Music at GTC

Many fellows, students and members of staff play instruments, sing and dance. As well as being ideal for relaxation from the pressures of academic study and research, music adds a valuable dimension to the academic, cultural and social life of our community. Making music for personal pleasure or performing at informal events in the College are strongly encouraged. This section contains information on facilities and activities as well as contact details if you would like to get involved.

Music Practice Room
A small Music Practice Room is available in the Rotunda for use by College members. It has an upright Yamaha piano, a Yamaha portable electronic keyboard, percussion equipment and music stands. No booking is necessary and entrance is via the fob.

Piano in the Observatory Common Room
The Yamaha grand piano in the Common Room is also available to members of GTC. When not in use, this high-quality instrument is locked and covered. A list of approved users is kept at the GTC Lodge where the keys must be signed for and returned after use. If you would like your name to be added to the list, please contact Roland Rosner (roland.rosner@gtc.ox.ac.uk). No prior booking is necessary. Using the piano for practice is obviously restricted to times when the Common Room is not very busy.

GTC’s Choir – The Templetones
The College does not have a chapel but it does have a choir which welcomes all-comers, whether experienced singers or novices. The choir performs at GTC events and its repertoire covers a wide range of music including classical, jazz and popular. Recruitment of new members will be intensive at the start of the academic session so watch out for details of introductory and taster sessions. If you are interested, please email choir@gtc.ox.ac.uk.

Rehearsal pianist needed for the Choir!
This would involve a regular commitment of 1.5 hours every week during term-time, as well as a couple of potential performances per term, and the pianist would be compensated modestly for their time. The Choir is a fun and supportive environment that wouldn’t be the same without a fabulous pianist to accompany us! If you are interested in applying for this role or would like further information, please contact Caitlin Pilbeam at caitlin.pilbeam@gtc.ox.ac.uk.

The Oxford African Choir
This choir was initiatied in November 2017 to share African inspirational and gospel music from across the continent with the wider Oxford community. Based in Green Templeton College, the choir is closely associated with The Oxford Africa Society. Open to all, both Africans and friends of Africa, it meets at GTC weekly during term time and has performed at several College and University events including GTC’s 10th anniversary garden party. For enquiries, please contact qhayiya.magaqa@gtc.ox.ac.uk or kojo.botsio@gtc.ox.ac.uk
GTC Performs!
These events are held once a term for performers of any standard and any type of music to perform short items in the relaxed environment of a GTC audience. If you’d like to perform, just respond to invitations publicising each event.

There are also opportunities to perform at College dinners and other occasions – if you are interested, contact events@gtc.ox.ac.uk

GTC’s Musician in Residence
In 2017, the College appointed Maki Sekiya as its first Musician in Residence. A Japanese-born pianist living in Oxford, she studied at the Purcell Music School in London and at the Moscow Conservatoire. A world-class virtuoso, she gave three recitals at GTC in 2017-18 to great acclaim and her appointment has been extended for a further year during which she will again give three recitals. Entry will be free but places will be in high demand so watch for announcements and reserve a place in good time.