

Scholarship Description: OBS Choral Scholar
Date Modified: 17.03.22



OXFORD BACH SOLOISTS

Title: Choral Scholar	Organisation: Oxford Bach Soloists
Location: Various	Term: September 2022 to August 2023 incl.
Agreement type: Scholarship	Reporting to: Artistic Director

About the Oxford Bach Soloists

The Oxford Bach Soloists (OBS) exists to perform the complete vocal works of Johann Sebastian Bach in Oxford over 12 years. Drawing from an abundance of Oxford talent, OBS provides the next generation of young soloists, many of who are choral scholars from the University's college chapels, with the opportunity to collaborate with a professional baroque orchestra. OBS also exists to provide a laboratory for current research, working together with Professors from the University of Oxford's Faculties of Music, Theology, History, and Modern Languages.

Registered charity number: 1172192

For further information on OBS please see: www.oxfordbachsoloists.com

Overview of the role

OBS hosts a series of concerts every year, including the annual *Passion* on Good Friday, *Easter Oratorio* on Holy Saturday, and *Christmas Oratorio* on Christmas Eve. Most concerts are performed on Sunday afternoons, once a month, in the Chapel of New College, Oxford. Additional projects may feature during the year.

Choral Scholars are expected to sing across the year from September to August inclusive. They make up the core of the chorus and help to maintain its musical stability. The chorus consists of highly skilled singers from all walks of life, including professional Concertists (soloists) who step out from the chorus. Choral Scholars are expected to understudy the Concertists and to meet the challenges of (often last-minute) step-out opportunities. From time to time, planned solo opportunities will be allocated in advance.

Choral Scholars are expected to use performance opportunities to further their professional development in consultation with their singing teachers. German language coaching will be provided as part of their training.

The Choral Scholarships for 2022-23 have been generously funded by a number of trusts, foundations, and individual donors, details of which can be found on the OBS website.

Responsibilities / duties

- Sing for concerts, recordings, tours, and other projects across the year (September to August inclusive).
- Prepare for and attend regular rehearsals, and any additional rehearsals by arrangement with the Artistic Director.
- Maintain a short blog/newsletter keeping funders updated with progress and experiences, including one handwritten letter.
- Attend occasional Friends' social events to interface with donors and supporters.
- Any other tasks as reasonably requested by the Artistic Director/General Manager.

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Typical Timetable

OBS' core programme consists of an average of one concert per month, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Concerts are preceded by individual language and music coaching, recit and aria rehearsals (with Choral Scholars observing), as well as tutti company rehearsals.

Confirmed rehearsal times are released one month in advance. A typical schedule could consist of the following:

A few weeks before the concert: Language coaching via Zoom

The week leading up to the concert:

Day 1	afternoon	chorus rehearsal with repetiteur
Day 2	afternoon evening	recitatives and arias with the band chorus and band
Concert Day	morning afternoon	tutti rehearsal concert

The Candidate

A Choral Scholarship with OBS would be ideally suited to someone wishing to develop a career as a soloist/consort singer, demonstrating a particular affection for the German language and the music of J. S. Bach.

Terms

Choral Scholars receive up to £1,000 per annum.

Application

Candidates are asked to apply online at www.oxfordbachsoloists.com/vacancies with the following:

- a CV,
- a headshot,
- a video recording singing an aria by J. S. Bach (in German), accompanied by keyboard or orchestra, at a comfortable pitch,
- a cover letter answering the following questions:
 1. Why do you want a Choral Scholarship with the Oxford Bach Soloists?
 2. What are your long-term singing goals?
 3. What would a Choral Scholarship allow you to bring to the Oxford Bach Soloists?

Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 3rd June 2022

Audition procedure

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an audition and interview (in person) in Oxford on **Saturday 11th June**. Candidates are asked to keep this date free. All applicants will be informed by email whether they have been shortlisted by 12 noon on Wednesday 8th June 2022.