

PARTICIPANTS GIVE THEIR VERDICT ON CHORAL COURSES!

'Before going on a choral course, I had never thought that singing any further than a school choir standard would be for me. Now, with the support of the singing teachers on the courses and gaining the experience of being a in a professional standard choir, I recognise that I have the potential to extend my love of choral singing into my further education. I have done two courses now, and they were some of the most fun and intense weeks of my life!'

Amelia Schroeter, Framlingham, Suffolk.

Prior to the two Eton Choral Courses I attended, I had singing experience at school and in a church Youth Choir but nothing extensive. I would not be where I am now without the Choral courses and continue to work on them year after year to show my thanks and also because they are such wonderful weeks!

Zoe Silkstone, London

I have always had a passion for music and singing, and it was through my director of music that I learned about the choral courses, I was instantly intrigued, however I was put off by the cost. I won a bursary with the choral society connected to my school, which funded part of the course, and the rest was funded by the Rodolfus Foundation, so, to my utmost surprise and excitement, I was able to go free of cost. I have never had the opportunity to attend anything of this magnitude before, and simply being amongst so many like-minded talented musicians was a great honour. There was great contrast between the size of the groups you would sing in, from solo opportunities, to small consorts, to singing with a 70+ strong choir which kept every day varied and interesting. Everyone was so immensely supportive and people of all abilities were inspired and challenged. The Staff were inclusive, welcoming and understanding.

The Choral Course hugely boosted my confidence in myself as a singer, motivated me to apply and win a choral scholarship at Oxford University, and introduced me to some of my now favourite composers and pieces. I am still in touch with the wonderful people I became friends with on the course, and the memories of that week, along with the lessons I learned, are ones which I'll cherish forever.

Rebecca Russell, Horsham, Surrey

Although I had had quite a lot of choral experience prior to the course, it was still a great benefit. I enjoyed it not only because I formed several strong and lasting friendships, but also because it granted access to a number of singers within my age group through whom I have already had several opportunities to take part in high level concerts.

Ben McDonnell, London

Beforehand my choral experience was limited and it was as if someone had switched something on inside of me, or perhaps brought to the surface an undiscovered part of my being. The brilliance of the final chord of an anthem ringing out across the chapel, the meditative peace of Anglican chant, the moment that your part creates the perfect dissonance in a consort - all these things thrilled, excited and comforted me. Choral singing is now an intrinsic part of my life, and I am forever indebted to this experience.

Meg Webb, Reading

Before I attended my first Eton Choral Course, I had never sung an evensong, a psalm, I hadn't experienced singing in a church choir whatsoever. Eton Choral Courses have broadened my musical understanding, my openness to new concepts both musically and socially as well as expanding my knowledge of the Choral repertoire. I have improved my general listening and attention to detail which apply to all musical traditions. The courses have inspired me to pursue a career in Music- I will be starting on the Vocal Course at the Royal College of Music, this coming September. The courses have also allowed me to make friends for life with likeminded individuals.

Angelina Dorlin-Barlow, Southport

I went on my first choral course this summer, and it was without a doubt the best week of my life! I made my best friend there, and enjoyed the boarding experience so much that I actually ended up moving schools on GCSE results day out of the blue to change from my all-girls day school to a co-ed boarding school. The opportunity to sing in a mixed choir all the time was such an exciting prospect following the course after really only having sung SSA before. Obviously since joining Rods after the courses so many doors have been opened to me, and I have since decided that I would like to pursue a career in choral singing after previously thinking it was completely out of my reach.

Lizzie Williams, Windsor

I had no experience singing in church settings and religious contexts prior to an Eton Choral Course. Psalms were alien to me! The Eton Choral Course opened up a whole new world of singing that I didn't know existed. It was the foundation for my singing that I then did throughout University and still do to this day. It was an invaluable experience that I will always remember. It gave me skills I will be able to use forever.

Rachel Newell, London

Click [here](#) to read about all the special events, visitors and masterclasses planned for the 2019 Courses, and to apply for a place!

<https://therodolfusfoundation.com/choral-courses/>