

Magdalen College Choir Admissions Process for Choristers



At the **voice trials** boys are asked to sing a prepared piece (a hymn or song) and to respond to various aural tests which include pitching individual notes given on the piano, repetition of a basic melody, singing the higher or lower of two notes and clapping rhythm. Boys who are learning an instrument are invited to play a piece and the whole audition last for approximately twenty minutes.

The normal means of entry to the Choir for both external applicants and current MCS pupils is by competitive **voice trial**. Trials are normally held twice a year in October and January, although Daniel Hyde, the Director of Chapel Music, welcomes the opportunity to meet with candidates and their parents by arrangement throughout the year.

Applicants are normally aged between 7 and 9; however, Mr Hyde is happy to hear boys informally when they are younger. Boys do not need to have any extensive musical experience or qualifications: musical potential and a keen musical ear are the main criteria. The ability to read music and to play an instrument are useful but not essential at this stage. Those boys not already at MCS must also pass the entrance examination and be able to cope with the academic standards of the school as well as the busy Chorister schedule. Following a successful voice trial in October, potential Choristers will be invited to take the MCS entrance exam in November in advance of the usual January testing.



Prospective Choristers and their parents are welcome to attend services in the College Chapel at any time (further details are on the College website).

Further information about Choristerships can be obtained from Jacky Barratt, PA to the Chapel and Choir, at Magdalen College
email: choir@magd.ox.ac.uk
tel: 01865 286701
www.magd.ox.ac.uk



For more information about the Admission Process for MCS please contact the Registrar, Mrs Sophie Langdale
email: admissions@mcsoxford.org
tel: 01865 242191
www.mcsoxford.org

