

# Choral & Organ Awards



JESUS COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE



## Jesus College, Cambridge

Founded in 1496, Jesus is one of Cambridge's oldest and most beautiful colleges. It is set in spacious grounds in a central location, just a few minutes' walk from the river, a number of faculties and departments, and the city's many and varied shops. All students are accommodated on-site for the duration of their studies and the College is proud of its reputation as a diverse and friendly yet high-achieving community.

Jesus College admits around 140 undergraduates a year and seeks to select those applicants with the greatest academic promise and commitment. Applicants from all types of school are warmly welcomed, and all are considered for admission as individuals on their own merits. We know that Cambridge in general and Jesus College in particular have much to offer able and motivated students from whatever background, and that they have much to offer us. The College welcomes applicants for all subjects studied in the University, and there is a roughly equal number of arts and science students. The number of students in individual subjects varies slightly from year to year to take account of the relative strength of the applications in each subject. One

important criterion for admission is, of course, achievement in public examinations, but we also take great care to assess each candidate by sensitive and sympathetic personal interview as well as taking account of his or her individual circumstances.

Those intending to apply for a Choral Award are interviewed alongside all applicants for undergraduate places at the College and University in early December. Places in the Choir are also available to graduate students and those interested should contact the Director of Music for further information. Applicants for Organ Awards are interviewed academically at the time of the auditions in September and are expected to meet fully the admissions criteria set for their subject. Whilst the College values excellence and talent in music and many other spheres, these are not a passport to an academic place and applicants for Organ and Choral Awards are expected to compete on a level playing field with others applying to read their chosen subject. At Jesus College a Choral Award is compatible with all subjects and members of the Choir read for a wide range of degrees in the arts and sciences.

## The Chapel & Choirs

The College Chapel was originally the ancient church of the Benedictine Nunnery of St Radegund, begun around 1140 and finished in the first half of the thirteenth century. The Nunnery was dissolved when the Bishop of Ely, John Alcock, founded the college in its stead in 1496. The majestic and ancient Chapel is the beating heart of the College where morning and evening services are said or sung daily during term time.

From its earliest days, the College maintained a choir of men and boys, which particularly flourished in the twentieth century under the direction of distinguished former organ scholars such as Peter Hurford and James O'Donnell. Following the admission of adults, it was felt that women should have the opportunity to sing in the Chapel, but that the tradition of boys' singing should not be abandoned. As a result, since 1982 the College has enjoyed services sung by two choirs – the College Choir in which female undergraduates sing soprano, and the Chapel Choir in which boys from a variety of local

schools sing the treble line. Adult countertenors, contraltos, tenors and basses form the 'back row' in both choirs. Each choir has developed a distinctive reputation and repertoire, whilst combining for key events and large-scale projects. Organ Scholars at Jesus College have the rare opportunity to experience the training of treble voices first-hand whilst also working with a choir of mixed voices, and Choral Scholars enjoy the special experience of belonging to a unique choir family.

“  
*Energy, verve,  
immaculate tuning  
and beguiling tone...*

The Times



# Choral Scholarships

All Choral Scholarship applicants are expected to have an attractive, clear (though not necessarily fully-trained) voice, and to demonstrate good aural and sight-reading skills. Potential is just as important as proven ability – we expect to train singers during their time here, and great weight is given to the educational aspects of the scholarship. In addition to the award of a University Choral Scholarship, benefits include four Feasts a year, an annual Choir Dinner, subsidised meals in Hall for each service sung, several parties, fully-subsidised foreign tours and a generous singing lesson allowance. In addition, a number of workshops and master-classes are arranged each year for the students, free of charge.

Whilst both choirs exist primarily to enhance the Anglican worship of the College Chapel, 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 cultural, musical, linguistic and spiritual benefits of a Choral Scholarship are great, and are open for all suitable candidates to enjoy.

With regular tours, most recently to Romania, South Africa, Malta and Italy as well as concerts, recordings and broadcasts, Jesus College Choral and Organ Scholars are able to enjoy music making of an especially high standard, alongside opportunities for outreach in the local community and beyond.



# Organ Scholarships

Candidates for Organ Scholarships are expected to have developed skills in organ playing to at least ABRSM Grade 8 standard. Whilst an accurate ear is essential, we expect to train organists during their time here; potential is valued as highly as proven ability. Unique in Cambridge, the Scholarship offers the holder experience both in the training of boys' voices and those of the adult members of the College Choir. In addition to regular service playing and conducting, there are opportunities for continuo playing, concerts, tours and recordings with professional instrumental ensembles. The focus is on an all encompassing practical musical development, preparing students for a potentially wide range of careers within the musical profession.

Former Jesus Organ Scholars include the world renowned Bach performer Peter Hurford; Cathedral Organists Richard Lloyd (Durham and Hereford), Geraint Bowen (currently Hereford) and James O'Donnell (Westminster Abbey); the composers Robert Walker and Terence Allbright.

The Organ Scholars work closely with the Director of Music, a post currently held by Richard Pinel, formerly of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. His predecessors in the post (established in 1998) are Mark Williams, Daniel Hyde and Timothy Byram-Wigfield.

The university-wide value of an Organ Scholarship is £450 per annum. In addition, the College covers the cost of regular organ and singing lessons. Other benefits include reduced room rent and the same room in College for three years. Organ Scholars are also provided with a piano in their rooms and unlimited use of the College's comprehensive collection of instruments.

Monday	5.20pm-6.30pm	College Choir rehearsal in Chapel
Tuesday	5.20pm-6.15pm 6.30pm	College Choir rehearsal in Chapel College Choir Evensong
Thursday	5.20pm-6.15pm 6.30pm	Chapel Choir rehearsal in Chapel Chapel Choir Evensong
Saturday	5.20pm-6.15pm 6.30pm	Chapel Choir rehearsal in Chapel Chapel Choir Evensong
Sunday	4.20pm-5.45pm 6.00pm	College Choir rehearsal in Chapel College Choir Evensong

# The Hudleston Organ

Specification of The Organ of Jesus College Cambridge  
installed in July 2007

Orgelbau Kuhn (Switzerland)

[www.orgelbau.ch](http://www.orgelbau.ch)

## Great

Bourdon	16	Geigen Diapason	8
Open Diapason	8	Lieblich Gedact	8
Harmonic Flute	8	Salicional	8
Stopped Diapason	8	Celeste	8
Gamba	8	Dolce	8
Principal	4	Principal	4
Flute	4	Chimney Flute	4
Quinte	2 2/3	Nazard	2 2/3
Fifteenth	2	Octave	2
Mixture	IV	Tierce	1 3/5
Trumpet	8	Plein Jeu	IV
Tremulant		Oboe	8
		Trumpet	8
		Tremulant	

## Swell

Geigen Diapason	8
Lieblich Gedact	8
Salicional	8
Celeste	8
Dolce	8
Principal	4
Chimney Flute	4
Nazard	2 2/3
Octave	2
Tierce	1 3/5
Plein Jeu	IV
Oboe	8
Trumpet	8
Tremulant	

## Pedal

Lieblich Bourdon*	16	Sw/Gt
Subbass	16	Sw/Gt sub
Violone	16	Gt/Ped
Principal	8	Sw/Ped
Stopped Diapason*	8	Sw/Ped super
Gamba*	8	
Octave	4	
Posaune	16	
Trumpet*	8	<i>*on transmission</i>

## Couplers

Sw/Gt
Sw/Gt sub
Gt/Ped
Sw/Ped
Sw/Ped super

*\*on transmission*



The Chapel is a very popular venue for concerts and broadcasts owing to its renowned acoustic and it boasts one of the finest instrument collections in the UK. In addition to the Hudleston Organ, the building houses the Sutton Organ, an instrument of 12 stops built by Bishop in 1848 and decorated by Pugin, restored in 2013 by William Drake, a double-manual harpsichord built by Bruce Kennedy in 2012, a three-stop chamber organ by Kenneth Tickell presented to the College in 2010, and a 2006 Steinway concert grand piano.

# Choral Applications

Choral Scholarships at all Cambridge colleges are awarded after candidates have received an academic offer to study at the University.

Those considering making an application to Jesus College who may be interested in a Choral Award are welcome to sing to the Director of Music informally at any time. This is by no means essential but may prove useful to candidates who wish to know more about the nature of the commitment and the level of vocal and musical aptitude required. Potential applicants are also welcome to attend rehearsals and/or services at any time. The UCAS deadline normally falls on or around 15 October. Please contact the Choir and Chapel Office Coordinator on [choir@jesus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:choir@jesus.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 2339699 to arrange a visit.

For details of the process and timetable for applying for a choral award please visit:

<http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/musicawards/choral.html>

## Academic interviews and offers

Academic interviews usually take place in December. Most applicants are invited for interview. Only those whose applications seem highly unlikely to be successful on academic grounds, when assessed against all other applications for any given subject, will not have their application taken any further. Following the interview, those who do not receive an academic offer from Cambridge are not eligible for a Choral Award. Those who are pooled to another college may apply for a Choral Award at their newly-allocated college or may request to be considered for a place as a volunteer at the college to which they initially applied (volunteers are members of the Choir who are not members of the College - there are normally between three and six choral volunteers in Jesus College Choir each year).

Those who do receive an academic offer are eligible to apply for a Choral Award and auditions normally take place during the Easter Vacation. Choral Award offer-holders, like all other offer-holders, are expected to meet their academic offers at 'A' level (or its equivalent).

## Auditions

Applicants will be expected to sing a piece of their choice lasting approximately four minutes. Applicants are then given some ear tests, including singing back individual notes and notes within a chord, singing back melodies and identifying intervals etc. Their range will be demonstrated with some simple exercises and there will be a piece of sight-reading (usually a motet from the sixteenth century). The audition is not meant to be intimidating and all applicants are encouraged to practise these exercises with teachers and/or friends to ensure that they are confident and at ease.



# Organ Applications

The organ trials take place in late September – dates may be found at:  
<http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/musicawards/organ.html>

During the trials, candidates are accommodated by their College of first choice.

In the **formal** audition, which takes place in a college chapel chosen by the Coordinator of the Organ Awards, the candidate begins by playing the **prepared piece**. Applicants are required to play one of the trio movements given on the University Organ Awards website. A series of tests follow (the same tests are given to all candidates). Candidates will be required to:

- **sight-read** a piece on three staves, involving some simple registration changes (for example use of the swell pedal, addition/subtraction of Great to Pedal)
- **transpose** a hymn-like passage on two staves, up or down a tone or semitone, including the use of pedals
- **score-read** a passage of four-part polyphony in conventional clefs and notation, without pedals

In a **second audition** held at the candidate's college of first preference (and also, often, at other colleges featured on the candidate's preference list), applicants should be prepared to perform a piece of their own choice. The piece must be of at least

grade 8 standard, and should be of a contrasting mood/tempo to the trio. Candidates may also be asked to undertake further keyboard tests, including **score-reading and playing an anthem and/or psalm accompaniment**. All applicants will be required to **conduct a six minute choir practice**. Music will be distributed at the meeting for all applicants at the start of the trials. It will be a short, unaccompanied anthem, and applicants may expect the choir to know the notes. The choir will be a friendly and informally-constituted ensemble of current members of the University who sing with various college choirs. A keyboard or piano will be provided for giving notes.

Candidates at Jesus College may also be asked to take a rehearsal with the boy choristers. In addition, there will be **ear tests** (dictation of a melody, dictation of a four-part chorale – the soprano part will be given throughout and recognition and correction of mistakes of pitch and rhythm in a score heard three times), and, for those intending to read Music, **harmony tests** (harmonising a Bach chorale - the soprano part given throughout - without the aid of a keyboard).



# Profiles



**Angela Liu**  
(second-year Classics student  
at Clare College)

*"I've really loved singing with Jesus College Choir in my first year here. I'd never been in a chapel choir before, and I was new to the UK, but everyone in the choir made me feel so warm and welcomed from the first day I stepped foot in the chapel. I was surprised at how quickly I picked up all the strange traditions and how easily I found myself feeling a sense of belonging in the choir, especially as I was coming from a different College and a different country! I had so many worries about sight-singing, confidence, cultural differences, but all that dissolved without me even noticing. Each rehearsal and service is a chance for me to take a breather from whatever else is going on in my life, and to just enjoy being a part of something glorious. Choir tours are some of the best moments of the year as well, and we have an outrageously good time wherever we go! It's unbelievable that I get to make gorgeous music every week with people I genuinely love – I've met some of my very best friends through this choir, and I can't imagine how different my university experience would be if I hadn't auditioned."*



**Ben Gibson**  
(third-year Human, Social and  
Political Sciences student at  
Jesus College)

*"Singing in Jesus College Choir has been one of the best parts of my Cambridge experience so far. It's been a real privilege to be able to sing such a wide variety of music in such a beautiful space, with some really talented and lovely people. Being in choir has enhanced every aspect of my time here; having evensong as a regular period of time to decompress and just focus on making music really helps me manage all the other stresses of Cambridge life. Choir is also such a great way to get involved in college life, and the social events and tours have been some of the absolute highlights of my first two years. Through singing at Jesus I've not only improved infinitely as a musician, but I've also had some amazing, unique experiences and have made some friends for life. I'd recommend it to anyone!"*



**Ella Curry**  
(second-year English student  
at Jesus College)

*"I have loved every moment of singing at Jesus, and I couldn't have hoped for a better choral experience at Cambridge. Having never previously sung with a chapel choir, I was initially nervous about my sight reading capabilities, but the combination of the hugely supportive and collaborative atmosphere of choir and the access to free singing lessons both put me at ease and helped me to significantly improve. Jesus College has a reputation for being one of the friendliest Cambridge Colleges, and the choir is no exception – I have made some of my most valued friends through choir, and it is wonderful to be part of a community where everyone constantly looks out for and values everyone else. Choir is a lovely way to take a break from studying, while still taking part in something extremely special, worthwhile, and intellectually stimulating. We have performed some truly beautiful pieces of music, such as Grayson Ives' Requiem and Mahler Symphony No. 2, and have sung in incredible venues such as King's College Chapel. The Jesus Chapel itself, the oldest College Chapel, is also a very special place to sing: it is a peaceful space in College with lovely acoustics. I'm very much looking forward to continuing to sing at Jesus, and I would strongly encourage anyone thinking of singing at Cambridge to consider Jesus!"*

# Recordings from Jesus College, Cambridge



## Praise my Soul

Entering the Classical Charts in the Top Ten, Praise, my Soul showcases some of the world's favourite hymns in Jesus College Choir's first release with Director of Music, Ricard Pinel.



## Byrd | Britten

Byrd | Britten juxtaposes the music of two of Britain's greatest composers of sacred music in a unique and thought-provoking manner. This is the final CD recorded under the direction of Mark Williams



## My Beloved's Voice

Released in 2014, My Beloved's Voice is inspired by the Song of Songs and other sacred songs of love from the fifteenth to the twenty-first centuries.



## Journey into Light

The first recording from Jesus College to be released on the highly-acclaimed Signum label, this disc brings together both choristers and choral scholars in a selection of music for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas.

“

*Graceful, gracious and always beautifully shaped to the sense of the words and the musical phrase... gorgeous.*

John Rutter

“

*Their tone is full and pleasing, pitching is accurate and they're a pleasure to listen to. However, what impressed me more than anything is the sense of engagement, the commitment with which they sing the music. This is never overdone but all the time you feel as if the music – and the words – matter to them. I found their performances thoroughly convincing.*

Musicweb International

“

*The Choir of Jesus College Cambridge sings beautifully.*



Classic FM

“

*A performance of full rich sounds.*

Gramophone



BBC Music Magazine





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