

President:

The Rt Hon Gisela Stuart

Patrons:

Dame Emma Kirkby DBE Brian Kay Neil Mackie CBE
John Joubert Professor Georg Christoph Biller



Birmingham Bach Choir

Young Singers' Bursary Scheme 2018 -2019

For the coming season, the Choir wishes to award one or more bursaries to support both the development of the choir and the development of promising young singers. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to work with Birmingham's leading large chamber choir and benefit from the training given by Paul Spicer, who brings great expertise and an international reputation as conductor, teacher, composer and writer. Depending on the concert programme, there may be opportunities for solo work with the choir from time to time.

The bursaries are open to singers aged 18 – 30, and although tenors would be particularly welcome, applications are welcomed from all voices; eventual selection will be at the discretion of the conductor. Bursaries run for periods of up to twelve months and are for up to £1,000 each (pro-rata to length of bursary tenure). Successful applicants will be required to participate in the choir's major concert programmes during their bursary tenure (normally three in the calendar year September – July), as determined by the length of the bursary period. The choir's major concert programme performances next season are:

2018: Saturday 24 November; 2019: Saturdays 30 March, 22 June and 6 July.

Rehearsals for the respective programmes begin in 2018 on 5 September, and 2019 on 9 January and 3 April.

Bursary holders will be required to attend a minimum of 80% of regular Wednesday evening rehearsals (to include the final Wednesday rehearsal prior to a major concert) unless agreed with Mr Spicer, and additionally the pre-concert rehearsal on performance day. It is essential that applicants are able to commit to these requirements, and, if students, consider their academic obligations during the summer term in particular, and have approval from their Director of Music/ Studies etc.

Bursary holders will be expected to fund, from their bursary payments, purchase or hire of necessary music for each concert programme and any other incidental items such as concert dress (your own black trousers and shoes plus own black shirt for men or hired choir blouse for ladies), together with travel costs etc. Choir folders will be made available on loan.

Please forward details of your singing experience, your age and occupation or current studies, your particular interest in singing with the Birmingham Bach Choir and details of at least one relevant referee, either using the accompanying form or by providing the same information by email, to info@birmingham.bachchoir.com as soon as possible, and no later than 7th May. You will be invited to attend one or two rehearsals in the next two or three weeks to confirm your interest, and an audition and interview will be held shortly afterwards. Bursary places will effectively commence at the beginning of terms, when work commences on each new programme.

Birmingham Bach Choir

Young Singer Bursary (discretionary) conditions 2018 - 19

A discretionary bursary of £750 covering a calendar year, or pro-rata for a lesser involvement, will be awarded to a young singer aged 18 - 30 for the concert seasons September 2018 onwards. The award(s) aim to support both the artistic development of Birmingham Bach Choir and also the development of the young singer(s) by providing choral experience with Birmingham's leading large chamber choir, and the opportunity of working with Paul Spicer, who brings great expertise and an international reputation as conductor, teacher, composer and writer. Payment of the award will be subject to satisfactory attendance and compliance with the terms and conditions of grant by the bursary holder; applicants should also note that although the award is only available to young singers, it is a semi-professional opportunity working with leading professional musicians, and that appropriate commitment will be essential.

Conditions of award

1. Bursary holders are required to perform with the choir for all its major concerts during any one calendar year (or lesser period by agreement), namely Saturday 24th November 2018, Saturday 30th March 2019 and Saturdays 22nd June and 6th July 2019, and to attend pre-concert rehearsals on performance days. Attendance at other events such as carol concerts and Come and Sing (2nd February 2019) is not compulsory but it is hoped that bursary holders will choose to participate. Bursary holders are required to confirm below their specific availability for the concerts concerned. Withdrawal from a concert will result in reduction of grant paid, and withdrawal from a concert without an exceptional reason for doing so (for example, serious illness or accident) may result in withdrawal of all remaining grant due.
2. Bursary holders are expected to attend at least 80% of Wednesday evening rehearsals for the major concert programmes, unless specifically agreed with Paul Spicer. Bursary holders should also expect to attend occasional Saturday rehearsals where these are held, currently 3rd November 2018 and 1st June 2019. In all cases, apologies for absence from rehearsals must be notified to the Members' Secretary in advance of the rehearsal, including the reason for absence, either by email info@birmingham.bachchoir.com or by text to 07771 997473.
3. The choir will be sympathetic to rehearsal absences resulting from significant illness or other circumstances beyond the bursary holder's control, but in the event of repeated absence affecting rehearsal attendance and concert performances, or failure to offer prior notice for absence as required, the choir reserves the right to review, adjust or suspend bursary payments depending on the circumstances of absence. The choir reserves the right to request evidence from the bursary holder to confirm stated reasons for absence, either for rehearsals or concerts, should this be deemed necessary.
4. Bursary holders will not be required to pay a membership fee to belong to the choir, but will be expected, from their bursary payments, to fund or arrange necessary items including music purchase or hire and concert dress (men: holder's own black shirt, trousers, socks and shoes; ladies: a uniform choir overblouse – returnable hire fee – and own black trousers, socks and shoes), together with travel costs, subsistence and other incidental expenses associated with attending rehearsals and concert performances. Choir folders and choir ties (when needed) will be available on loan.
5. Bursary holders will normally be offered the opportunity to order music for hire or purchase under the same terms and timescales as the regular members of the choir, but if they choose not to take advantage of this opportunity, must be responsible for obtaining music for themselves from other sources, in the required edition or format, and have this available for rehearsals and performance. It will not be acceptable to come to rehearsals without the appropriate music.
6. Communications with the choir between rehearsals are made by email, and all members, including bursary holders, are expected to access and read messages promptly in order to ensure that they are well informed

about choir matters and any action they may need to take. Bursary holders must likewise ensure that they access and read email messages speedily and keep themselves informed about choir matters; they must also provide current email, telephone and address information to the Members' Secretary (contact information as in paragraph 2 above) and ensure that these are updated if details change.

7. Unless otherwise agreed by the choir, bursary holders will be required to provide an appropriate referee who can advise the choir regarding their suitability for this opportunity, before bursary payments can commence.

Subject to the conditions of award being satisfied, Birmingham Bach Choir undertakes to make payments to the bursary holder as follows : £225 after concert of 24th November 2018; £225 after concert of 30th March 2019; £300 after concerts of 22th June and 6th July 2019, subject to retention of £75 per concert programme, which will be added to the final bursary payment made on conclusion of the agreed bursary period and final concert.

Name of Young Singers Bursary holder:.....

I confirm that I am available to attend rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and termly Saturday rehearsal/workshops as required, and to sing in the choir's concerts on Saturday 24th November 2018, Saturday 30th March 2019, Saturdays 22th June and 6th July 2019 (*delete appropriate concerts if period less than three concert programmes agreed*).

Signed:..... Date.....

I have read and understood the terms and conditions of the Birmingham Bach Choir Young Singer bursary award, and confirm my acceptance of the said terms and conditions:

Signed:..... Date.....

Students: I confirm that my Director of Musical Studies/Academic Tutor

.....(name)

supports my participation in the Birmingham Bach Choir Young Singers' bursary scheme.

For Birmingham Bach Choir:

We undertake on behalf of Birmingham Bach Choir to make bursary payments to the above named Young Singer Bursary Holder in accordance with the conditions of award and as detailed above.

Name.....Position.....

Signed.....Date.....

Name.....Position.....

Signed.....Date.....