



Young Singer Bursary Scheme 2026/27

**WIMBLEDON
CHORAL**



PRESIDENT
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ian Partridge CBE
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Registered Charity Number 263150

Young Singer Bursary Scheme

Background

Wimbledon Choral Society (WCS) is a successful choir that is fortunate to benefit from strong membership covering a wide age range, including those in their 20s, drawn mainly from the local population.

WCS has a reputation for performing concerts of professional quality in venues ranging from local churches to cathedrals, the Royal Albert and Festival Halls and we regularly perform in the Cadogan Hall in Sloane Square. Our choir has been described as being "... *one of the most substantial and formidable choirs in London*". It has also been invited to participate in other events, examples of which in recent years have included BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*, the Royal British Legion's *Festival of Remembrance* in the Royal Albert Hall and the Rugby League cup final at Wembley Stadium. Following our world premiere performance of the *Da Vinci Requiem*, commissioned from Cecilia McDowall, we made a commercial recording of the work which was released on the Signum Classics label. This received a 4 star review from BBC Music Magazine.

The choir seeks to encourage young singers to experience and maintain the enjoyment of choral singing by sharing with them an extensive repertoire of choral music and styles which, it is hoped, will remain with them throughout their later lives and which will retain the tradition and art of choral singing in the future. WCS believe that the diversity of opportunities offered by the choir are attractive to young singers. The choir has decided that an appropriate way of providing such an experience to young singers is through a bursary scheme.

Award

In line with its charitable status, Wimbledon Choral Society is offering one or two bursaries per season to young singers to help further their musical development.

The bursaries are offered to singers in voice parts which need strengthening in the choir, with the added benefit of helping to develop the relevant choir section(s) by assisting with the learning process in rehearsal.

For the 2026/27 season we are offering two bursaries, one for a tenor and one for a bass.

The bursaries are open to young singers, aged 18+ and preferably under the age of 26, who are either in full or part-time education, or still training for a career in singing.

The bursaries will apply to the standard choir season, which runs from the first Monday in September to the final concert in the following June.

The Bursary

- **An award of £1,500 per recipient for the season, payable in three instalments of £500 at the start of each term.**

Process

The bursaries are advertised on the choir's website. Sixth-form and music colleges are being approached directly to advertise the scheme internally.

Candidates should email their applications to bursary@wimbledon-choral.org.uk by the end of July 2026, outlining briefly their musical experience, aspirations and why they should receive the award. Although these timings are aimed for the 2026/27 season as a whole, applications are welcome throughout the year as vacancies may become available at any time.

Applications will be reviewed by the selection team, including the Music Director, and auditions held, usually in Wimbledon unless otherwise arranged.

Requirements

The bursary recipient(s):

- should be available to participate in the four major scheduled concerts for the season (typically on Saturday evenings during November, Christmas, March/April and early June – but see Programme 2026/27 below), with participation in any additional events (e.g. those in which the choir is invited to sing) encouraged;
- should be available to attend at least 80% of rehearsals for those concerts (usually Monday nights from 19.30 – 21.45 and during the day of the concert, plus additional pre-concert rehearsals called by the Music Director), unless dispensation is given by the Music Director.

Programme 2026/27

The principal season dates are:

- **Saturday 14 November 2026**
Southwark Cathedral
Palmeri Misa a Buenos Aires ('Misatango')
- **Thursday 22nd October 2026**
St Augustine's Church, Kilburn
commercial recording of Tarik O'Regan *Critical Mass*, commissioned by WCS with the world premiere performed by the choir in Cadogan Hall on 18 April 2026
- **Saturday 12 December 2026**
St Paul's Church, Southfields, Wimbledon
Christmas concerts (2)
- **Saturday 10 April 2027**
Cadogan Hall
Cherubini Requiem in C Minor
- **Saturday 12 June 2027**
Holy Trinity, Sloane Square
Dove *The Passing of the Year*, Higgins *There is another sky* (world premiere)

Further Information

For any further information please contact bursary@wimbledon-choral.org.uk
This document is also available at www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk/bursary