



Music

Full details about the course are available from

www.mus.cam.ac.uk/applicants/undergraduate

and

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/music

The subject at Selwyn

College teaching, in the form of supervisions and seminars, complements that provided by the Faculty. Our aim at Selwyn is to ensure that supervisions are tailor-made to the subject being studied and to the undergraduate studying it, flexible in organisation and adapted to suit individual needs.

Music at Selwyn enjoys a high reputation, both locally and nationally. There is always a large number of undergraduates reading Music at Selwyn. Among the many distinguished musicians who have graduated from Selwyn are Sir David Lumsden (formerly Principal of the Royal Academy of Music), Professor Gerald Hendrie (formerly Professor of Music at the Open University), and Dr Richard Marlow (formerly Director of Music at Trinity College, Cambridge).

The College is ideally situated for Musicians, being literally next door to the Music Faculty. There is much music-making within the College, and Selwyn musicians are conspicuous also for the prominent part they play in the musical life of the University at large. Many players in university orchestras are Selwyn undergraduates, for example, and the College has provided several of the elected officers of the main university music societies.

The College Library holds over 40,000 books. This includes a large music section where you will find books and scores that are of central importance in the Music Tripos, as well as many others of a more specialised nature; the Library's holdings in Music are continually updated. The Library also provides a pleasant study area.

The Fellows in Music

The Director of Studies in Music at Selwyn, Dr Alan Howard, is himself a Selwyn graduate and received his PhD from King's College London; he has also held academic posts at the University of Manchester and UEA, Norwich. He has lectured and taught at all four institutions, and additionally at Royal Holloway, University of London. Dr Howard has particular research interests in English music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with emphasis on analytical approaches and editorial practice.

Our Director of Music in Chapel, Sarah MacDonald, is also a Fellow.

Subject requirements

A level / IB Higher Level Music or an equivalent is essential for Music applicants. Beyond this there are no required subjects: humanities, languages and sciences are all good choices. Although it is not essential, sixth-formers are encouraged to take the Grade 8 Theory examination of the Associated Board.

Interviews

There is an interview of about an hour with the Director of Studies. Applicants will be asked to send samples of school work, and to do a short written test (harmonisation of a melody) when they are in Cambridge. The purpose of the subject interview is to assess potential. On the basis of their present state of musical knowledge and technical skill, we try to see how far candidates can be stretched: can they be led to new insights, can they suggest ways of tackling problems, are they receptive and responsive to teaching?

Applicants also have a general interview of 15-20 minutes. This is designed to learn about the candidate's interests and activities, motivation in choosing to study Music at Cambridge, and maturity of approach towards academic work.

Awards and Prizes

In addition to academic awards (made on the basis of Tripos results), Selwyn also offers the following entrance awards, for all of which there is no restriction of subject: an Organ Scholarship twice in every three years; about five Choral Exhibitions every year (in all voices); and, on average, one or two Instrumental Awards every year. The Cambridge Admissions Prospectus gives more information about all of these awards. Selwyn produces a separate sheet about them. The results achieved by Selwyn Musicians in recent years have been exceptionally good, with several 1sts and starred 1sts. Such results automatically attract College prizes; in addition Selwyn Musicians have won University prizes for the most outstanding result in their year.

Three prizes are awarded annually to distinguished performers: the Williamson Prize for Musical Performance; the Edith Ray Singing Prize; and the George Roe Prize for outstanding performance at a Music Society concert.

Pianos and Practice Facilities

All undergraduates reading Music and both Organ Scholars are provided with a good upright piano (free of charge) in their College room for all three years. Selwyn Musicians probably do most of their music practice in their College room, but other facilities can be used as well. The Music Rooms are available throughout the day and during much of the night, and are available to all members of the College for private practice, lessons, and chamber music rehearsals. The Hall can be used for practice, rehearsals, and concerts outside mealtimes; it contains a beautiful Steinway grand piano and a harpsichord; the acoustics in Hall are outstandingly good.

Subsidy for Instrumental and Singing Lessons

The College has been generously endowed with a Music Fund; among its uses is the provision of a subsidy towards the cost of instrumental and singing lessons for all undergraduates reading Music, and for all undergraduates holding a Music award (organ, choral, instrumental).

Finding out more and Open Days

The Faculty of Music will be participating in the virtual Cambridge Open Days on 2 and 3 July.