

THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF PUSEY HOUSE

OXFORD

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

in all voice parts

FROM OCTOBER 2025

We seek to appoint new choral scholars from the start of the academic year 2025/26. Those appointed will sing as a part of an octet (SSAATTBB). The position is tenable for one year, with the possibility of extending this further, subject to discussion with the Master of Music.

PUSEY HOUSE

Founded in 1884 as a memorial to Edward Bouverie Pusey, the House provides ministry to those at the University and further afield, aiming to foster a culture of living and worshipping in the catholic tradition of the Church of England. Singers do not need to be Christian, but they will be sympathetic to the aims of the Church of England. The choir is expected to lead worship and be aware of the liturgical significance of their role.

THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF PUSEY HOUSE

The choir's primary function is to sing for the Sunday High Mass, attended by a congregation of, on average, a hundred. The choir both leads congregational singing and performs alone at various points during the service.

Occasionally, the choir is asked to sing for Choral Evensongs. Recently this has been as part of the Oxford Literary Festival, the House's own Friends' Festival and to mark the start of the St Cross College term. Such events usually occur a few times across the year. These are typically remunerated separately. Last year, we also collaborated with the Oxford Baroque Players in a performance of Haydn's *Paukenmesse*, performed in SJE in a concert and again during a High Mass at Pusey House, putting the music in its liturgical context.

The chapel choir sings for extra services throughout the term to celebrate the principal feast days. These are outlined below.

The chapel choir is supplemented by our voluntary choir, the Pusey Singers, which sings for mid-week services and outside of University term.

DUTIES

- To sing for the **Sunday High Mass**, every week in the full Academic Term (0-9th Week). This takes place at 11am.
- To sing for services of celebration on **Holy Days** (typically no more than three per term), as directed by the Master of Music.
 - Examples of such services include, but are *not limited to*:
 - MT: Advent Lessons and Carols, All Saints', All Souls'
 - HT: Epiphany Lessons and Carols, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday
 - TT: Corpus Christi (with procession and Benediction), Ascension
 - These may or may not be separately remunerated, depending on the specific event. All extra commitments will be circulated with ample notice and allowances made on a case-by-case basis.
- To sing for the yearly fundraising concert (see below).

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9.25am	Arrive
9:30am	Rehearsal
10:40am	Coffee break
11am-12:30pm	High Mass

On some Sundays the rehearsal schedule is altered slightly; on Remembrance Sunday the rehearsal is shifted forward to accommodate an earlier start time, for example. Any changes will be circulated by email and/or other means, well in advance.

HOLY WEEK

The House celebrates Holy Week, and the choir is expected to sing for the following:

Palm Sunday	29 th March 2026
Tenebrae on Holy Wednesday	1 st April 2026
Mass on Maundy Thursday	2 nd April 2026
Good Friday Liturgy	3 rd April 2026
Easter Vigil (very late on Saturday)	4 th April 2026
Easter Sunday	5 th April 2026

Singing for these services attracts an extra fee of **£250** for the week. The House may be able to provide a limited amount of accommodation for choir members. It would be good to discuss your availability for this and your potential accommodation needs at interview, so that we can make the necessary arrangements early.

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

The choir sings one concert per year to raise funds for the music programme. Choral scholars are expected to sing for this concert. The date and time will be fixed at the beginning of Michaelmas term, to ensure all members are available.

PREPARATION OF MUSIC

All choir members are expected to take responsibility for ensuring that the music is well-prepared in advance of rehearsals. Given the small numbers, the choir must function as a cohesive body, whilst maintaining a soloist's attitude to their own part. Rehearsals are not for note-learning. There is a particularly strong hymn-singing tradition at Pusey and the choir is expected to lead the congregation in this. Hymn lists will be circulated to the choir and unfamiliar tunes should be learnt before the rehearsal.

The termly music list will be circulated by, at the latest, Sunday of minus 2nd week each term. The physical copies for any given service will be put in choir pigeonholes on the previous Sunday, and digital copies will be circulated before term starts. Copies can always be borrowed early for private study by asking the Master of Music.

ABSENCES

Absences must be agreed in advance with the Master of Music and should ideally number no more than one per term, although we are, of course, sympathetic to competing demands on time. In the event of illness preventing a Choral Scholar from attending a rehearsal or service, they should inform the Master of Music as soon as possible.

REMUNERATION

£1000 per annum is awarded for the full academic year, plus £250 for Holy Week. This will be paid in instalments at the end of each term. Fees for optional, extra services (e.g., weddings, funerals) are paid in accordance with RSCM rates for special services. Choral scholars have first refusal for these services.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Auditions will take place in 0th week (week beginning 5th October) at a mutually convenient time. Appointments will be made by the Saturday of that week. The first service will be on the Sunday immediately after this: Sunday 12th October.

The audition will consist of a prepared solo song (ideally an aria, or art song) of no more than 5 minutes, a range test, and a sight-reading test. The interview will consist of a 15-minute discussion with members of the music department.

To apply, please submit a CV, with contact details of (a) referee(s).

Submissions must be received by 12 Noon on Friday 3rd October **at the very latest**, but please send as and when you are ready, as we will audition on a rolling basis. Please contact the Master of Music, Ed Gaut, by email:

music@puseyhouse.org.uk

Please note that my Oxford email, edward.gaut@keble.ox.ac.uk, is no longer functional.