

# David Crown

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## Musical Director

### **Cheltenham Bach Choir** **2015-present**

Since my appointment in Autumn 2015, the Cheltenham Bach Choir has received critical acclaim for its performances of Bach's 'St. John Passion' and more recently, an evening of operatic highlights. For its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I have instigated a 'Spring Festival of the Baroque' including a major new singing competition for singers of Bach and his contemporaries. In 2018, Cheltenham Bach Choir will be giving a joint concert with the Göttingen Symphony Choir and Orchestra in Germany.

### **vOx Chamber Choir** **2013-present**

I am founder and conductor of this chamber choir on the Oxford choral scene. It has gained a burgeoning reputation and following for its superb performances of very challenging repertoire from Tallis and Sheppard to Gorecki and Tavener. vOx has released its first CD of the works of Ludovico da Viadana in Autumn 2016.

### **Oxford Bach Choir** **2016-2017**

I directed Oxford Bach Choir for the 2016-17 season, including performing Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast" with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Bach's "B Minor Mass" with the London Mozart Players, and culminating in an acclaimed performance of Fanshawe's "African Sanctus".

### **Reading Phoenix Choir** **2010-2016**

I was Music Director of one of the leading amateur choirs in the UK and took them to the BBC Choir of the Year group final. In 2013 a CD was recorded of works arranged for choir coupled with works by the same composer written specifically for choir. This featured two of my own arrangements. Since I took over, RPC have been invited to perform at music festivals including the King's Place *A capella* festival and the *Brandenburg Festival* in London and to give BBC live broadcasts. The outreach programme is also developing through workshops and shared performances nationally in both public and private sectors. Under my direction, the choir was a finalist in the Cork International Choral competition in 2015.

### **Director of Chapel Music at Somerville College, Oxford** **2007-2015**

The unique non-denominational chapel at Somerville calls for the choir to sing many different types of service and faith events to complement speakers from around the world and from many different outlooks. The quality of the choir's singing is increasingly recognised with recordings frequently featuring on choral websites world-wide as prime examples of different works. The choir gives three concerts with orchestra each year, tours nationally and internationally and has begun to make CDs. I have also instigated university-wide collaborative projects with composers and instrumentalists. Recent activity has included evensong at St Paul's, Winchester and Coventry Cathedrals, and sung mass for St Mark's, Milan. A recording of Durufle's *Requiem* coupled with the world premiere recording of Robin Milford's *Mass for Five Voices* was released on *Stone Records* in 2012 with international soloists Christine Rice, Mark Stone and cellist, Guy Johnston and was described in review as a 'hit'. At the request of the record company the next CD of Advent music was released in 2013 to rave reviews and was selected by British Airways to be played on all their international flights during December 2014. The choir's tour to the USA in 2014 was rapturously received.

### **Britten in Oxford Festival 2013- Writing for Voices**

I collaborated with conductor Nicholas Cleobury on this major project to promote new writing for choirs. I also went into a number of local primary schools to work on the creation of folk-songs, starting with writing the poetry, then writing tunes and accompaniment.

**Priory Music Festival  
2011-2013**

Artistic Director of a high quality, professional chamber music festival based in Charlbury.

**The Wychwood Chorale  
2008-2014**

I founded this thriving community choir for the West Oxfordshire area.

**The Bodley Consort  
2006-2013**

This is a group that uses the best Oxford based young professional singers and instrumentalists in opera and oratorio.

**Alpha Chamber Orchestra  
2006-8**

I was invited to be Music Director for this group which featured the best instrumentalists emerging from the London Music Colleges with international soloists to fantastic acclaim.

**St Nicholas Church, Brighton  
1996-9**

Music Director including weekly services and many concerts both *a capella* and with orchestra.

**Vocal Coach**

**All Saints Church, Northampton  
2000-2008**

I was singing teacher to the choristers and coach to the choir at this major musical centre for the area for 11-18 year olds.

**Bristol University  
2007-2012**

I was on the teaching staff of the Music Faculty for singers taking the performance option of the music degree.

**Private vocal and conducting coach  
1986- present**

I started teaching when I was a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, teaching the choristers. My current students show a wide range of age and ability. I teach professional vocal soloists, students and adults from Oxford University and from many local schools and the surrounding areas. Students regularly gain entry to conservatoires. For many years I was vocal coach at the Queen's College, Oxford and I have a close relationship with Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. My focus is about passing on a secure *bel canto* technique to free each person's individual voice. I give regular master-classes including Magdalen College School and the *A Capella Springfest* (tutor in vocal technique and classical choir). I have been giving both conducting and singing technique classes for the Organ Scholars of Oxford University. I am regularly asked to give master-classes for choirs and to come in and 'trouble-shoot' when a specific vocal issue arises within a group.

**Professional Musician**

**Operatic and concert baritone  
1990-present**

I gained a Choral Scholarship at King's College, Cambridge (1986-9). In 1991 I was runner-up (to Ian Bostridge) in the NFMS/ESSO Award and I won the 1996 Wagner Society Bayreuth Bursary. My career included the roles of *Leporello*, *Don Alfonso* and *The Flying Dutchman* working with many of the world's top conductors and pianists. After a gap in performing I have been giving recitals since 2014.

**Freelance professional viola player  
1989-1992**