



Cambridge University Symphony Chorus

www.camchorus.uk

General Manager: Paul Fray

chorus.manager@cums.org.uk

Tel: 07901 555660

ACCOMPANIST COMPETITION 2018-19

Cambridge University Symphony Chorus announces a competition for the position of Accompanist for the academic year 2018-19.

The winner will accompany chorus rehearsals, held on Thursdays during Full Term at 19.30 – 21.45 in St Paul's Church, Hills Road. The incumbent will be responsible for finding an acceptable deputy if unable to attend a rehearsal. The winner will receive:

- an honorarium of £300
- the chance to play continuo or piano accompaniment in concerts (separately remunerated), where applicable

The programme for the season is as follows:

Michaelmas: J S Bach *Christmas Oratorio* (Bärenreiter)

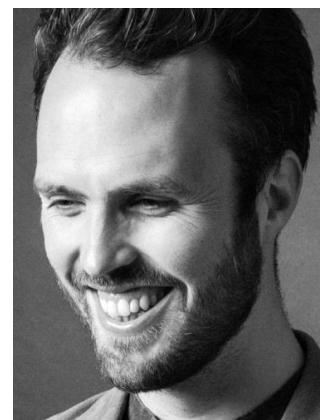
Lent: Dvořák *Stabat Mater* (Novello); Dvořák arr. Janáček *Six Moravian Choruses*; (Suk *Spring* Op. 22a); Janáček *Elegy on the Death of my Daughter Olga*

Easter: (Mussorgsky *Night on a Bald Mountain*); Mussorgsky *Boris Godunov* (extracts); Bach arr. Stravinsky *Variations on Vom Himmel hoch*; Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*

Those interested in entering are asked to contact **Paul Fray, the General Manager**, by e-mail at the address above. Please send a short CV, with e-mail address and mobile phone number and stating qualifications and experience, by **14 September 2018**. Please feel free to telephone Paul Fray (number above) to discuss the competition.

Competitors will be informed if they are shortlisted by 16 September 2018. Those shortlisted will be asked to prepare four specified extracts from each of the *Christmas Oratorio* and the *Stabat Mater* and attend a 15-minute audition in Cambridge with Richard Wilberforce, the Musical Director, on **Thursday, 20 September 2018** (time and place to be arranged):

- to play a solo piano piece of the competitor's choice (maximum 4 min) to demonstrate keyboard technique;
- to play one of the extracts from each of the *Christmas Oratorio* and the *Stabat Mater*, selected in the audition and conducted by RW; and
- to have a short interview with RW.



Richard Wilberforce

Competitors will be informed of the result, and the winner will be announced, as soon as practicable after the auditions.

About Cambridge University Symphony Chorus

CUSC is the original ensemble of CUMS, one of the oldest and most distinguished university music societies in the world. Since the 1870s, the society and chorus have offered an outstanding musical education for members of the University and Cambridge residents, providing performing opportunities for over 500 Cambridge musicians every year.

The chorus is a large symphonic, auditioned choir of 120 singers, which performs a wide range of music, with a strong focus on major 19th and 20th century orchestral choral works. Currently led by newly-appointed Richard Wilberforce, previous directors have included Stephen Cleobury CBE, Sir Philip Ledger, Sir David Willcocks and Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: with Sir Roger Norrington and David Hill and as recent guest conductors. The chorus strives to offer a platform for young professional artists, in recent years providing opportunities for emerging talent such as Ashley Riches and Rachel Ambrose-Evans.

In November 2017, the chorus presented an acclaimed performance of Handel *Israel in Egypt* in Saffron Hall under Richard Wilberforce. In March 2018, the chorus was honoured to be conducted by Edward Higginbottom in a farewell concert to the retiring chairman of CUMS trustees. Next season, plans include Bach *Christmas Oratorio*, Dvořák *Stabat Mater* and a semi-staged version of Mussorgsky *Boris Godunov* with Sir John Tomlinson as Boris and Ryan Wigglesworth conducting.



Luke Fitzgerald (Organ Scholar, Gonville & Caius College) writes:

The role of the accompanist at CUSC is ideal for somebody looking for some more accompanying experience, especially for those interested in getting to know some large choral-orchestral works. I undertook this in my second year studying Music, and found the experience rewarding – in fact accompanying the Brahms *Requiem* rehearsals in the summer term was a great way to get to know the piece before taking the Brahms course in the third year!

The chorus rehearses once a week on Thursday evenings. Two hours after a day of academic work, and (for some) evensong as well, can be more inviting some weeks than others: but overall it is enjoyable beyond just being a "worthwhile experience". It also provides a chance to meet and work with professional conductors, including the newly appointed director of music Richard Wilberforce. For me, it formed part of my preparation for the orchestral reduction question in the Music 1B keyboard skills exam.

The chorus includes a whole range of singers from students, staff and fellows to working and retired members of the Cambridge community – they are a welcoming bunch, and meeting members of the chorus in the rehearsal breaks was another highlight of the rehearsal experience.