

# The Choir of Royal Holloway

## Choral Scholarships

“It is well known, and widely appreciated, that Rupert Gough has honed his choir at Royal Holloway into one of the very finest in the kingdom...”

CATHEDRAL MUSIC MAGAZINE

Royal Holloway, University of London, is situated in **135 acres** of stunning parkland in leafy Surrey and just **40 minutes** from central London. The campus and its magnificent **Founder's Building** has been consistently voted one of the **most beautiful in the world**, with numerous teaching and study spaces, bars and cafés, high quality accommodation and sports facilities.

Inside Royal Holloway's iconic Founder's Building you can find our **remarkable chapel**, the heart of the Choir of Royal Holloway. We work together an average of **ten hours per week**, which includes a weekly lunchtime concert, an Evensong and rehearsals. There are always **solo opportunities**, whether it's performing songs in our lunchtime concerts or arias in our annual performances of Handel's *Messiah*.

We frequently work with some of the UK's leading ensembles, with recent projects including a performance of Handel's *Messiah* at **Cadogan Hall** with the **English Concert Orchestra** and a new album with **Ola Gjeilo** and the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**.

We can also provide opportunities for **budding conductors**, which is a skill taught at both **undergraduate and postgraduate** level at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Scholarships with us **aren't just about the music**. The **experiences shared**, the **confidence gained** and the **skills learned** are all **transferable** and make former scholars **highly employable in any profession**.

### Fun facts

#### The busiest bees

Did you know that the Choir of Royal Holloway has one of the **busiest recording and concert schedules of any university choir**? We've recorded **11 albums and 6 singles** in the past three years!

#### Singers for the stars

Our 2017 No. 1 (UK and US) album, *Winter Songs*, was so popular that **Ellie Goulding** booked the choir and composer, **Ola Gjeilo**, to sing at her 2019 wedding in York Minster.

#### Ensemble singing to education

Our scholars are trained in both **choral and small ensemble singing and musical leadership skills**, with specific training from members of the **King's Singers**, **The Queen's Six** and **VOCES8**.

#### A concert-centric approach

Whilst we do sing weekly services, our primary focus is on concert performance. We give at least one concert a week, and our weekly concert series, *Midweek Music*, is also streamed worldwide!

#### Globetrotters

In addition to our UK concerts, the choir regularly tours worldwide. Recent tours include the **USA, Canada and mainland Europe**, with concerts in France most years.

#### Money, money, money...

Choral scholarships are worth up to **£700 p/a**, and there's an additional choral scholarship available at our partnered church, **St Bartholomew the Great**, worth **£900 p/a**. Organ scholarships are worth up to **£1500 p/a**. We try to keep Sunday mornings free so our scholars can take extra singing work in London, too.

## Take it from them...

“The training I received as a choral scholar at Royal Holloway was invaluable, and has helped me enormously in my subsequent career.”

SUSAN BULLOCK MBE, MUSIC ALUMNA & HONORARY FELLOW OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SOPRANO



“This choral scholarship is about more than just singing in a world-class collegiate choir: by the time you leave the choir you'll have unrivalled musicianship, professionalism beyond your years and a sort of confidence you didn't realise was there. When I first joined the choir several years ago, I had a small voice I didn't know how to use, both physically and metaphorically. Now, as I forge my career in broadcasting, I can't even remember how to keep my voice to myself! That's something I owe to Rupert and the choir.”



ELLIE AJAIO, MUSIC ALUMNA (2022)

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

1. Good technique and a flexible approach to singing
2. Strong sight-reading skills
3. A team player
4. Although helpful, church experience is not essential

## How to apply

1. Apply for your chosen course through UCAS – it doesn't have to be Music!
2. Complete the **application form** which can be found on our website.
3. Submit your application by the deadline at the end of February.
4. Shortlisted candidates will be called for audition around the second week of March.
5. Scholarships will be conditional upon candidates satisfying the University of London's entry requirements, and those of Royal Holloway.
6. Successful applicants will be invited to join the Choir for a 'Choir Camp' before the start of the Autumn term.

### GET IN TOUCH

✉ CHORALADMIN@RHUL.AC.UK

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