



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

16+ MUSIC AWARDS
FOR 2026 ENTRY

OUR 16+ MUSIC AWARD APPLICATION JOURNEY

YEARS

9-11

- Fill out enquiry form via website [here](#).
- Prospective 16+ Music Award applicants are welcome to request an informal pre-audition meeting. This offers an opportunity to discuss suitability for the different types of Sixth Form Music Award and receive advice in preparation.

YEAR

10

- **May:** Sixth Form Open Morning with afternoon focus event on Music at Winchester College.

YEAR

11

- **29 September:** Application deadline (academic)
- **13 & 16 September:** In-person Sixth Form open events
- **22 September:** Online Sixth Form open event
- **1 October:** Music Award application deadline. Shortlisted applicants will be notified of their audition date shortly thereafter.
- **4 - 10 November:** Music Award auditions
- **1 December:** Music Award results released with admissions offers
- **8 December:** Acceptance deadline

Induction process for new Sixth Form pupils

YEAR

11

- **March:** Day pupils
- **May:** Boarders (online)
- **June:** Day pupils' induction with auditions for music ensembles

YEAR

12

- **September:** New pupils induction with boarders' auditions for music ensembles



GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR 16+ MUSIC AWARDS

Winchester College Music Awards for 16+ entry are given for performances on instruments or voice heard at audition. 16+ Music Award auditions take place concurrently with 16+ entrance tests and Music Awards will only be offered to candidates who are successful in gaining an academic place. Potential contribution to the Music department is taken into account in considering applications.

Consistent with the school's commitment to the proper use of its charitable funds, Music Awards carry no automatic remission of school fees. However, in cases of financial need, eligible parents may apply for means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees in the form of bursaries. Further information can be found on the Bursary section of our [website](#).

- **Music Scholarships** carry free tuition on two instruments (or voice), unless a candidate's 2nd instrument is not at sufficiently high standard. Music Scholars of Grade 8 standard or above will receive lessons of 60 minutes' duration on their 1st instrument; other lessons are of 40 minutes' duration.
- **Music Exhibitions** carry free tuition on one instrument (or voice), with lessons of 40 minutes' duration.
- **Choral Scholarship** applicants need not to have taken singing exams, but should have experience of regular choral singing. A 16+ Choral Scholarship is an ideal preparation for university choral scholarships and would suit singers who wish to improve their sight-reading and musicianship skills through rehearsing several times per week. Choral scholars must be prepared to commit to services, concerts, tours and broadcasts and will receive free 1 to 1 lessons from experienced singing teachers as well as sight-reading and aural training. It is envisaged that in time, the choral scholars will sing as a small group in addition to within the liturgical choirs at Winchester. There will be opportunities to develop singing beyond Winchester through participation in events in Cambridge and Oxford, and for the right applicants, the opportunity to spend a gap year in Winchester working with both the Cathedral and College and pursuing particular musical interests. **Applications are welcomed from all voice parts.**

- **Organ Scholarship** candidates need not have taken Grade 8. The organ scholars work alongside the Deputy Head of Chapel Music providing organ music for services. They accompany choirs on piano and organ, and are able to develop choral (and orchestral) conducting. Winchester College Chapel Choir with its 16 Quiristers (8-13 year old trebles) provides an unparalleled opportunity to experience a Cathedral-style training during the sixth form, invaluable for organists wishing to apply for university scholarships which involve working with children. Organ Scholars receive free organ tuition.

Where awarded, tuition is usually given by Winchester College teachers.



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- Parents of candidates for Music Awards should also read the information regarding admission to the school on the Winchester College [website](#). In brief, applications for entry at 16+ are made during the year before entry and Music Award auditions take place at the same time as entrance tests. All places at Winchester College are offered subject to success in the Entrance Examination.
 - Candidates at 16+ should ideally offer two instruments, one of which can be voice, and no more than four instruments in total. If a candidate offers only one instrument, it would need to be of a very high standard to receive an Award. The maximum performance time available in the audition is 15 minutes. The school reserves the right to reject an application without audition, based on information supplied by parents and teachers.
 - In making Awards, we are looking for musicianship and commitment alongside achievement. Generally, however, the successful 16+ candidates will be at least Grade 8 (or an equivalent level) on their 1st instrument. Candidates offering only piano should be of diploma standard. The audition will include aural tests, sight-reading and general questions about the candidates' pieces and musical interests. Any other evidence of musicianship (composition, singing, additional instruments and interests) will be considered. Experience of music-making at a high level (e.g. cathedral or collegiate chorister, or membership of county or national choirs and orchestras) will be regarded very positively.
 - Candidates for 16+ entry must be under seventeen years of age on 31 August following the audition. They will need to be at Winchester College for a music audition (see page 5) which will be held between **4-10 November (except Sunday 9 November) 2025**.
 - Successful candidates, on entering the school, will be allowed to make a special study of music to such an extent as the Headmaster (in consultation with the Director of Music) may think desirable, and they will be expected to play a full and positive part in the musical life of the school. Selecting A Level Music affords Music Award holders time to practise and perform as part of their examined qualifications and is therefore encouraged, but it is not a pre-requisite. The continuation of Awards is subject to satisfactory progress and commitment. Parents and successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement which commits Music Award holders to fulfilling their obligations which will include playing/singing in the College's main large ensembles (see page 7).
 - It is helpful to the school, and to potential candidates, if contact is made with the Director of Music, Ms Sarah Baldock during the two years preceding application for 16+ entry. Advice can be given and a pupil's progress can be assessed at an informal pre-audition. However, parents of potential candidates should not feel that such contact is essential. Ms Baldock is also happy to give advice over the telephone. Please contact the [Music Administrator](mailto:jma@wincoll.ac.uk) (jma@wincoll.ac.uk).
 - The Music Award application form can be found online [here](#). **The deadline for submitting an application for a 16+ Music Award is 1 October 2025.**



THE AUDITION: 16+ MUSIC AWARDS

The audition is designed to give an all-round view of the musical ability of the candidate, and in order that they can give their best, we try to make the day as relaxed as possible. Candidates will be met at the Music School and will be given time to warm-up and rehearse before the audition.

The audition is in two parts:

a) Performance (15 minutes)

Candidates should play/sing two contrasting pieces on their 1st instrument or voice. Candidates may also offer one piece on any other instrument(s), and/or singing. Please be aware that we may not have time to hear all of these pieces.

Performances will be heard in the Recital Room of the Music School by members of the Music staff. Candidates will be asked to submit their audition programme in advance. An accompanist will be provided (candidates are not permitted to bring their own accompanist). Please remember to bring the accompaniment part(s) for the pieces being presented. Singers are reminded to provide the accompaniment in the key in which they will be singing.

A Yamaha grand piano is provided for the use of all candidates. 1st study organists will perform on the two-manual and pedal organ in the Chantry Chapel or the three-manual Chapel Organ. (Help will be provided with stops and warming up on the instrument before the audition.) The school can also provide percussion instruments and harpsichord if required. Please contact the Music Administrator well in advance.

b) Practical tests (10 minutes)

Aural and sight-reading tests (on the candidate's 1st instrument only) will be given.

There is no written paper, but general viva voce questions may be asked.



Entrance interviews for all Sixth Form candidates take place during the same period. If you have applied to study A-Level Music you will also have an academic Music interview which will include a practical audition for those who have not performed in a Music Award audition.

CONDITIONS OF MUSIC AWARDS

In addition to the general terms and conditions applicable to all pupils set out in the Parent Contract, all Music Award holders are required to:

- Play a full and active part in the musical life of the school, including membership of school and house instrumental and vocal ensembles, and performances in concerts. The minimum expectation is that all Award holders will perform in an Informal or Chamber Concert once per year, and will take part in two ensembles each week assigned by the Director of Music. This will usually include singing in Winchester College Choral Society which gives a large-scale concert each year, usually in Winchester Cathedral.
- Attend all instrumental and/or singing lessons, and maintain progress in their instrumental and/or vocal studies through a commitment to regular practice and preparation for lessons, including during examination periods.
- Set an example to other pupils through their commitment, regular punctual attendance and positive demeanour at rehearsals for the ensembles in which they play or sing.
- Regularly attend concerts, and assist with the organisation of concerts when requested.
- Prioritise their musical commitments ahead of other activities, other than academic work.
- Understand that their Music Award will be subject to annual review and may be withdrawn in accordance with (or by reference to) the terms upon which such Award is made and/or if, in the opinion of the Director of Music, their attendance, progress and/or behaviour (and/or parental behaviour or conduct (or the conduct or behaviour of one parent)) no longer merit the continuation of the Award.
- Notice may be given at any time if the above conditions are not being met, after which the Award holder will be encouraged to make improvements during the ensuing six term-time weeks. If the conditions remain unmet, the Award will be withdrawn at the end of that term.
- In order to maintain the purpose of the scholarship fund from which Music Award holders' lessons are paid, parents may be billed for lessons missed without reasonable cause.
- Individual music lessons will be charged at £78.48 inclusive of VAT per hour in 2025-2026.
- In particular, Music Award holders are expected to continue to attend music lessons arranged at suitable times through public examination periods, and to remain in school to the end of each term to take part in musical activities. Non-attendance at lessons may incur charges payable by parents.



The school will provide all Music Award holders with:

- Instrumental/vocal teaching of a high standard that enables each Award holder to make appropriate progress. This may on occasion include masterclasses, workshops or consultation lessons.
- A range of musical opportunities appropriate to the needs of each Award holder. Award holders will normally be given priority when selections are made for ensembles or performances, although other factors (such as seniority in the school) will also be taken into account.
- Encouragement and support, including guidance on maintaining a balance between their academic studies, musical studies and other activities.
- Opportunities for musical leadership, for example through leading one of the orchestras, directing a performance or organising a concert.
- Advice and guidance on appropriate repertoire, performance opportunities, and on choral/organ scholarships, university or conservatoire entry, if appropriate.



MUSIC STAFF

Ms Sarah Baldock *Director of Music*

Mr Edmund Evans *Head of Academic Music*

Mr Dónal McCann *Head of Chapel Music*

Mr Benjamin Cunningham *Deputy Head of Chapel Music*

Mr Thomas Barton *Head of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion*

Mr Rafael Bolivar *Head of Strings*

Mr David Hurley *Head of Singing*

Miss Joanna Ambrose *Music Administrator*

Mrs Tabitha Salisbury *Music School Operations Coordinator*

Keyboard Faculty

Sarah Baldock *Organ*

Sallie Birchall *Piano*

George Castle *Organ*

Louise Cournarie *Piano*

Benjamin Cunningham *Organ*

Andrew Daniels *Jazz Piano*

Laura Dickson *Piano*

Nao Dickson *Piano*

Philip Dimitrovski *Piano*

Béla Hartmann *Piano*

Maria-Lena Loncke *Piano*

Dónal McCann *Organ*

Stephen Robbins *Piano*

Nicholas Salwey *Piano*

Sophie Saraby *Piano*

Drew Steanson *Piano*

Vocal Faculty

Simon Birchall

David Clegg

Simon Gallear

Katie Gilbert

Thomas Humphreys

David Hurley

James Ottaway

Claire Rutter

String Faculty

Raphael Bolivar *Violin*

Anca Campanie *Violin*

Peter Davis *Violin*

John Kane *Violin*

Catherine Lawlor *Violin*

Rebecca Miles *Baroque Violin/Recorder*

Scott Dickinson *Viola*

Nathalie Pacey *Viola*

Lionel Handy *Cello*

Nicola Heinrich *Cello*

Hannah Grimley *Double Bass*

Bastien Terraz *Double Bass/Bass Guitar*

Mark Eden *Guitar*

Richard Morrow *Electric/Acoustic Guitar*

Joanna Levine *Viols*

Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Faculty

Karen Wills *Flute*

Edward Kay *Oboe*

Hugo Lau *Clarinet*

Catriona Scott *Clarinet*

Josie Simmons *Saxophone*

Paul Stiles *Saxophone*

Tamsin Rowlinson *Bassoon*

Robert Harris *Horn*

Peter Widgery *Horn*

Julian Poore *Trumpet*

James Wall *Trumpet*

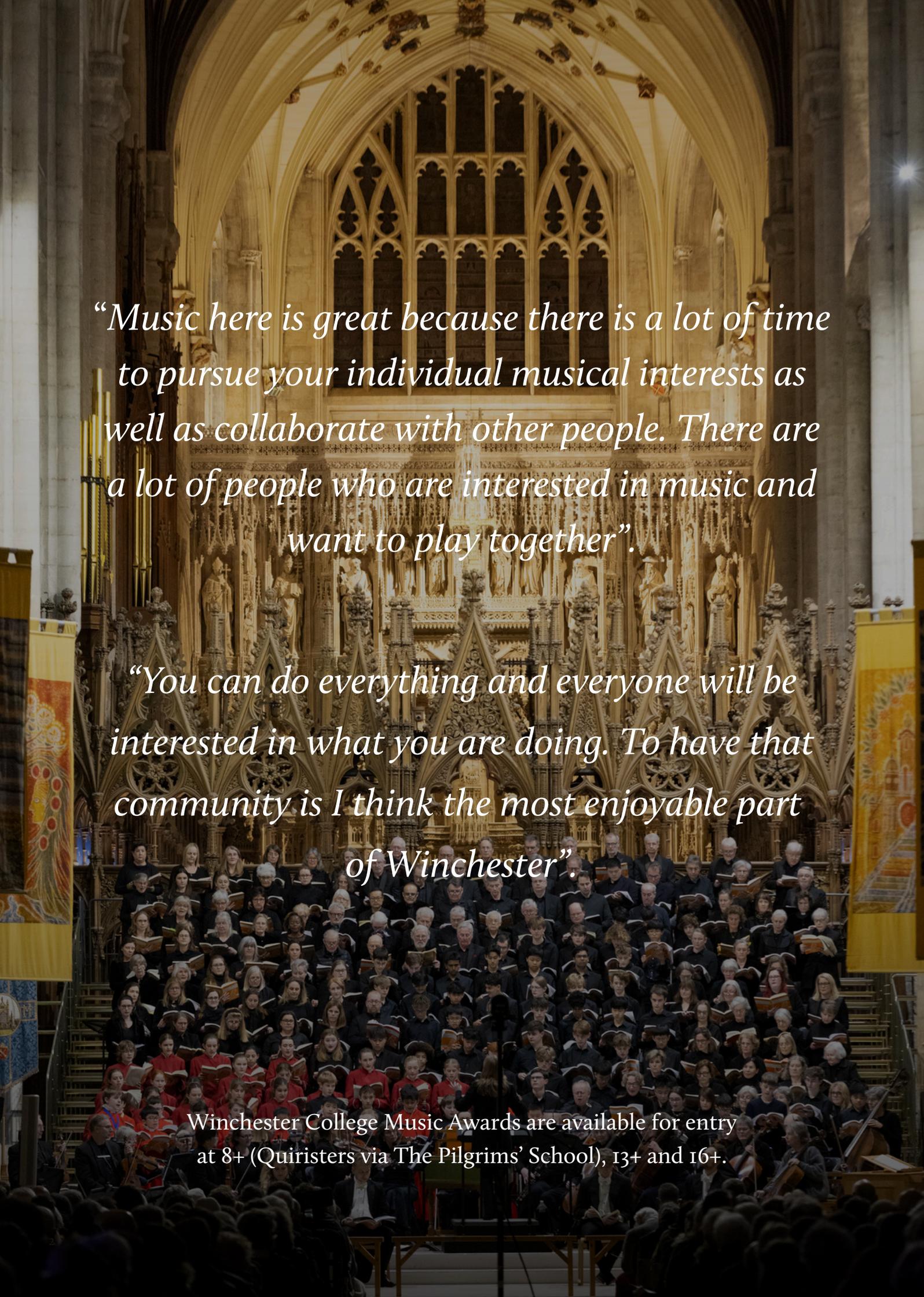
Thomas Barton *Trombone/Tuba/Euphonium*

Keith Bartlett *Percussion*

Alan Brown *Percussion*

Sebastian Guard *Percussion*

Jim Dawson *Bagpipes*

A large choir of people, including children and adults, is performing in a grand Gothic cathedral. They are seated in rows, holding books and singing. The background features a large, ornate Gothic window with intricate tracery. The lighting is warm and focused on the choir.

“Music here is great because there is a lot of time to pursue your individual musical interests as well as collaborate with other people. There are a lot of people who are interested in music and want to play together”.

“You can do everything and everyone will be interested in what you are doing. To have that community is I think the most enjoyable part of Winchester”.

Winchester College Music Awards are available for entry at 8+ (Quiristers via The Pilgrims' School), 13+ and 16+.



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COLLEGE

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Registered Charity No. 1139000