



Ensembles



Choirs

Our large chorus and two chamber choirs provide a range of performance opportunities for students who wish to be involved in ensemble singing.

Conservatoire Chorus

The Conservatoire Chorus performs a variety of large-scale choral works and gives opportunities to advanced students to participate as soloists. Recent repertoire has included Mozart's *Vesperae Solenne di Confessore*, Rachmaninov's *The Bells*, Britten's *War Requiem* and Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. The Chorus is open to all students and compulsory for first year students.

Chamber Choir I

Under the direction of Paul Spicer (Finzi Singers) and Jeffrey Skidmore (Ex Cathedra), Chamber Choir I is a small specialist ensemble, selected by audition. The Choir presents concerts of repertoire

from the Renaissance to the present day, both at the Conservatoire and further afield, including occasional trips abroad. The Choir recently completed its first CD, of 20th Century English choral repertoire, conducted by Paul Spicer (see p88).

Chamber Choir II

Open to students who want to gain further experience in small ensemble singing, Chamber Choir II is primarily directed by our postgraduate Choral Conducting students. The Choir rehearses varied repertoire and performs, on average, twice a year.

Gospel Choir

Directed by Peter Daley, this dynamic and eclectic choir performs traditional and newly composed gospel music and has been featured on BBC Radio3.



Conservatoire Gospel Choir

TUTORIAL STAFF

CHAMBER CHOIR CONDUCTORS

Jeffrey Skidmore BA(Oxon) [Ex Cathedral] HonFBC
Paul Spicer BMus(Lond) ARCM ARCO FRSA HonFBC

CONSERVATOIRE CHORUS CONDUCTOR

Gareth Thomas

GOPEL CHOIR

Peter Daley MA



TUTORIAL STAFF

Conductor in Residence Lionel Friend studied with Sir Adrian Boult, Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt and Sir Colin Davis, and later at the London Opera Centre. He has worked for Welsh National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera as conductor, chorus master and assistant to John Pritchard and Bernard Haitink; and has held positions in Germany and with English National Opera, conducting a wide range of composers, from Mozart to Berg. His symphonic repertoire is equally broad and he has conducted concerts with the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony, and Austrian Radio Symphony. His many performances of 20th-century works include over 100 premières and his CDs include music by Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Debussy, Poulenc and Britten.

HEAD OF PROGRAMME

David Purser ARCM

CONDUCTOR IN RESIDENCE

Lionel Friend LRAM ARCM

2006/07 GUEST CONDUCTORS

Nicholas Cleobury
John Lubbock
Daniele Rosina
Edwin Roxburgh

2006/07 CBSO CONDUCTOR'S WORKSHOP

Sakari Oramo

SYMPHONIC WIND ORCHESTRA

Guy Woolfenden OBE

WIND ENSEMBLE

Prof Michael Harris ARCM

BRASS BAND CONSULTANT CONDUCTORS

Nick Childs
James Watson

BRASS BAND

Ian Porthouse GBMS

BRASS ENSEMBLE

David Purser ARCM

GUITAR ORCHESTRA

Mark Eden ARAM
GRSM(Hons) LRAM
ProfCert(Hons)

CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE

Joe Broughton BMus HonBC

Orchestras & Large Ensembles

To help you develop a working knowledge of the style and background of music from many periods, our range of orchestras and ensembles covers all of the major musical formats of the last five centuries and, each year, welcomes a number of eminent and inspiring guest conductors. See also p77.

Symphony Orchestra

This advanced orchestra covers a wide range of symphonic repertoire, giving regular concerts in the Adrian Boult Hall, and periodic concerts in Birmingham's magnificent Symphony Hall. A series of masterclasses and CBSO Conductors' Workshops affords the Orchestra the privilege of working with the world's leading conductors, such as Robert Levin, Trevor Pinnock, Vassily Sinaisky and Sakari Oramo, in a public setting. Concerts have taken the Orchestra abroad, most recently to Lyon, France for a joint project with the conservatoires of Lyon and Frankfurt.

Sinfonia

This ensemble provides orchestral repertoire and training experience for instrumentalists and includes first- and second-year undergraduate students. Rehearsals take place each week and public concerts are given every term.

Thallein Ensemble

Created in 1992 the Thallein Ensemble is devoted to the performance of new music and 20th century repertoire. Its flexible performing resources (1 to 20 players, plus electronics) enable the ensemble to tackle a vast and exciting range of works. UK première performances include works by Ivan Fedele, Philippe Leroux and Fausto Romitelli. In recent years, the Ensemble has celebrated the works of featured composers such as Jonathan Harvey, Gerald Barry and Colin Matthews, often as part of our Frontiers Concert Series (see p86).

Symphonic Wind Orchestra

As well as exploring the traditional wind-band repertoire, this ensemble has given an impressive number of first performances under the direction of conductor Guy Woolfenden. In addition to regular concerts in the Adrian Boult Hall, the Orchestra has performed at several international wind festivals in England and abroad.

Wind Ensemble

Exploring the larger forms of wind chamber music, this ensemble emphasises the importance of chamber music in the overall training of woodwind students. Recent projects include a CD recording of Dvořák and Strauss serenades and a forthcoming CD of Mozart's *Gran' Partita* K361, together with the six *Notturmi* for voices and bassett horns (see p88).

Brass Band

The Brass Band explores traditional repertoire as well as preparing contemporary test pieces and other demanding repertoire with its two consultant conductors. Students often have the chance to appear as soloists, and the band often adds outside appearances to its regular Conservatoire concert schedule.

Brass Ensemble

The Brass Ensemble rehearses and performs a variety of large-scale works through the year. The Ensemble also plays for all of the University's Graduation Ceremonies, which gives members an unrivalled opportunity to appear in the magnificent surroundings of Symphony Hall.

Guitar Orchestra

We have a healthy Guitar Orchestra, which takes on demanding works throughout the year by composers such as Roland Dyens and Leo Brouwer. Performances include the annual intercollegiate concert series as part of the Bolívar Hall (London) International Guitar Festival, as well as regular concerts in the Conservatoire's venues and outside the college.

Conservatoire Folk Ensemble

Although run on an elective basis, the Conservatoire Folk Ensemble has become an enviable addition to our range of performing ensembles. Currently 65 members strong, the Ensemble performs a mixture of original folk-based music and traditional tunes specially arranged for the group under the direction of Joe Broughton. The Ensemble undertakes a short UK tour every spring, occasionally working with guest artists. Recent appearances include The Lichfield Festival.

Jazz

Jazz Big Band

Specialising in traditional big band arrangements and the classic repertoire of Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Thad Jones, the Conservatoire Big Band provides initial training in large jazz ensemble playing. The Band, which typically includes up to 20 players, rehearses once a week and performs termly. Recent projects have included a performance of Duke Ellington's *Far East Suite* and a concert with Elaine Delmar.

Jazz Orchestra

Comprised mostly of senior jazz students, our Jazz Orchestra tackles challenging music from the contemporary repertoire, featuring composers such as John Warren, Stan Sulzmann and Maria Schneider, and works with well known guest conductors. The size of the ensemble is flexible according to the demands of the repertoire and performances are given about once a term. In recent years, the Orchestra has appeared with Henry Lowther, Pete Hurt, Mike Gibbs and performed Dave Holland's compositions in concert in the presence of the composer.



TUTORIAL STAFF

JAZZ BIG BAND

Jeremy Price BA(Hons)
ABSM LGSM HonBC

RECENT JAZZ ORCHESTRA GUEST CONDUCTORS

Mike Gibbs
Pete Hurt