



SCO CHORUS YOUNG SINGERS' PROGRAMME 2022/23

The SCO Chorus

The SCO Chorus is a group of around 60 singers drawn from all walks of life. The Chorus was formed to perform with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and covers repertoire from the Baroque to the present day. Under the expert leadership of Gregory Batsleer, Chorus Director, it has established a reputation as one of the UK's finest orchestral choruses.

The Young Singers' Programme

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we are delighted to be re-launching our Young Singers' Programme, which 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 recruiting 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 2022), but members can re-audition each year.

Benefits of the Programme

Young Singers will receive all the standard benefits of being a member of the SCO Chorus, including free membership, half-price SCO concert tickets, 10% off SCO recordings and regular vocal and language coaching.

Additionally, Young Singers will participate in masterclass style 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. There may also be opportunities to take part in masterclasses from 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 their ongoing vocal development such as singing lessons. Payments will be made retrospectively, in instalments. Travel by coach is provided to concerts outside Edinburgh.

Commitment

The SCO's 2022-23 Season will include 6 projects for the Chorus – five with orchestra and one *a cappella*. We ask Young Singers to commit to at least four of the six projects scheduled. Full attendance is expected at rehearsals and any absences must be approved by the Chorus Director in advance. Repertoire will be announced in late May, and provisional performance dates are as follows:

Thursday 6 & Friday 7 October 2022

Thursday 1 & Friday 2 December 2022

Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21 December

Wednesday 1, Thursday 2 & Friday 3 March 2023 (Sopranos and Altos only)

Thursday 23 & Friday 24 March 2023

Thursday 11 & Friday 12 May 2023

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 further education
 - who are studying privately with a view to becoming a professional singer

Application Deadline and Audition Date

Please go to www.sco.org.uk/young-singers to fill out the application form by **30 April 2022**. You will then be invited to attend an audition in Edinburgh on **Saturday 14 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.

Additionally, the bursaries that we receive per project are very helpful to aid towards vocal coaching fees, which have furthered my singing training.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to take part. Being part of the chorus has helped me grow both as a singer and as an individual. I would highly recommend to all eligible singers that they apply!"

Jamie Lewis, YSP Participant 18-19 Season and 19-20 Season and current SCO Chorus Member