

✦ ST GILES'
CHURCH, OXFORD

ST. GILES' GIRLS' CHOIR

AN ENRICHING MUSICAL EDUCATION



There is real joy in watching your child develop musical and life skills that you know will last them a lifetime.

Parent of chorister

ST GILES' CONTRIBUTES TO THE HERITAGE OF THE ENGLISH CHORAL TRADITION TO THE HIGHEST OF STANDARDS. THE CHURCH DATES BACK TO THE TWELFTH CENTURY, AND THE PRESENT CHOIR OF BOYS AND MEN IS SAID TO DATE FROM 1857 WHEN MR PICKARD HALL TRAINED THIRTEEN BOYS AND TWELVE MEN.

Since that time the church has been served by some eminent musicians: Sir Walter Parratt, later appointed Master of the Queen's Musick, was organist here. Peter Ward Jones, a past Music Librarian at the Bodleian Library, gave many years of distinguished service to the church. The church now has three flourishing choirs: the St Giles' Choir, a choir for boys and men, the St Giles' Singers, which is a SATB choir, and a new choir for girl choristers. The choirs pride themselves on their friendly atmosphere which fosters musical excellence through rigorous and lively training.



A choir is one of the few organisations where children work to a professional standard alongside adults. The skills acquired last a lifetime! In joining the Choir, parents/guardians and choristers make a significant commitment to themselves, to their fellow team players, and to the church.. In return, choristers learn the importance of commitment, team work and self-discipline, and receive an enriching musical education. Whatever they do later on, the skills they gain from the choir will always be in them.

St Giles' Academy provides the necessary support for girls to sing in the various liturgies at church services, and offers a stimulating musical training within a lively and friendly environment. In addition to weekly rehearsals, girls receive group singing lessons, and benefit from musicianship and music theory classes.

Girls are prepared for theory and RSCM examinations. It is not unusual for a chorister to have achieved Grade 5 Music Theory by the time they finish Key Stage 2.

It's not all work! We encourage choristers to have fun too! Social activities are regularly organized.

ENTRY

Girls normally audition for a place when aged between 7-14. The Choir Director is looking for girls with an ability to concentrate and an interest in singing, not necessarily an excellent voice, this will develop with our support.

COMMITMENT

Rehearsal/Theory Class

Tuesday – **17:00-18:30**

Vocal Technique: Thursday – **16:30**

1- 2 services per month according to a schedule issued in advance.

GET IN TOUCH!

We would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact Dr Nicholas Prozzillo, the Choir Director, if you wish to have an informal meeting to discuss choristership. Email:

choirdirector@st-giles-church.org



The thorough musical training I received as a St Giles' chorister set me in excellent stead for my subsequent musical activities... more importantly, it is the experience of teamwork, common purpose and shared endeavour that has stuck with me, leaving me with an enduring love of ensemble singing. For anyone who thinks they might enjoy singing, I encourage them to try it out.

MATTHEW O DONOVAN

Head of Academic Music, Eton College
Founder member of Stile Antico

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