

Dear new Postgraduates,

First of all, congratulations on being confirmed at Girton College! I have no doubt that, when you come here, you will find it to be a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community where you will very quickly feel at home. I am the Director of Chapel Music at Girton and, at this time of year, a big part of my job is making sure that all new Undergraduates and Postgraduates know that we are on the lookout for new singers to join our chapel choir for the forthcoming academic year. You can contact me at any time between now and when you arrive in order to talk about the possibility of your joining us, although I'd love to hear from you sooner rather than later! Zoom meetings and auditions are entirely possible if preferred.

Girton Undergraduate and Postgraduate students are invited to apply for Jill Vlasto Choral Exhibitions which are awarded for all voices: soprano, contralto, countertenor, tenor, baritone and bass. Holders of these awards, worth up to £350 per annum and tenable for three years, will sing in the Chapel Choir and take an active role in the musical life of the College. Auditions will be held in the College early in the Michaelmas Term. Those interested in applying are asked to email Gareth Wilson, Director of Chapel Music, at nota1cambiata@hotmail.com. Deadline is 25 September 2023.

Girton choir is now one of the best chapel choirs in Cambridge with a rapidly-growing profile. We undertake at least one international tour each year, having most recently been in Italy (July 2023), Germany & Austria (2022), Italy and Singapore (both in 2019), Israel & Palestine (2018), Portugal (2017), Canada (2016), and Hong Kong (2015), and make weekend visits to major British cathedrals with a trip to Peterborough cathedral planned for the forthcoming year. Sadly, our tour to Mexico in 2020 had to be postponed, but we undertook a very successful and enjoyable domestic tour in July 2021 (photos attached). In addition to Radio broadcasts (our most recent one being on BBC Radio 4 last December) we have also made a CD recording each year for the past seven years having made two in June 2021 and July 2021, and one each in July 2022 and July 2023. These are released internationally and have received great critical acclaim; our 2020 release entered the worldwide Classical Charts at no.9 and was nominated for an International Classical Music Award. You can listen to them here: <https://toccataclassics.com/?s=Girton>

The choir sings three services per week but the workload is often divided so that the average time commitment is just over five hours per week. There are around twenty-four singers in the choir each year and our social ethos is strong, relaxed, and friendly. You can find out more about what we do on a week-by-week basis by visiting our pages on Facebook (The Chapel Choir of Girton College, Cambridge - UK) and Instagram ([girtoncollegechoir](https://www.instagram.com/girtoncollegechoir)), and lots of our recordings can be heard on YouTube, Spotify, iTunes, etc.

If you are interested, please do feel free to contact me at any time (gw377@cam.ac.uk or nota1cambiata@hotmail.com) and do let me know if you are planning to visit Girton at any point and we can arrange an informal chat about singing in the choir.

I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,
Gareth



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