



OXFORD BACH SOLOISTS

Title: Choral Scholar	Organisation: Oxford Bach Soloists
Location: Various	Term: February 2025-January 2026 incl.
Agreement type: Scholarship	Reporting to: General Manager

About the Oxford Bach Soloists

The Oxford Bach Soloists (OBS) is a Baroque ensemble dedicated to performing J. S. Bach's vocal works in their original context. Founded in 2017 by Tom Hammond-Davies, OBS not only brings Bach's music to life but also nurtures the next generation of choral talent through its Choral Scholarship scheme. This programme offers young singers unique training opportunities and hands-on experience performing Bach's works alongside professional musicians, helping them build skills for their future careers. With their inaugural disc launched on Friday 8th November 2024 and focus being paid to the group's new artistic direction, OBS continues to support and develop emerging artists, ensuring the longevity of Bach's choral legacy.

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 and *Christmas Oratorio* in the New Year. Most concerts are performed monthly in Oxford. Additional projects may feature during the year.

Choral Scholars are expected to sing across the year from February to January 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, and for the larger concerts include 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. On occasion, 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 2025 have been generously funded by several 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 (February to January inclusive).
- Prepare for and attend regular rehearsals, and any additional rehearsals by arrangement with the General Manager.
- Contribute to a short blog/newsletter keeping funders updated with progress and experiences.
- Attend occasional Friends' social events to interface with donors and supporters.

- Any other tasks as reasonably requested by the General Manager.

Typical Timetable

OBS' core programme consists of an average of one concert per 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 concert schedule could consist of a patch of two or three consecutive days of rehearsals leading up to the concert day.

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 via the form 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 Wednesday 19th February 2025

Audition procedure

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an audition and interview (in person) in Oxford on Saturday 22nd February. Candidates are asked to keep this date free, but to indicate if an alternative date is preferred. All applicants will be informed by email whether they have been shortlisted by Thursday 20th February by 5pm.