



Benjamin Watkins – Baritone

Ben began singing in Nottingham aged 8 with the Nottingham Boys' Choir. While still a treble Ben was an auditioned member of the Diamond Choir, which performed the anthem at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Service at St Paul's Cathedral in 2012.

Ben joined St Peter's Choir, Nottingham in 2012 and has performed solos in works such as Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Lutheran Mass* in F. Ben performed Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* with the choir as part of their tour to Riga, Latvia, in August of 2019. Recent solo engagements include performing the role of Pilate and the Bass solos in *Johannes Passion* with the Luceat Choir, and solos in Brahms' *Requiem* with the Nottingham Harmonic Choir.

Ben won the singing prize at the 2017 Nottingham Young Musician of the Year Competition, as well as first prizes in several classes in the Leicester Music Fest.

Ben is currently a Lay Clerk at Magdalen College, having sung there for three years as a history undergraduate. As well as singing six services a week, Ben studies singing with Carys Lane, and has previously participated in masterclasses with Marcus Farnsworth, James Newby and Roderick Williams.

During his time with Magdalen, Ben has performed in various concerts both in the UK and abroad, including the American Cathedral in Paris and the Antwerp AMUZ. Ben features on two disks recorded by the college choir, the most recent being released in April 2022. Ben was also part of the Stile Antico Youth Consort in August 2019, and has sung with ensembles around Oxford, such as Fount and Origin, Ensemble Nova, and the newly founded Selene Scholars.

Ben was recently appointed as a Choral Scholar with the Oxford Bach Soloists in September 2021, and has since performed in several concerts, both as a soloist and chorus member, alongside renowned singers and orchestral players.