

## WHY NOT JOIN US?

Would you like the thrill of singing with a mixed voice choir that has a great choral tradition going back over 100 years?

If you are thinking of joining a choir in Oxford, then singing with the Oxford Bach Choir is a wonderfully rewarding experience. As a singing member you will have the chance to rehearse and perform with one of the most respected amateur choirs in the UK. You will meet like-minded people who share your interest in music and have an opportunity to experience singing with professional conductors, orchestras and soloists.

If you are interested in joining, please email the Membership Secretary for details and dates of auditions: [membership@oxfordbachchoir.org](mailto:membership@oxfordbachchoir.org) or check our website.

## A CHOIR FOR ALL OCCASIONS!

Members of the Oxford Bach Choir would be delighted to sing for your special occasion and are available for weddings, funerals, birthdays, anniversaries, and any other special event.

Perhaps there is a piece of choral music with special significance to you or your family? The choir's repertoire is extremely varied and versatile. To discuss your event and for help in choosing music please contact Liz Stock on [events@oxfordbachchoir.org](mailto:events@oxfordbachchoir.org)

## BECOME AN OBC FRIEND

**Support Oxford's leading large choir and enjoy a range of benefits**

We are very grateful for the support of our Friends and we invite you to join them. Their support enables us to perform with leading soloists and orchestras.

Friends are a vital part of our musical community and are able to access an exclusive range of benefits such as priority booking, invitations to our September Preview of the forthcoming season by our Musical Director, our open rehearsals, and the post-concert drinks receptions. A regular newsletter keeps Friends up to date with the choir's concerts and other activities.

For more information contact our Friends Secretary by email on [friends@oxfordbachchoir.org](mailto:friends@oxfordbachchoir.org)

## HOW TO BUY TICKETS

### CHOIR BOX OFFICE

All tickets are available from the Choir Box Office either online at [tickets.oxfordbachchoir.org](http://tickets.oxfordbachchoir.org) or by telephone: +44 (0)1865 980220 (All cards and PayPal payment accepted).

### Ticket discounts

(only one discount will be applied per ticket)

**Students: £5 off**

**Under 18s: 50% discount**

(We regret that children under 6 years old cannot be admitted except for the Carols for All concert)

**Groups of 10 or more: 10% discount**

**Disabled person's carer: free**

### Postage

We post tickets to the UK only up to 7 days before the event, after which tickets will need to be collected from the venue box office up to 1.5 hours before the advertised start time.

### Refunds

Tickets can only be refunded when a concert is sold out and your ticket is resold. There may be a £1 handling fee.



# OBC OXFORD BACH CHOIR 2019-20 Concert Season

[www.oxfordbachchoir.org](http://www.oxfordbachchoir.org)

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# Welcome to our 2019-20 season...

For almost 125 years, the Oxford Bach Choir has been presenting the greatest choral music ever written, and this season is no exception.

In the year that Oxford's Cardinal Newman has been declared a saint, it's entirely fitting that we open the season with a performance of Edward Elgar's setting of his dramatic poem, *The Dream of Gerontius*. Elgar conducted the CBSO's very first symphonic concert in 1920, so it's great to welcome them back to the OBC for this performance. We also have a stellar line-up of soloists which includes Roderick Williams, one of the Choir's Vice Presidents and who has rightly become renowned for his performances of this work.

Considered by Beethoven to be his greatest achievement, the *Missa Solemnis* has been chosen by the choir to mark the Beethoven 250 celebrations. With the brilliant London Mozart Players and a superb team of soloists, the choir will be well-placed to attempt the Everest of choral works – a piece that is by turns serene, beautiful, grand and theatrical. This is an evening not to be missed!

The choir itself is the main focus of the music which forms the summer programme: the 10-part *Stabat Mater* of Scarlatti is remarkable for its dramatic sweep and will sound thrilling in the warm acoustic of SJE. The *Mass in G minor* of Vaughan Williams pays homage to Tudor church music, yet feels much more recent in its deployment of the vocal forces. And, of course, the season would not be complete without the music of Bach. I know that the choir is looking forward to returning to one of his great motets.

The brilliant young singers and instrumentalists from the County Music Service join us for *Carols for All* – the occasion when the audience raises the roof of the Sheldonian with us! The annual *Come & Sing* days have become increasingly popular, and we look forward to welcoming singers from all over the country to Merton College Chapel for a day spent rehearsing and performing Tallis's masterpiece, *Spem in Alium*. Do come and sing with us!

Benjamin Nicholas,  
Principal Conductor



## Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

Elgar's deeply felt and passionate setting of John Henry Newman's dramatic poem about the progress of a soul through death and into the afterlife to its judgement transformed the English choral tradition, and remains a much-loved masterpiece.



**Sunday 8 December 2019, 5pm**  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas  
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Kathryn Rudge Mezzo-Soprano  
Ed Lyon Tenor  
Roderick Williams Bass

Tickets: £42, £30, £20, £15

## Carols for All

Once again, we will be joined by young musicians from the Oxfordshire County Music Service – and as always, there will be plenty of opportunities for audience participation.



**Saturday 21 December 2019, 7:30pm**  
Sheldonian Theatre,  
Oxford

Tickets: £20, £18, £14, £12

## Beethoven: Missa Solemnis

As the OBC's contribution to Beethoven's 250th birthday, we perform his titanic setting of the Mass which will be the first time OBC has performed this great work in over two decades.



**Saturday 14 March 2020, 7.30pm**  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas  
London Mozart Players

Katherine Crompton Soprano  
Susanna Spicer Alto  
Justin Lavender Tenor  
Edward Grint Bass

Tickets: £42, £30, £20, £15

## Come & Sing Spem in Alium

Join the Oxford Bach Choir at Merton College for an exciting day to rehearse and perform *Spem in Alium* – Thomas Tallis' fabulous and monumental 40-part motet – in one day under the direction of Benjamin Nicholas.



Check the OBC website for further details as they become available in early 2020.

[www.oxfordbachchoir.org](http://www.oxfordbachchoir.org)

**Saturday 16 May 2020**  
Merton College, Oxford

OBC Workshop led by  
Benjamin Nicholas

## Stabat Mater

Scarlatti: *Stabat Mater*  
Vaughan Williams: *Mass in G minor*  
JS Bach: *Komm, Jesu, Komm*

The OBC performs three masterpieces by composers from the 18th and 20th centuries who each reinvigorate ancient styles of choral writing in new and original ways.



**Saturday 20 June 2020, 7:30pm**  
St John the Evangelist Church, Oxford

Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas

Tickets: £35, £25, £15