

Jesus College Choir

Jesus College Cambridge is distinctive in maintaining two choirs: the Chapel Choir, dating from the foundation of the College in 1496 and re-founded and endowed in 1849, which is made up of boy choristers and adult male singers; and the College Choir, formed in 1982 following the admission of women undergraduates, which has female sopranos and altos. The adult male singers form the 'back row' for both choirs.

Each ensemble has developed a distinctive reputation and repertoire, while combining for key events and large-scale projects in the College Chapel (which dates back to the twelfth century) and elsewhere, all under the direction of Richard Pinel, Director of Music since January 2017.

Whilst their principal responsibility is to sing for services in the College's ancient and beautiful Chapel, the Choirs regularly collaborate with professional orchestras and instrumental ensembles, including Britten Sinfonia, Fretwork and the Saraband Consort. In 2017 the boy choristers sang in Britten's *War Requiem* at Saffron Hall to critical acclaim, and collaborated with the celebrated prog-rock band *Big Big Train* in the recording of their Christmas single *Merry Christmas*. The college choir were in residence at the New Paths Music Festival in Beverley this April.

The Choirs also have an expanding discography, recording for the Signum label. Their latest disc, *Byrd|Britten*, was released to critical acclaim in February 2017, entering the UK Specialist Classical Charts in the top ten.

Praised by *The Sunday Times* in July 2014 for their "exquisite blend and shape" the choirs have given recent concerts in Malta, Hong Kong, China, Italy and the USA.

The College Choir is particularly known for its pioneering work in international outreach, leading singing workshops with children in the slums of Mumbai in India in 2013 and in various cities in Sri Lanka in 2014.

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