

Mark Williams, the Director of Music, is always pleased to meet prospective choristers at any time. He also makes visits to local schools. Why not get in touch and arrange a meeting



THE CHAPEL OF JESUS COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

COULD YOUR SON BE A
COLLEGE CHORISTER?

WEEKLY SCHEDULE DURING TERM TIME

Junior Probationers

Tuesday or Thursday: 4.15 – 5.00pm
Wednesday: 5.00 – 6.00pm

Choristers

Wednesday

5.15 – 6.45pm Junior Choristers
5.45 – 7.15pm Senior Choristers

Thursday and Saturday

5.00 – 6.15pm Rehearsal for all Choristers
6.30 – 7.10pm Evensong in Chapel

Sunday

9.45 – 12 noon Rehearsal for all Choristers



CONTACT DETAILS

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Jesus College Chapel

Originally, Jesus Chapel was the ancient church of the Benedictine Nunnery of St Radegund, begun c.1140 and finished in the first half of the thirteenth century. The Nunnery was dissolved in 1496, when the then Bishop of Ely founded the college in its stead.

The Chapel Choir dates from the foundation of the College, and was restored and re-endowed in the 1840s after a period of decline. Since that time, boys from a variety of schools around Cambridge have volunteered to sing as choristers in Jesus Chapel. The adult singers are choral scholars and volunteers from within Jesus College. At present, the men and boys' choir sings two services each week in term, as part of the regular pattern of worship of the Chapel which follows the Anglican tradition.



Chapel Choir in Solesmes, France June 2010.

What does being a chorister involve?

The choristers of Jesus college are not simply maintaining an ancient tradition. They lead an exciting life, receiving an incomparable musical education, as well as enjoying the social and recreational aspects of the weekly schedule. The self-discipline, motivation and commitment fostered through the music spill into other aspects of the boys' lives; the team spirit and deep cultural awareness that comes hand in hand ally instinctively with drama, art and sculpture; the singing of Psalms and Anthems develops the boys' awareness of language and expression. These are all valuable tools for whatever a boy goes on to do in later life.

In addition to the regular services and practices during term-time, the choir also enjoys a busy schedule of recordings, broadcasts, concerts and foreign trips. Recent tours have included France, Germany and both coasts of the USA and recent concerts with orchestra have included the Britten War Requiem, Bach St Matthew Passion, Monteverdi Vespers and Fauré Requiem.

The Choristers also work well as a 'club'; not only is there an annual barbecue, but also annual football and cricket matches, a fireworks party, days out, and other events too. These are just a few benefits gained through such a unique education.

Parents and families are, of course, more than welcome to attend services.

How does a boy start?

If accepted, boys begin a probationary course twice a week, and over a period of a year or so (depending on age) they take up more of the choristers' responsibilities. As a full chorister, a boy will be expected to attend four times each week during University Full Term (two services and two rehearsals). We understand that the boys undertake other activities and try to be flexible about these, asking that parents give as much notice as possible of clashes with choir commitments.

Is there a cost involved?

There is no cost to the chorister and a scheme endowed by a generous benefactor is available to offer financial support for instrumental tuition. Choristers are paid at the end of each term, receiving both 'pocket money' in cash, as well as an amount held in trust by the College as a stipend. At the end of a chorister's time in the choir, the stipend is released, and depending on the length of time served, this sum can be quite substantial. Choristers are, in effect, rewarded for good work and commitment.



The Choirs of Jesus College Cambridge in San Francisco, USA, December 2012.