



Lay Clerkships (Alto & Tenor)

Choir of The Queen's College, Oxford

The Queen's College, Oxford, seeks to appoint up to four Lay Clerks to join its renowned choir. Directed by Professor Owen Rees, the Choir of The Queen's College is among the finest university ensembles in the UK. The Lay Clerks sing for the three choral services a week in term-time, and participate in the Choir's rich programme of concerts across the UK, international tours, broadcasts, and recordings.

The choir consists of approximately 30 singers, most of whom are undergraduate and graduate choral scholars. The Lay Clerks provide musical leadership and stability to the ensemble, ensuring that it performs to high professional standards.

Salary: £4,600, with additional fees (amounting to approximately £1000 per annum) for concerts, recordings, and broadcasts, plus free singing lessons

Contract: One year, fixed-term, beginning October 2026

Reporting to: Prof. Owen Rees, Waverley Fellow in Music and College Organist

Closing Date: Friday 24 April 2026

The Queen's College, Oxford

Founded in 1341 by Robert de Eglesfield, chaplain to Queen Philippa of Hainault, The Queen's College is one of Oxford's oldest colleges. At the heart of the College stands its Chapel, an elegant 18th-century space which is one of Oxford's most notable buildings. The Chapel is noted for its wonderful acoustics which, together with the famous Frobenius organ, creates an ideal setting for worship and choral performance. It remains a focal point of College life, hosting regular services during term time as well as concerts.

Queen's is a vibrant academic community of approximately 330 undergraduates and 170 graduates, distinguished by its strong performance in both the humanities and sciences. The College is particularly renowned for its musical excellence, anchored by its world-class choir. The Choir has an extensive discography, with recordings that have received critical acclaim, and frequently collaborates with distinguished ensembles, including an annual performance of *Messiah* with the Academy of Ancient Music. The award-winning Shulman Auditorium at Queen's provides a further venue for rehearsals, concerts, and recitals, enriching the College's musical life.

Key Responsibilities

Services & Rehearsals: The Lay Clerks sing for the three choral services per week during the eight weeks of each University Term. The weekly schedule during term-time is:

- **Sundays:** 6:15 pm (rehearsal 4:30 pm)
- **Wednesdays & Fridays:** 6:30 pm (rehearsal 5:00 pm)
- **Thursday:** rehearsal 1:15-1:40pm

Musical leadership: Leading a section and providing a professional vocal model for Choral Scholars.

Special services: Singing for additional major college events, including Carol Services.

Professional projects: Participating in the choir's programme of recordings, concerts, and tours.

Key Requirements

We are looking for experienced singers who possess:

- high-level vocal quality and technique, and the ability to contribute effectively within an ensemble;
- fluent sight-reading skills and the ability to learn complex repertoire quickly;
- significant experience in liturgical choral singing, preferably in a collegiate or cathedral environment;
- a professional, collaborative, and reliable approach to rehearsals and performances.

Salary and Benefits

Stipend: a competitive annual stipend, inclusive of holiday pay, paid in monthly instalments.

Professional fees: additional fees for concerts, recordings, and broadcasts, totalling approximately £1000 per annum.

Pension: automatic enrolment into the Oxford Staff Pensions Scheme (initially at Tier 2, with the option to raise/lower the tier, or opt out entirely: <https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/osps>).

Dining rights: free dinner in Hall following all regular services.

Vocal tuition: access to a generous allowance for private singing lessons.

Travel: fully funded travel and accommodation for choir tours and concerts, plus per diems for tours.

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit a **combined covering letter and CV** in a single PDF document. The application should also include the name and contact details of one referee who can speak directly to the candidate's ability as a choral singer and their suitability for this role.

Applications to be sent to: choir@queens.ox.ac.uk

Deadline for submission: Noon, Friday 1 May 2026

Auditions: Shortlisted candidates will be invited to audition in person on **Monday 11 May 2026**.

Audition Requirements

Candidates will be asked to:

- perform **two contrasting pieces** of their choice (an accompanist will be provided);
- complete a **sight-reading test**;
- participate in an **ensemble singing component** (also at sight).