

Background

Wimbledon Choral Society (WCS) is a highly successful choir that is fortunate to benefit from a strong membership covering a wide age range including those in their 20s and drawn mainly from the local population.

WCS has an enviable reputation for performing concerts of professional quality in venues ranging from local churches in the Wimbledon area to cathedrals like Southwark in central London to national concert halls such as the Fairfield Halls (Croydon), Cadogan Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall. It has been described as being "... *one of the most substantial and formidable choirs in London*". It is also invited regularly to participate in other events, examples of which in recent years have included BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*, the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall and has even sung at rugby league matches in Wembley Stadium and in a Mass in St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

The choir seeks to encourage young singers to experience and maintain the enjoyment of choral singing by sharing with them an extensive repertoire of choral music and styles which, it is hoped, will remain with them throughout their later lives and which will retain the tradition and art of choral singing in the future. It believes that the diversity of opportunities offered by WCS may be attractive to young singers. The management committee of the choir has decided the most appropriate way of doing this is through the means of a bursary scheme.

Award

In line with its charitable status, Wimbledon Choral Society is in a position to offer one or two bursaries per season to young singers to help further their musical development through regularly rehearsing and performing a varied repertoire with a large, respected amateur choir.

The bursaries are offered to singers in voice parts which need some strengthening in the choir and should bring the added benefit of helping to develop the relevant choir section(s) by assisting with the learning process in rehearsal.

For the 2019/20 season we are offering one bursary to a tenor.

The bursary is open to young singers, ideally aged 25 or under, who are either in full or part-time education, or still training for a career in singing.

The bursary will normally apply over the standard choir season which runs from the first Monday in September to the following June.

The bursary covers the following:

- An award of £1,000 per recipient for the season
- Subscription fees for the season
- Hire of all music required for the concert season

Process

The bursaries are advertised on the choir's website and local schools and music colleges are being approached directly to advertise the scheme internally.

Candidates should email their applications to bursary@wimbledon-choral.org.uk preferably by the end of September 2019, outlining briefly their musical experience, aspirations and why they should receive the award. Although these timings are aimed for the 2019/20 season as a whole, applications are welcome throughout the year as vacancies may be available at any time.

Applications will be reviewed by the selection team, including the Musical Director, and auditions held usually in Wimbledon unless otherwise arranged.

Requirements

The bursary recipient(s):

- should be available to participate in the four major scheduled concerts for the season (typically on Saturday evenings during November, Christmas, March/April and early June – but see Programme 2019/20 below), with participation in any additional events (e.g. those in which the choir is invited to sing) encouraged;
- should be available to attend at least 80% of rehearsals for those concerts (usually Monday nights from 19.30 – 21.45 and during the day of the concert, plus additional pre-concert rehearsals called by the Musical Director), unless dispensation is given by the Musical Director.

Programme 2019/20

The principal season dates are Saturdays 2nd November 2019 in Cadogan Hall (Carl Orff *Carmina Burana*), 14th December 2019 in Wimbledon (Christmas), 21st March 2020 in Southwark Cathedral (Rachmaninov *All-Night Vigil*), 6th June 2020 in Fairfield Halls, Croydon, (Mozart *Great Mass in C Minor*, Panufnik *Song of Names*) and Friday 29th May 2020 for a commercial recording of the McDowall *Da Vinci Requiem*, the world premiere of which was performed by the choir in the Royal Festival Hall on 7th May 2019.

Further Information

For any further information please contact bursary@wimbledon-choral.org.uk

Wimbledon Choral Society is a registered charity no. 263150

President: Ian Partridge CBE
Musical Director: Neil Ferris BMus(Hons) ARCM MMus
Chairman: Sarah Hendry

www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk

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