music. He/she assists the Organist with running the music in the Cathedral and attends most practices and services. The opportunity exists to give recitals on the wonderful Rieger organ in the Cathedral and to conduct the choristers and the full choir in rehearsals and services. Organ lessons are provided at no cost and there is a scholarship of £200. Additional fees are paid for all extra services, broadcasts and recordings, as well as a daily allowance for staying up for Christmas and Easter. The next vacancy is in 2012.

For more information, you can contact the Director of Music, Stephen Darlington at the address below.