

Why did you join the choir?

I've been involved in singing liturgical music since I was nine and felt that it was something I'd love to continue at university!

Because I like singing! I wanted to be surrounded by people who love singing too. I loved being a chorister at school and I didn't want it to stop when I got to uni.

I wanted to go to a university where the choir is of a standard which matches the best around the country, and also offers a superb and well-respected music degree.

It was a chance to learn, develop my musical skills and work with others who share the same passion.

What do you enjoy most about choir?

I really enjoy doing concerts at prestigious venues in London as well as going on tours to explore incredible venues abroad.

Being in the choir gives me so much self-confidence, even more than as a soloist. The sound a choir can produce is so powerful and so beautiful; I just love it.

Christmas – everything about it!

The social side of it, as well as getting to sing with others my age who share the same love for singing.

The opportunities are seemingly endless. Each week we're preparing for something exciting, and the concerts seem to be getting more and more diverse. We're constantly getting hired for recordings and booked for corporate events which makes me feel so proud. I also love having such a close-knit group of friends who are all sharing in something they truly love doing. I also like that we get to go on (free) tours – Paris was a massive highlight for me last year. I've met so many incredible people through this choir and I'll be so sad when it finally ends.

What has being in the choir taught you about music?

Yes, being in the choir has expanded my knowledge of the English Choral Tradition, but it's also exposed me to music from some of the most exciting contemporary composers of the moment including Ben Parry, Joanna Marsh and Cecilia McDowall. Singing such a diverse range of music has improved my ability to switch between styles as our weekly schedule includes at least one concert and at least two services.

I've come across a load of new repertoire, and in particular I've fallen in love with Bruckner. Such emotion! The repertoire has also reinforced for me that Howells is in fact my true love. Oh, and my sight reading has definitely improved!

The importance of being versatile in how you actually sing.

I've learned so much about musicality. My voice has vastly improved and my confidence singing has grown SO much since I've been here. It's also shown me how much effort goes into getting to know the right people in the industry.

Quickfire Questions



Have you developed any transferrable skills from being in the choir?

The choir has definitely improved my organisation skills as we all have to balance our degree with the choir rehearsal schedule. Being able to manage your time is so valuable in the professional world after uni. I have also really learned how to accept criticism and how to handle failure. When performing as regularly as we do, there are naturally moments where you make mistakes or things don't go exactly as planned. Being in this choir really has improved my ability to see the bigger picture and constantly prepare for what's coming up instead of being stuck in what just happened.

Just the ability to step outside of my comfort zone.

CONFIDENCE. Organisation; time management; social skills I didn't even know existed; work ethic and patience.

How do you keep up with your workload whilst maintaining your commitment to the choir?

I would say that choir doesn't interfere too much with my studies since most of our rehearsal time is in the evening and I tend to work during the day. It does help to plan ahead, however, and see when you are both academically busy and musically busy; during Christmas the two can overlap so it's useful to get your work done ahead of time so you're not trying to do everything in the last week of term!

All of my contact hours are on Mondays and Tuesdays, so I don't have any overlaps with choir. I do my readings on the weekend before the lectures and I use Thursdays and Fridays to do my assignments. I promise there's a social life in there too...

Just make sure you get plenty of sleep and that you use entire days by waking up at a decent time!

I've made myself a schedule incorporating the choir calendar, academic timetable, work time and time to socialise with my friends.

Finally, what are you planning on doing after university?

I'm looking at careers in publishing, but also music journalism and reviewing theatre.

I want to do something related to culture. Maybe working for UNESCO.

I'm not certain, but definitely something music related!

I'm joining the Metropolitan Police straight after university, and then maybe the civil service?

I want to be a TV presenter... wish me luck!