

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of the Oxford University Music Society (OUMS) logo. Each logo is a circular seal containing the text 'OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY' around the perimeter and '1872' at the bottom. In the center of each seal is a stylized 'OUMS' monogram. The logos are rendered in a light blue-grey color against a dark blue background.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY

**Freshers' Guide
2023-24**

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Evie Brenkley
she/her



Hello, and welcome to this year's OUMS Freshers' Guide!

When I was elected President of this wonderful Society midway through last year, I didn't really know what to expect - wheeling a contrabassoon from the Music Faculty to the Sheldonian Theatre wasn't too high on the list, but to be fair, nobody said it would be glamorous. For me, this moment captures the joy of OUMS: often ridiculous, but always huge amounts of fun.

I head up a team of dedicated and lovely people (some of whom are featured within, and others are listed on the right!) who work very hard to keep OUMS as forward thinking and vast as it is. For most of us, it's only been a year since we were new ourselves, and we understand how daunting this moment is. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask - either on our socials, via email, or in person at the Freshers' Fair.

OUMS represents nine ensembles, has connections with many others (including funk, folk, a capella, and opera), offers opportunities for outreach, journalism, conducting, composing, and fosters a community of wonderful people - as you'll discover within these pages. As of this academic year (probably for the first time since our foundation in 1872), we offer a non-auditioning ensemble for every instrumentalist and vocalist. If you want to be involved with music at Oxford - which we really hope you do! - you will be welcomed with open arms: no strings (or reeds or valves!*) attached.

Though titularly this 2023-24 Guide is for Freshers, I hope that all Oxford musos - present and future - will find its contents useful. And my terrible sense of humour aside (*sorry), I am so looking forward to seeing you at a rehearsal/concert/social/on the street wheeling a large instrument very soon.

OUMS love,

Evie



Johan Orly
he/him
Vice President



Christopher Churcher
he/him
Secretary



Henry Nurse
he/him
Treasurer

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About OUMS

'ow-ms'

Oxford University Music Society has been at the heart of the music scene in Oxford since its foundation in 1872, making OUMS one of the university's oldest student-run organisations - but we pride ourselves on moving with the times.

Join
OUMS!



We are the umbrella organisation for nine ensembles:

three orchestras, two wind ensembles, a jazz band, a string group, a brass band, and a university-wide chorus. In these pages you will find out more about each of these groups, along with our current list of Affiliated Ensembles (bringing together a world-renowned chamber choir, an award-winning a cappella group, and a legendary funk band - among many others) and information about music-making in Colleges.

OUMS has a dedicated online publication, OPUS, and we're always keen to hear from potential writers and concert reviewers (who get a free ticket for their efforts!). If you'd like to get involved with community music, we have an enthusiastic Access and Outreach team for you to get in touch with. We also have a dedicated committee to match up players and provide support for chamber music, and there are opportunities across OUMS for concerto playing, conducting, and composing. If you have any questions not answered in this booklet, you can visit our website (www.oums.co.uk), or get in touch with the relevant committee member.

Becoming a member of OUMS is entirely free, and allows you to access all the opportunities and socials we offer. We are also introducing an additional tier of membership, OUMS+, which is a great way to show your support for the society in return for some fun benefits. Joining OUMS+ costs £25, which lasts for the duration of your time at uni, and gives you discounts on concert tickets and stash among other perks. To find out more, and to become a member of OUMS, scan the QR code above or visit www.oums.co.uk/membership.

Auditions

Joining an OUMS ensemble is simple. To sign up to any of our four non-auditioned groups (**OUSE**, **OUSB**, **OUBB**, and **OUCorus**), simply fill in the form to become a member of OUMS (see the opposite page!) and, on the next page, select the ensemble(s) you would like to join. The other ensembles are auditioned, but you only have to do the one audition to be considered for any of them (apart from **OULO** who run their own, much jazzier, auditions).

If you're looking to play in **OULO**, **OUSinf**, **OUPhil**, **OULO**, or **OULO**, you'll need to fill in the audition form, by scanning the QR code below, or visiting our website (www.oums.co.uk/auditions).

Responses are due by **Friday 6th October at 4pm**, and auditions will be held at the **Faculty of Music** on **Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th October**. Our website will be kept up to date with audition info, including when each instrument's slot is, so do keep checking back there for updates.

We hope our auditions will be as relaxed, friendly, and painless as possible, so if you have any questions before the big day, please get in touch in any way you'd like.

Best of luck!

**AUDITIONS
SIGN UP FORM**

Deadline: 4pm, Friday 6th Oct





'oh-you-oh'

Oxford University Orchestra



All orchestral instruments



Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-10pm



Various spaces around Ox



Register for OUMS Auditions



OUO is OUMS's flagship orchestra, providing top-class opportunities to the best instrumentalists at the University. OUO is always led by a professional conductor, and often uses professional soloists. We tackle ambitious, diverse, and entertaining programmes; in MT23 we will be playing Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, under the baton of Toby Purser. Our concert is usually in 5th Week, so the intense rehearsal schedule doesn't continue for the whole term! In March, we are looking forward to going on tour to Italy to deliver a number of concerts in exciting venues.

My favourite thing about OUO is the warm and welcoming atmosphere of 80 people who love music, all in one room!



Kilian Meißner
he/him
OUO Manager



Oxford University Sinfonietta



Most orchestral instruments



Most nights in 6th Week



DAH in the Music Faculty



Register for OUMS Auditions



OUSinfonietta is a student conducted chamber orchestra made up of Oxford's top orchestral musicians. We hold a brief but intense rehearsal period for a week which culminates in a concert on Friday of 6th Week. As the premier chamber orchestra of the University, OUSinf provides opportunity for players to perform famous works at a very high standard, while also remaining dedicated to showcasing underplayed and contemporary repertoire, with recent concerts including works by Kurt Weill, Emilie Mayer, and Anna Clyne. We host a student composition competition each year, with the premiere of the winning piece given in Hilary Term.



Amy Fry
she/her

OUSinf Manager

OUSinf is always my favourite week of term. I love having the opportunity to play rep that is rarely performed, alongside such fantastic players!



ousinf@oums.co.uk



[@ousinfonietta](https://www.instagram.com/ousinfonietta)



[/OUSinf](https://www.facebook.com/OUSinf)

Oxford University Philharmonia



All orchestral instruments



Wednesdays, 7-10pm



Various spaces around Ox



Register for OUMS Auditions



OUPhil is the University's premier student-run and student-conducted symphony orchestra. We are committed to highlighting some of the greatest musicians at the university, picking our players from the OUMS auditions. Every Michaelmas we also run a Concerto Competition, with the winner performing in our Hilary concert. We regularly perform large-scale symphonic works, with recent concerts featuring Holst's 'The Planets', Stravinsky's 'Firebird', Elgar's Cello Concerto, and Price's 'The Oak'. This term we are delighted to be collaborating with OUChorus for a performance of Mahler's 'Symphony No. 2: Resurrection Symphony' at the Sheldonian Theatre.

OUPhil balances high-quality music making with a fun and sociable atmosphere. We are big believers in the power of a post-rehearsal pint..!



Daniel Hobart

he/him

OUPhil Manager



Oxford University Wind Orchestra



Wind, brass and percussion



Thursdays, 7-10pm



DAH in the Music Faculty



Register for OUMS Auditions



OUWO is a really friendly ensemble. We work towards a termly concert and play a wide variety of rep - from film scores to opera, to world premiere pieces, and everything in between! This term, our programme is exploring folk music from around the world. We also take pride in our Access and Outreach programme, which this year has included a pre-concert 'Meet the Instrument' session aimed at young people, and a conducting workshop for musicians wanting to try out conducting at Oxford. We are looking forward to visiting schools and care homes over the coming term. To join us, sign up for the OUMS Auditions - all wind, brass and percussion players welcome!



Matthew Bentham

he/him

OUWO Manager

My favourite thing about OUWO is how open and friendly it is! There are so many social opportunities for the players, and the repertoire is always really exciting.



ouwo@oums.co.uk



[@ouwindorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/ouwindorchestra)



[/OUWindOrchestra](https://www.facebook.com/OUWindOrchestra)

GETTING AROUND

A

Faculty of Music & Denis Arnold Hall St Aldate's

The musical heart of the university - the DAH is the number one location for rehearsals!

**B**

Sheldonian Theatre Broad Street

A performance venue in the centre of Oxford which sees the likes of OUO and OUPhil as well as many professional ensembles too.

**C**

Holywell Music Room Holywell Street

(Probably) the oldest concert hall in Europe, still hosting all kinds of concerts including lots of chamber performances.

**D**

University Church High Street

Right opposite the Rad Cam, this lovely space is used for performances often by OUSinf and OUWO.

**E**

Jacqueline Du Pré Music Building (JdP) Cowley Place

A purpose built performance and new music hub based at St Hilda's College.

**F**

Christ Church Cathedral St Aldate's

Christ Church is home to the Cathedral Choir and is also a useful ensemble rehearsal space because of its proximity to the Music Faculty.

**G**

Newman Rooms Rose Place & St Aldate's

Large rehearsal space used by bigger OUMS ensembles like OUO. Sometimes called the Catholic Chaplaincy.

**H**

Cohen Quadrangle Walton Street

Another frequently used rehearsal space, particularly by OUPhil. It's an annex of Exeter College.

**I**

Wesley Memorial Church New Hall Inn St

A rehearsal space next to St Peter's College. Often shortened to the 'Wes Mem'.

**J**

George & Danver (G&D's) St Aldate's

An Oxford (and OUMS!) institution - one of three in the city. Pop in for a post-rehearsal ice cream, or join us here for an OUMS Social!





OUSE

'ooze' or 'ow-zee'

Oxford University String Ensemble



All strings



Sundays, 11am-2pm



DAH in the Music Faculty



Join OUMS & select 'OUSE'



We are a student-conducted and non-auditioned string orchestra that aims to tackle a wide variety of string repertoire, both well known and more obscure. Our most recent concert included works by Biber, Bruch and Mendelssohn, and we have also previously played Dvorak, Mozart, Sibelius, Elgar and Suk – among many others! We are a very friendly group and tend to play much smaller concerts than the other ensembles, making it perfect for those who don't want the intensity of a full orchestra.

I love how friendly the ensemble is. You get to know everyone really well and it is a fun, chill space in which to enjoy making music.



Tasha Birch
she/her
OUSE Manager



OUSB

'oh-you-ess-bee'

Oxford University Symphonic Band



Wind, brass and percussion



Mondays, 7.30-9.30pm



Rooms in the Music Faculty



Join OUMS & select 'OUSB'



OUSB is a concert band welcoming anyone of the brass, woodwind, percussion, or even bass persuasion. As a non-auditioned group, we are proud of our relaxed approach whilst playing a great array of music, whether it be songs from the shows, marching band favourites, or something a little more classical. Whatever your ability or experience we'd love to have you along. Our Monday rehearsals are accompanied by a social afterwards so there is always the chance to meet fellow musicians from across the university, and our 8th week concerts never fail to be a great way to celebrate the term! Select 'OUSB' when you sign up to be an OUMS member.



Aaron McIntyre
he/him
OUSB Manager

OUSB is a highlight of my week. It's a break from everything else, and just a wonderful chance to play good music, with wonderful musicians, and have fun whilst doing it.



ousb@oums.co.uk



[@ousymphonicband](https://www.instagram.com/@ousymphonicband)



[/OUSymphonicBand](https://www.facebook.com/OUSymphonicBand)

OUBB

'oh-you-bee-bee'

Oxford University Brass Band



All brass instruments



Sundays, 8-10pm



DAH in the Music Faculty



Join OUMS & select 'OUBB'



OUBB is a full-sized student brass band. We rehearse weekly with at least one concert every term, and are the reigning UniBrass Shield Champions. We are a fun group with a focus on the family element which is central to brass-banding: rehearsals are upbeat and friendly, and always include a trip to the pub afterwards for a chat! We are a competitively ambitious band, and play a diverse range of repertoire which can be challenging, but is also super exciting. This term, our events include a joint concert with local championship band Wantage and a trip to Newcastle to play at Brass in Concert (the world's premier brass band entertainment contest).

OUBB is hands-down the most fun you can have in an ensemble at Oxford; with amazing music and even better people!



Christian Goodwin
he/him
OUBB Manager



OUChorus

'oh-you-chorus'

Oxford University Chorus



Anyone up for a sing-song!



Saturdays, 11am-12.30pm



DAH in the Music Faculty



Join OUMS & select 'OUChorus'



OUChorus is OUMS' newly-reformed choral society, with an enthusiastic and ambitious new committee. From singing with large symphony orchestras, to intimate a cappella settings, we offer a diverse and friendly musical experience. In Michaelmas, we will join forces with OUPhil for an unforgettable performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 2. In Hilary, we've got plans for an intimate concert in the University Church, featuring Morten Lauridsen's stunning 'Nocturnes', and with repertoire ranging from Vaughan Williams, to Ola Gjeilo and The Beatles. Join us for rehearsals and connect with choir friends over coffee or brunch at our weekly socials!



Christopher Churcher
he/him
OUChorus Manager

OUChorus is unique in its position as the University's largest choir. We are fun, diverse, ambitious, and offer something for everyone.



ouchorus@oums.co.uk



[@oxunichorus](https://www.instagram.com/@oxunichorus)



[/OUChorus](https://www.facebook.com/OUChorus)



'ow=joe'

Oxford University Jazz Orchestra



All jazz instruments



Wednesdays, 7-10pm



Rooms in the Music Faculty



Register for OUJO Auditions



OUJO is OUMS's flagship jazz ensemble and big band, showcasing a variety of exceptional swing, funk and modern big band music. With sell-out shows in exciting venues across the city, private functions including college balls, and overseas tours, OUJO is one of the most rewarding opportunities available to a musician in Oxford. This year promises collaborations and workshops with top UK jazz musicians, plans for a European tour, and concerts with our equivalent ensembles at Cambridge and Imperial. So, if you're a dedicated jazz musician around Grade 8+ standard, and interested in joining a big band, look no further!

OUJO has been a fantastic mix of fun, rewarding music and a great social scene. Our curry nights are coveted for a reason!



James McQueen
he/him
OUJO Manager



Affiliated Ensembles

You have met the nine ensembles under the OUMS umbrella, but there is a lot of music making which happens outside of the society too. The Affiliation Scheme therefore allows OUMS to support opportunities and groups which don't explicitly fall under our remit.

If you haven't found the vibe or style of music you're looking for yet, it is almost certain to be found on our list of Affiliated Ensembles. As of this Michaelmas, OUMS is supporting a diverse range of ensembles, with auditioned and non-auditioned options, and varied levels of commitment. We've got groups representing funk, jazz, opera, orchestral, a cappella, and choral music - and the list is ever growing, too!

To find out more, scan the QR code above or visit www.oums.co.uk/affiliated. It is also worth joining the **Musicians @Oxford University** Facebook page if you haven't already - lots of opportunities and callouts get posted there!

See
the list!



College Music

Check it
out!



OUMS takes responsibility for music at the University as a whole, but most colleges also have their own student-run music societies. It is definitely worth having a look at what your own/a nearby college offers - they would be more than happy to have you!

No College Music Society is quite like any other; some run weekly recitals for college and university members, others organise open mic nights, and some offer friendly, non-auditioned ensembles of their own. College Music Societies are all friendly and informal places to perform, workshop, and make friends! Scan the QR code or visit www.oums.co.uk/college-music to see a list of societies.

Many colleges also have chapel choirs: from the prestigious choral foundations to less formal non-auditioned groups (and everything in between!). If you would like to join a choir, there is almost certainly a space for you. To find out more, we recommend emailing your College's Director of Music or Chaplain.

Chamber music

The newly branded Oxford University Chamber Music (OUCM) is an OUMS-run body committed to promoting chamber music across the university, and expanding the society's remit beyond the nine ensembles. Throughout the year, we offer support to smaller groups, including through performance opportunities and masterclasses.

Sign up
& FAQs



Tommaso Rusconi
he/him
**Chamber Music
Coordinator**

To get involved with this term's cycle of chamber music matching is super easy.

You can sign up as an individual and we match you with other players interested in similar repertoire, ensemble type, and commitment. You can also find other players through our in-person 'Chamber Music Speed Dating' event! Forms for both group-matching and event sign up can be found by scanning the QR code above. Plus, keep an eye out for upcoming masterclasses and opportunities, as well as performances from fellow students and professionals!

 chambermusic@oums.co.uk

 OUMS Chamber Music

Social life

Welcome to the OUMS social life section of this brochure! We are very pleased to be your OUMS Social Secretaries for this year, and even more delighted that the OUMS social scene has been recently revived. Last term, we were able to make the most of the sun with wholesome picnics and pub trips. This term will be no different, and we can't wait to meet you at our weekly events, which will include low commitment pub trips, quizzes, sports, as well as some more formal events. Keep an eye on the newsletter and social media for further details, and sign up to be a member of OUMS so you don't miss anything! In the meantime, if you have any other questions, or requests for social events, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.



Connie Horan
she/her
Social Sec



Kilian Meißner
he/him
Social Sec

Freshers' Welcome Social
Fri 4th Oct, 7pm - watch this space!

 socialsec@oums.co.uk

Access and outreach

We are strong believers that music is for everyone - regardless of ability, previous experience or circumstances. From auditions to rehearsals, and concerts to socials, we want to make music at Oxford as accessible as we can. If there is anything we can do, or if you encounter any problems, do get in touch with us. We will address your concerns confidentially, to the best of our ability!

OUMS engages in regular outreach work, including collaborations with Oxford charities such as Sing Inside, and hosting concerts at local care homes. If you are interested in music outreach, join our **OUMS Outreach and Community Engagement** Facebook group, where you can find more information. It's also where we post callouts for upcoming projects!

Outreach
Facebook!



Erin Townsend
she/her
A&O Officer



Blanche Cheng
she/her
A&O Officer

 outreach@oums.co.uk  OUMS Outreach

Journalism - OPUS

OPUS is the society's official publication (hosted on our website), and has been going from strength to strength in the past year. While we mainly publish reviews, we also post weekly interviews with one of the many music superstars who can be found around the university and city. Either way, if you have something musical to write about, we'd love to hear from you. To join our community of writers, fill in the form by scanning the QR code and you'll be added to the list. If you'd like to be kept in the loop with review opportunities (with free tickets to OUMS concerts!), make sure to tick the box on the form.

Register
your
interest!



Fraser Gilliat
he/him

**Communications
Officer & OPUS
Editor-in-Chief**

You can find OPUS on our website (www.oums.co.uk/opus), where you can read past concert reviews and interviews. Keep an eye on our socials to keep up to date with new articles!

 communications@oums.co.uk  OUMS Journalists



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