



Choral Scholarships at King's

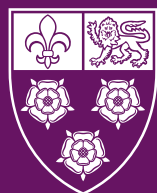




Photo: Robin Mackworth-Young

Stephen Cleobury

Director of Music



I have been fortunate enough to enjoy the musical opportunities offered at King's for many years, and have seen succeeding generations of choral scholars pass through the Choir, and follow with interest the successes they have in later life.

My enthusiasm for welcoming and guiding each year's newly arriving group is undiminished. Apart from the rewards of being in the Choir, there is so much else on offer at King's and in Cambridge generally.

I am always ready to meet informally anyone interested in finding out more about how things work here. Please be in touch at choir@kings.cam.ac.uk, or by phone on **01223 331224**. I shall be delighted to hear from you.



Why King's?

In coming to King's as a choral scholar you will be joining the most famous choral foundation of its kind. You will be singing in a building of unsurpassed beauty and you will become part of an historic tradition of musical excellence.

You will also find yourself singing with some of the world's most distinguished soloists and orchestras in some of the world's most prestigious venues.

Singing on the River: an annual concert given by the King's Men



Rehearsing for a concert in Seoul

Millions of people listen to King's Choir – not just the visitors to Chapel and audiences at our international concerts – but also the tens of millions around the world who tune into the numerous radio and TV broadcasts every year, including the famous live *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* on Christmas Eve.

In addition to the choral scholarship, the College pays for singing and Alexander Technique lessons, as well as a programme of workshops with distinguished singers and ensembles. These have included masterclasses with Andreas Scholl (internationally renowned countertenor), Ben Parry (formerly of the Swingle Singers and now Director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain), Paul Phoenix (King's Singers) and Rogers Covey-Crump (Hilliard Ensemble).



The King's Men performing their annual Christmas Concert in the Hall at King's

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I'm the right standard for King's?

Choral scholars at King's come from many different backgrounds, and whatever you (or your school) think of your ability, it is always worth making an enquiry or application. Stephen Cleobury is always happy to answer questions from prospective choral scholars, either in an informal meeting or by phone or email.

Can I/Should I take a gap year?

Gap years can be beneficial, but there is no requirement either way.

Is King's looking for a particular type of voice?

Other than countertenor, tenor or bass, no. Some choral scholars have perfect pitch and excellent musicianship skills, while others have big voices which are clearly going to go on to fill opera houses – these qualities are not, of course, mutually exclusive!

What subjects can I apply for with a choral scholarship?

All subjects are compatible with a choral scholarship at King's with the exception of Medicine and Architecture.

For more FAQs, including those on topics such as applying to King's, life as a choral scholar and life after King's, see our website.

Recording

King's College Choir records a number of new albums every year, usually for the College's own label, and often works with prestigious groups such as the Academy of Ancient Music and the Britten Sinfonia.

The College's own label has received consistently outstanding reviews, with critics describing the catalogue as 'impeccable'.

In addition, the Chapel's bespoke recording system creates recordings of choral services listened to by tens of thousands of people around the world.

The King's Men recording in the studio - a new experience for many



International Touring

The Choir usually tours two or three times a year, often with at least one long-haul trip a year. Recent destinations have included the USA, China and Australia.

The amount of time spent with the Choir during the University vacations is limited to ensure that choral scholars get plenty of downtime, and while on tour the choral scholars have time to sightsee and take part in activities. Touring incurs no charge to choral scholars, who are paid for each concert performed.



A day off in Chicago, USA

the KING'S MEN CAMBRIDGE

Under the name “The King’s Men”, the King’s choral scholars have a concert, touring and recording programme of their own, performing in a variety of styles including close harmony.

The King’s Men rehearsing for a performance in Sydney, Australia



The King's Men recording a new release on the King's label

The group, run by the choral scholars themselves, generates a valuable additional income for its members, as well as providing useful opportunities for choral direction and business management. The group also raises money for charitable causes.

The King's Men performs regularly throughout the year, usually in combinations smaller than the full 14-man group, including an annual tour around the UK for two seven-man groups.

Recording on the College record label, the group has recently reached #1 in the iTunes Classical charts with the album 'After Hours'.

Membership of the King's Men is optional, but most choral scholars hugely enjoy being part of it.

*“I would happily sit in King’s College Chapel
listening to this choir
for the rest of my days.”*

The Times

How to apply: at a glance

- 1** Contact Stephen Cleobury, who can answer any questions you may have
- 2** Consider coming to an April Open Day
- 3** Come to the informal Vocal Assessment Days in late September/early October
- 4** Apply for an academic place at King’s
- 5** Receive an academic decision in January
- 6** Submit a choral award application by February

For a comprehensive step-by-step guide, and for more information about life and studying at King’s, search “King’s choral scholarships” online.

kings.cam.ac.uk

Designed and produced at King’s College Cambridge

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