



Choral Scholarships 2019-20

Bristol Choral Society is pleased to invite singers to apply for one of four choral scholarships for the academic year 2019-20. Successful candidates will be expected to attend weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings 7.15pm-9.30pm in term time, in addition to around four performances a year. The scholarships are open to singers aged 18-30, or students in full or part time music education.

The scholarships are ideal for aspiring professional singers wishing to develop their choral singing and sight-reading, or in preparation for university choral scholarships, and as a means of broadening repertoire knowledge. Scholarships run from October until mid-June and are worth £750. There will be some solo/quartet/semi chorus opportunities, and also a chance for the scholars to receive coaching from the choir's Musical Director.

It is expected that choral scholars will mentor our younger choral apprentices, take an active role with social media for the ensemble, and generally support the endeavours of Bristol Choral Society.

The choir is conducted by Hilary Campbell, one of the foremost young British choral conductors. The choir has an auditioned membership of approximately 160 singers drawn from Bristol and the surrounding counties of Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and South Wales, encompassing all ages from students and young professionals to the recently retired, from all walks of life.

Bristol Choral Society stages at least four major concerts each year, with professional orchestras and soloists. The choir has an established reputation as the leading symphony chorus in the South West and is invited to sing for organisations such as the Philharmonia Orchestra and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, including concerts under late Presidents Richard Hickox and Sir Charles Mackerras, BBC Radio 3 concert broadcasts and BBC Proms concerts.

Bristol Choral Society is proud of its long history and contribution to the musical and cultural life of Bristol and the wider region over the last 125 years, and actively encourages the next generation in the pursuit of singing and music through a range of youth development and outreach activities with schools and young people.

Future performances include:

Saturday 16th November 2019
Bristol Cathedral

A Time for All Seasons
Chilcott, McDowall

Saturday 21st December 2019
Redmaids School

Handel – Mini Messiah

Saturday 21st March 2020
Bristol Cathedral

Symphony of Psalms
Symphony of Psalms - Stravinsky
Requiem – Fauré

Saturday 13th June 2020
Bristol Cathedral

An Oxford Elegy
Finzi, Vaughan Williams,

The choir is directed by Hilary Campbell, a freelance choral specialist who is also founder and director of professional chamber choir Blossom Street, and Musical Director of the Music Makers of London, Chiswick Choir and VOCALIZE. She is conductor of several office choirs, including P&O Ferries, the group which won the recent BBC2 series The Choir, and whom she met whilst filming for the series, and Assistant Conductor of Barts Choir. Her guest work includes ensembles such as the BBC Symphony Chorus (whom she will be preparing for a Prom featuring Mozart's Mass in C Minor), BBC Radio 4's Daily Service Singers, the New London Singers and the Amici Chamber Choir. She also runs an annual project with Judith Weir at the Royal Academy of Music, in conjunction with Blossom Street and the RAM composition department.

In addition to her regular conducting work, Hilary also acts as an adjudicator, choral workshop leader and guest conductor. She is a founder member of the Voices of London Festival, and is also a published and prize-winning composer. With Blossom Street, she has released two award-winning Naxos recordings.

Application Process

Completed application forms, should be sent, along with a CV and the name of a referee, to:

Caro Barrett, Chair of Bristol Choral Society at chair@bristolchoral.co.uk

The application deadline is midday Saturday 15th September 2019.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a tea-time / early pre-rehearsal audition and invited to stay for the rehearsal.

Candidates will be asked to sing a prepared piece of their own choice and undertake some sight-reading and ear tests.

<http://www.bristolchoral.co.uk/>