



SCO CHORUS YOUNG SINGERS' PROGRAMME 2024/25

The SCO Chorus

The SCO Chorus is a group of around 70 singers drawn from all walks of life. The Chorus was formed to perform with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and covers a wide range of repertoire, from baroque to newly-commissioned works. Under the expert leadership of Chorus Director Gregory Batsleer, it has established a reputation as one of the UK's finest orchestral choruses. The Chorus made a critically-acclaimed BBC Proms debut with Handel's *Jephtha* in 2019 and returned to the Royal Albert Hall in July 2023 with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Summer 2023 also saw the Chorus at the Edinburgh International Festival in a semi-staged performance of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* conducted by Maxim Emelyanychev, resulting in an immediate re-invitation for the 2024 International Festival.

The Young Singers' Programme

The Programme is designed to nurture and develop aspiring young singers who wish to further their musicianship and choral technique through singing in concerts of an international standard.

The SCO Chorus is aiming to recruit one Young Singer to each section of the SATB Chorus. We are looking for musicians aged 18-23 with a high level of singing/choral experience. Places on the programme are for one season (weekly rehearsals from September 2024), but members can re-audition each year.

Benefits of the Programme

Young Singers will receive all the standard benefits provided by the SCO Chorus, including free membership, half-price or complimentary SCO concert tickets, 10% off SCO recordings and regular vocal and language coaching.

Additionally, Young Singers will participate in coaching sessions with the Chorus Director and our resident Vocal Coaches as well as classes that focus on other aspects of being a musician, e.g., Alexander Technique, Dalcroze. We also aim to create opportunities for workshops with international soloists visiting the Orchestra and occasionally we can offer solo opportunities to Young Singers, particularly in *a cappella* programmes.

Those selected for the Programme will receive a bursary of £150 per project. The bursary is intended to help support ongoing vocal development such as singing lessons. Payments will be made retrospectively, after each project. Travel by coach is provided to concerts outside Edinburgh and a meal allowance paid.

Commitment

During term time, weekly rehearsals take place on a Monday evening in central Edinburgh. 2024-25 will include 6 projects for the Chorus – four with orchestra and two without. We ask Young Singers to commit to at least three of the six projects scheduled. Full attendance is expected at rehearsals and any absences must be approved by the Chorus Director in advance.

2024-25 concert dates are as follows:

- 3-4 October, Mozart, Usher Hall/City Halls
- 28-29 November, Bach, Queen's Hall/City Halls
- 18-19 December, Christmas Concert, Greyfriars
- 27-28 February, Vaughan Williams & Fauré, Usher Hall/City Halls
- 12 April, MacMillan *Seven Last Words*, Greyfriars
- 8-9 May, Haydn, Usher Hall/City Halls

How to Apply

Selection will be by audition. Applications are invited from singers meeting the eligibility criteria:

- aged 18-23
- and one of the following:
 - who are still in formal education
 - who are studying privately with a view to becoming a professional singer

Application Deadline and Audition Date

Please go to <https://www.sco.org.uk/join-in/young-people/young-singers-programme> to fill out the application form by Friday **17 May 2024**. You will then be invited to attend an audition in Edinburgh on **Saturday 25 May**. The 10-minute audition will consist of a short, accompanied piece of the singer's own choice (we provide an accompanist), sight-reading and aural and vocal exercises.

If you have any questions please contact Susan White, Chorus Manager on susan.white@sco.org.uk

"My time with the Young Singers' Programme and SCO Chorus has been incredible. The opportunity to perform with a chorus of such high quality has been the most wonderful, memorable experience. The masterclasses and workshop experiences were brilliant, and to be able to participate in them (without cost) allowed me to benefit from lessons that I never would have been able to receive otherwise.

Former YSP Participant

Read about one former Young Singer's experience here:

<https://www.sco.org.uk/news/thoughts-from-a-young-singers-programme-alumna>