

CHORAL & ORGAN AWARDS

OXFORD



**MAGDALEN
COLLEGE**

“spellbinding:
both of the
moment
and utterly
timeless”

*Independent
on Sunday*





MAGDALEN COLLEGE was founded in 1458 and its beautiful chapel has been home to a number of distinguished musicians in their role as choristers, organ and choral scholars and as Informator Choristarum (the ancient title still retained by the Director of Music). These include the Renaissance composer John Sheppard, the Victorian composer Sir John Stainer, Dr Bernard Rose, the comedian Dudley Moore, the conductor Harry Christophers and singers John Mark Ainsley and Roderick Williams, amongst many others.

The College is set in large grounds by the River Cherwell with medieval, classical, Victorian and modern buildings standing amidst expansive gardens, the famous Addisons' Walk and Oxford's only deer park. There are many opportunities for broader musical activities in the College, which boasts a fine auditorium, and the College Music Society mounts regular concerts and recitals.



“Excellent trebles - a vibrant and appealing performance”
The Times



Choral Scholarships

“balance, blend and intonation without blemish”

Choir & Organ Magazine



Male and female students elected to Choral Scholarships (**Academical Clerkships for alto, tenor and bass**) at Magdalen, lead busy but rewarding lives, and many have gone on to perform at the top of their cohort academically, as well as taking part in other musical, sporting, dramatic and social activities. Academical Clerks receive a number of benefits as part of their scholarship including a termly stipend, fees for recordings, concerts and other projects, singing lessons provided and paid for by the College, pianos in rooms, the opportunity to travel internationally through regular foreign tours, and a number of free meals and special dinners throughout the year.

The **Academical Clerks** sing six services a week during University Term. Two services on a Sunday and Evensongs on Wednesday and Thursday are sung by the College Choir (the Academical Clerks and the boy Choristers, who are educated at Magdalen College School); Friday Evensong is sung by the Clerks alone, and Tuesday by the Choristers alone; and, on Saturday, the Clerks sing with female sopranos from the highly-regarded Consort of Voices, which offers them the unique opportunity to sing regularly with both trebles and sopranos. The College Choir is particularly known for its singing from the Great Tower of Magdalen at sunrise on 1st May each year, a tradition dating back several centuries, now streamed live online and attended by tens of thousands of revellers in the streets below.

SONG S

The current **Informator Choristarum and Organist is Mark Williams**, formerly of St Paul's Cathedral and Jesus College, Cambridge. He is responsible for the recruitment and direction of the Choir, and, as a Tutorial Fellow, also teaches for the College and University. He is very happy to be contacted on choir@magd.ox.ac.uk at any time, with a view to meeting prospective applicants informally.

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For more information on the College and Choir please visit www.magd.ox.ac.uk and www.magdalencollegechoir.com



A number of former Clerks from Magdalen have gone on to pursue successful musical careers, whilst others have entered a range of different professions. Although a certain level of technical ability is necessary, it is understood that the spirit of the scholarship is one of education; we expect to train singers during their time here, so potential is just as important as proven ability. Good aural and sight-reading skills are desirable, owing to the range of music covered in a typical term. It is not required that those who sing be members of the Church of England or indeed any Christian Church, but only that they be prepared to respect the traditions and purpose of the Chapel. The Academical Clerks also come together to sing close harmony and folksongs as a group, regularly taking on professional

“an exceptional sound”

The Gramophone



The **Consort of Voices** was established in 2010, making Magdalen the first of the Choral Foundations of Oxford and Cambridge to offer women students the opportunity to sing alongside the altos, tenors and basses of the College Choir. Members of the Consort of Voices receive a generous subsidy towards the cost of singing lessons, and are drawn from Magdalen and other colleges within the University. The ensemble, which ordinarily sings Evensong on Saturdays in term-time and for occasional other events, has developed a reputation for its warm and colourful sound. From time to time, the boy choristers and Consort of Voices join together for special services or concerts. The Informator is always pleased to hear from applicants or current students interested in auditioning for the Consort of Voices.

Organ Scholarships



Candidates for Organ Scholarships at Magdalen are expected to have well-developed skills in organ playing to at least ABRSM Grade 8. They assist the Informator Choristarum in all aspects pertaining to the training of the Choir. Organ tuition is paid for by the College, and in addition to regular service playing and conducting, there are opportunities for continuo playing, concerts, tours, recordings and collaborations with professional instrumental ensembles. Organ Scholars are given accommodation in large rooms with a piano, and have regular access to the Chapel organs and other instruments in College. Magdalen organ scholars are normally required to read for a degree in Music and receive a number of benefits as part of their scholarship including free singing, organ and conducting lessons, free meals, and various other perks. Recent former organ scholars include a number of cathedral organists, conductors and recitalists. A new and much-celebrated four-manual organ by Hermann Eule Orgelbau was installed in the Chapel in January 2023.

“richly sustained performances”

The Observer





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