

Joanna Perkins, soprano/piano

Jo is currently in the final year of her MRes in Computational Physiology. This is her second year singing for Somerville College Choir, an experience which she has found very musically rewarding. Whilst at Oxford, she has previously sung for Christ Church College Choir, Wadham College Chapel Choir, St. John's Chapel Choir as well as some intercollegiate groups. Growing up, Jo learnt piano and flute from a very young age and became a church organist at the grand old age of 10. She subsequently won a scholarship to study for four years at the Birmingham Conservatoire Junior School. In the fight between the arts and the sciences, the former gracefully bowed out, and she decided to study mathematics at undergraduate level, but she still very much keeps music a part of her daily life. As many of her friends can attest, Jo can often be found at the opera, where she likes to see as many different performances as possible (in 2011 - she watched 54 operas during the year!), but equally she is thrilled to be part of Somerville's thriving music community and looks forward to the exciting concerts and tours that the choir have planned for the coming year.

Isabel Sinagola, mezzo-soprano

Isabel Sinagola is a finalist at Somerville College studying English literature and has held a choral award at the college since she began in 2011, singing alto in the Choir of Somerville College and in their offshoot octet. She has been singing in her church choir in Bowdon, Cheshire, for 13 years as well as her school's chamber choir and the Hallé Youth Choir in Manchester, under the direction of Oxford Schola Cantorum's conductor James Burton. Isabel has sung many large choral works as well as working on smaller, choral settings every week for evensong, and at weddings and funerals.

Robert Pecksmith, piano/organ

Robert Pecksmith is the Organ Scholar at Somerville College, Oxford, where he regularly accompanies and occasionally directs the college choir for their regular services and concerts. He began musical life aged 5 on the piano, and moving to the organ aged 13 at the Birmingham Conservatoire under the tutelage of Henry Fairs, where he remained for 5 years. Now at Oxford, Robert receives lessons from William Whitehead and was recently awarded an ARCO diploma, also winning the Sowerbutts Prize and Durrant Prize. He has had the pleasure of participating in numerous choir concerts and tours, notably at Blackburn Cathedral, Lancaster Priory, Birmingham Cathedral, Ampleforth Abbey and three times at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Robert regularly performs recitals as well as participating in masterclasses led by David Goode, Guy Bovet and Stephen Farr. Future plans will see Robert feature on a BBC broadcast and a choir tour to America. In August 2014 he will undertake an extensive recital tour of Germany with concerts in Berlin, Brandenburg and Weimar. Robert also pursues piano studies with Margaret Newman, achieving a DipABRSM aged 16, winning numerous prizes in music competitions, both for his solo playing and as part of a piano trio.

Website: www.robertpecksmith.co.uk

Emily Winkler, soprano

Emily began singing sea shanties and folk music with her father at age 5, and since then has enjoyed exploring a wide range of musical genres. Whilst pursuing her undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College, she sang with the Dartmouth Chamber Singers, studied period keyboard and jazz piano, and spent a term studying music in London. She recently earned her D.Phil. in History at Jesus College, Oxford and is currently an associate member of the Faculty of History. At present she is revising her thesis into a book about historical writing in medieval England. She continues to enjoy playing the piano, writing songs, and singing with the Choir of Somerville College.

Alexandra Worrell, soprano

Alex Worrell is an English student in her first year. She joined the choir to ensure that music remained a key part of her academic experience, having studied it at A-level. She began having singing lessons last year, and hopes that being a member of a high standard choir will help her to continue to improve technically, and introduce her to a wider range of vocal music. Alex also plays the clarinet to a grade 8 standard, and has previously participated in choirs, windbands and orchestras on a local level.

SMS Recitals Coordinator: Stefan Schwarz



**Somerville Music Society
Choral Scholars' Recital, 27 November 2013**



Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

The Plaint (from *The Fairy-Queen*)

Alexandra Worrell, soprano; Kaan Harwood, piano

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)

How beautiful are the feet (from *Messiah*)

Emily Winkler, soprano; Robert Pecksmith, piano

Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787)

O del mio dolce ardor (from *Paride ed Elena*)

Katie Jeffries-Harris, mezzo-soprano; Douglas Knight, piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Il mio tesoro (from *Don Giovanni*)

Ian Buchanan, tenor; Robert Pecksmith, piano

Non so più cosa son (from *Le nozze di Figaro*)

Joanna Perkins, soprano and piano

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Frauenliebe und -leben, op. 42

I. Seit ich ihn gesehen

II. Er, der Herrlichste von allen

VIII. Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan

Isabel Sinagola, mezzo-soprano; Robert Pecksmith, piano

Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

None shall part us from each other (from *Iolanthe*)

Emily Winkler, soprano; Ian Buchanan, tenor; Robert Pecksmith, piano

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Vieille chanson

Ruth Akinradewo, soprano; Robert Pecksmith, piano

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Ave Maria (from *Otello*)

Joanna Perkins, soprano and piano

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Lensky's Aria (from *Eugene Onegin*)

James Aldred, tenor; Douglas Knight, piano

Andrew Lloyd Webber (b. 1948)

Pie Jesu (from *Requiem*)

Ruth Akinradewo, soprano; Robert Pecksmith, organ

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Like a Singing Bird

Emily Winkler, soprano; Isabel Sinagola, mezzo-soprano; Joanna Perkins, piano

Jerome Kern (1885-1945)

Make Believe (from *Show Boat*)

Emily Winkler, soprano; Ian Buchanan, tenor; Robert Pecksmith, piano

Ruth Akinradewo, soprano

Ruth is in her first year, studying French and Beginner's Italian. She has been playing the violin since the age of six and is a keen soprano, singing in three choirs back in Manchester: Cantus Chamber Choir and Silk, two award-winning female choirs which have performed in numerous locations around the North of England, and her church choir. She has also been awarded for her solo singing in the Alderley Edge Festival.

James Aldred, tenor

An avid fan of all types of music since he can remember, James has sung and played guitar since the age of seven. Recently achieving Grade 8, and, more importantly, earning a place in the prestigious choir of Somerville, he looks forward to many more years of singing, both solo and choral. He hopes to trump his previous career high point - performing the opening solo in the St Margaret's Westminster Carol Service aged 12 - at some point in the next few years.

Ian Buchanan, tenor

Ian Buchanan showed his first interest in music at age nine, when he began playing the trumpet. After years of decidedly slow progress, his interest in the instrument waned, and he settled for being able to read music. Later, he put that skill to good use when he joined his school's senior and chamber choirs and found joy in singing with his friends. After a nervous audition, Ian went on to join the Choir of Somerville College. Here, being awed at the standard of singers on display, he committed himself to improving his own singing. After all this, he was rewarded with a Choral Award, and now looks forward to lots more singing in the future.

Kaan Harwood, piano

Kaan was convinced by his primary school music teacher to take up the piano, and since has progressed rapidly, finishing his grade 8 last year with a distinction. At his previous school, Repton, not only did he regularly perform in the fortnightly informal concerts playing a variety of classical and romantic music, but also with the school orchestra and bands. Although currently in the first year studying Chemistry, he has by no means put aside the piano and music remains a great passion of his.

Katie Jeffries-Harris, mezzo-soprano

Katie Jeffries-Harris is a first-year music student at Somerville College having previously attended Chetham's School of Music where she studied singing with Helen Francis and was awarded the 'Excellence in Singing' prize. She has been a member of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain for six years and is a regular soloist for *Peterborough Voices!* Recent engagements have included a series of performances of Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, participation in the Gabrieli Young Singers' Scheme collaborating with the Gabrieli Consort to record Britten's *War Requiem*, and a lunchtime recital as part of Peterborough Arts Week.

Douglas Knight, piano

Douglas was Organ Scholar at Somerville from 2010 until 2013 and currently studies with Katharine Pardee, in addition to receiving lessons from Daniel Moulton and Ann Elise Smoot. He has performed at St. Lawrence Jewry Lane, St. Giles Cripplegate, Union Chapel and other London churches, and as a member of the St. Giles Junior Organ Conservatoire he has played in masterclasses to Dame Gillian Weir, Hans Fagius, David Goode and Robert Quinney.