

INSTRUMENTS *of* TIME & TRUTH

Call for student Vocal Singers and Keyboard Players



Cozzolani Vespers
January - February 2024

Call for student singers and keyboard players to perform in IT&T's Cozzolani Vespers project in February 2024

In February 2024, Instruments of Time & Truth will present a programme featuring the music of Chiara Margarita Cozzolani and her contemporaries, including a large part of her sumptuous 1650 Vespers. The concert in Christchurch Cathedral, will explore the dramatic possibilities presented by the scoring of Cozzolani's daring and virtuosic works. Some of the concert will be performed with Cozzolani's published scoring (SSAATTBB+ Basso Continuo) and others will be scored for upper voices with instrumental bass as they might have been performed by Cozzolani herself within the Convent at Santa Radegonda in Milan. The performance pitch will be A=440.

Following the success of IT&T's 'Divine Music' and Schutz side-by-sides, applications are now open to join a Vocal Consort to sing as part of this project and also to a limited number of keyboard continuo players who will work alongside the professional ensemble and student vocal consort.

Vocal Consort

IT&T are looking to offer this opportunity to 12 student singers from all voice parts. Members of the consort will sing alongside 4 professional consort singers and a continuo group of musicians from Instruments of Time and Truth, and will receive coaching from conductor and harpsichordist Christopher Bucknall and soprano Miriam Allan. This scheme is aimed at developing and inspiring Oxford's finest student consort singers. We are looking for singers with interest in this repertoire and in consort singing, who are willing and able to be collaborative in rehearsal and performance and proactive musically.

Keyboard Continuo Players

Applications are also open for a limited number of student keyboard continuo players (organists, harpsichordists) who will perform as part of this performance alongside the Vocal consort and professional team. This scheme is aimed at developing and inspiring keyboard players who are curious about the role of the keyboard in consort work of this type.

Public Masterclass

There is also an opportunity to apply to perform as part of a public masterclass on C17th Italian Vocal repertoire taking place as part of the rehearsal process on **Thursday 11th January, 2024**. If you would like to be considered for this,, there is an option to select that on the application form. Please indicate what repertoire you would like to sing. For some ideas, please see the

following suggested repertoire list: ([which can be found here](#)). Keyboard players can either team up with vocal applicants or be allocated repertoire.

Priority will be given to student singers and players who study and/or live in Oxford, but non-students and student singers from further afield are welcome to apply. **Applicants should be aged 18 or over on 1st January 2024.**

Applications close at midday on Monday 27th November.



Vocal Consort from IT&T's 'Divine Music' project with Miriam Allan and Christopher Bucknall in the Holywell Music Room (February 2021)

Schedule:

Monday 27th November	Midday: Applications close
Thursday 11th January: Timings TBC	Open Workshop Rehearsal Public Masterclass with Miriam Allan and Christopher Bucknall on 17th-century repertoire
Thursday 1st February 19.00 - 22:00	Vocal Consort rehearsal (3 hours) 19:00-22:00
Monday 5th February 11:00 - 18:00	Rehearsal Day with Miriam Allan and Christopher Bucknall 11:00-18:00
Friday 9th February 11:00 - 18:00	Dress rehearsal day 11:00 - 18:00
Saturday 10th February	Concert in Christchurch Cathedral 13:00-16:00 Tutti Rehearsal 19:30-c.21:30 Concert

Application Process

- Note the rehearsal and performance dates. You need to be available for all of these.
- Fill out an application form via the IT&T website
- **All Applicants** to attend the open workshop day on Thursday 11th January where some of the concert repertoire will be workshopped with Christopher Bucknall and Miriam Allan. See below for recording notes.
- You can **opt in** to be considered for the solo masterclass.
- The consort will be selected following the workshop day, and notified by Monday 15th January. Feedback will be provided for all applicants.

A note from Miriam Allan and Christopher Bucknall:

'Thank you for your interest in this project. The intention is to educate and collaborate with students, and provide exciting coaching and performance opportunities while exploring this fascinating and rarely performed repertoire.'

A recording is requested as part of your application so that we have an opportunity before the workshop day in January to be able to get to know you as a musician. Your recording does not need to be accompanied, and it does not need to be of professional quality - a voice note on a phone would be completely acceptable - and you can send a recording of you singing/playing any repertoire.'

If you have any questions, please contact IT&T's Education Manager Elizabeth Nurse - education@timeandtruth.co.uk

Feedback from previous IT&T student education projects:

"The whole time I felt that it was an excellent thing to be doing. I learned a lot and loved the rehearsals, the masterclass, and the concert." (*Student consort member, IT&T's 'Divine Music' Project*)

"there was a lot of attention to detail, and the quality of the band, as well as the ability of Chris and Miriam, was inspiring." (*Student consort member, IT&T's 'Divine Music' Project*)

"I found the masterclass particularly instructive, and thought it was beautifully run"
(*Masterclass participant, IT&T's 'Divine Music' Project*)

"I enjoyed how approachable Chris made the repertoire and it was great to have the opportunity to perform at such a high level" (*Student consort member, IT&T's 'Divine Music' Project*)



IT&T rehearsing in the Holywell Music Room for 'Handel's Youthful Exuberance' in February 2020

Biographies

Christopher Bucknall

Conductor and harpsichordist **Christopher Bucknall**, is at home both on the concert platform and in the opera house, sharing his passion for bringing music from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries alive.

Christopher has conducted critically acclaimed productions of Handel, *Alcina* (Den Norske Opera), Handel, *Agrippina*, *Partenope* and *Jeptha* (Iford Arts), Cavalli *La Calisto* and Cesti *L'Oronthea* (Theater Aachen), Haydn, *Il Mondo della Luna* (English Touring Opera), Monteverdi, *L'Orfeo* (Silent Opera).

On the concert platform, Christopher has appeared directing The English Concert, B'Rock (Belgian Baroque Orchestra Ghent), Instruments of Time and Truth, City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Real Filharmonie de Galicia and the Norwegian Wind Ensemble in varied repertoire ranging from Monteverdi through to Mozart. He also regularly collaborates with the UK's finest vocal ensembles including performances of Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium* with the BBC Singers, and highly praised preparation of the Glyndebourne and English National Opera choruses in works by Purcell and Rameau.

Christopher is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in recognition of his work and is a visiting coach and lecturer at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Miriam Allan

The “sublime singing” (Gramophone, 2017) of Soprano **Miriam Allan** has been enjoyed across the world, notably during the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Recent performances have seen her debut with Collegium Vocale Gent and their director Philippe Herreweghe in concerts and recordings; a debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra; concerts with La Nuova Musica and the English Concert at London’s Wigmore Hall; and semi-staged performances with Early Opera Company at St John’s Smith Square, London. Miriam continues her long association with Les Arts Florissants in concerts and recording in France and around Europe and the USA.

On the opera stage she is a regular principle with Pinchgut Opera, alongside appearances at the Innsbruck Festival, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Opera Comique, Paris, and Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York as well as appearances in Mozart Opera Galas at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Salle Pleyel, Paris. Frequent collaborators include Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Masaaki Suzuki and William Christie, whilst she has sung with the BBC Philharmonic, Melbourne Symphony, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Aurora Orchestra.

Her discography includes the Gramophone award winning series of Monteverdi Madrigals and Gesualdo Madrigals with Les Arts Florissant, with whom she can also be seen in the DVD release of Orfeo, as well as Mozart Requiem with Leipzig Kammerorchester, a recital of Handel & Purcell on ABC Classics and Pinchgut Opera’s series of live recordings. Miriam teaches at Christ’s College, Cambridge and St George’s School, Windsor Castle.