



CLIFTON
COLLEGE

Sir David Wilcocks Scholarship at Clifton College

For September 2024

Sir David Willcocks

Organ Scholarship

Through its more than 160 years, Clifton College has been celebrated for the importance it attaches to organists and organs in the school's musical life.

It has nurtured generations of Clifton pupil organists who have gone onto prestigious posts, including Boris Ord (Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge, 1929-57), the one-handed Dr Douglas Fox (famed for his radio broadcasts and recitals), Dr C.S. Lang, and Sir David Willcocks himself.

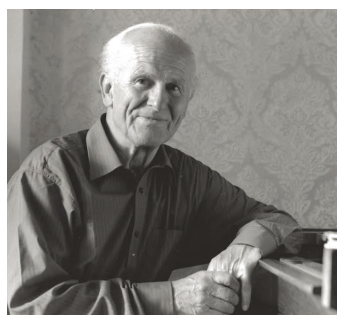
More recent alumni include Charles Matthews (winner of the Franz Liszt Organ Competition), Andrew Nethsingha (Organist and Choirmaster of Westminster Abbey), and current Oxbridge organ scholars. All have benefited from the four-manual Harrison and Harrison organ in the College Chapel, still maintained by its original makers.

Present-day life at the College — daily assemblies with hymns (the congregational singing supported by the College's 2012 Hymn Book), monthly choral services, and the numerous concerts and oratorios performed in the chapel with the organ — ensures that the instrument and its players remain at the heart of College life.

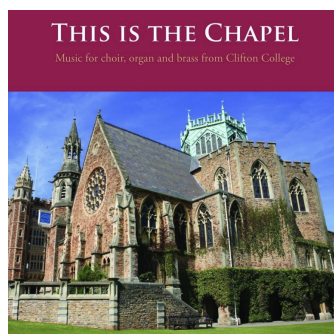
A 32-foot extension of the Pedal Ophicleide reed at Clifton College was installed in autumn 2017, and a CD recorded by Regent Records of the College choirs with pupil organists and brass was recorded in 2018 to celebrate this addition ([tracklist](#)).

The supporting Music Department of the College is nationally recognised for its achievement: it was specifically highlighted for its 'exceptionally high standards of musical performance' in the 2011 ISI inspection report. Clifton College was judged 'excellent in all areas' in its 2017 ISI Educational Quality Inspection.

Amongst current and recent pupils it numbers regular concerto soloists, accomplished composers, and those who study at the Junior Conservatoires in Cardiff and London. Current pupils perform in over 60 services, recitals, concerts, and musical theatre productions each year, both in College, locally (including St George's, Brandon Hill), and further afield on tour (in 2023 to Italy).



Sir David Willcocks MC CBE (1919 - 2015)
Old Cliftonian. Director of Music, Kings College, Cambridge (1957 - 73)



In 2012, Sir David Willcocks announced his generous commitment to a new sixth-form organ scholarship in his name at Clifton College, his alma mater.

A partnership with Bristol Cathedral was established to augment the role which has been used several times, and the inaugural Willcocks Scholar was appointed in 2013, with subsequent appointments in 2015 and 2018, 2021, and 2022. The post remains available annually to a suitable applicant.

This 16+ post is for a sixth-form entrant, running for two years. Candidates may also jointly apply for the 16+ academic scholarships.

The successful candidate will receive £5000 a year from the David Willcocks Trust towards their fees (if new to the College), as well as generous means-tested funding towards the rest of either a boarding or day-pupil place, which could be as much as 100% of fees.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF
MAITLAND WILLS, O.C. 1871-1877
THIS ORGAN IS GIVEN, 1911, BY HIS BROTHER H.H. WILLS, O.C.





Willcocks Organ Scholar Successes 2015, 2018, 2020

Two organ scholarships at Oxford University, together with places to read Music, were won by Clifton College sixth-form scholars in 2015: Alexander Palotai (pictured far-left) gained the organ scholarship at Worcester College; Bartosz Thiede (picture second-from left) the Parry-Wood Organ Scholarship at Exeter College. Alexander served as the Sir David Willcocks Organ Scholar jointly at Clifton College and Bristol Cathedral

from 2013-15, and studied with Mr James Hills FRCO (Housemaster, ST). Following his Oxford studies, from 2019-20 he served as organ scholar at Salisbury Cathedral, and since 2020 as Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral. Bartosz has followed his Clifton College and Exeter College Oxford organ scholarships by becoming Director of Music at Kilkenny Cathedral, Ireland.

Henry Metcalfe, (pictured centre-right), who served at Sir David Willcocks Organ Scholar 2016-18 both at Clifton College and Bristol Cathedral, spent his gap year as Organ Scholar at Hereford Cathedral. He appeared on the 2018 Clifton College CD – This is the Chapel - in recital repertoire and a newly composed anthem.

Romain Bornes (pictured right), Willcocks Organ Scholar 2018-20 (also jointly serving at Bristol Cathedral) is as of 2023 completing his Magdalen College Oxford organ scholarship, having gained the ARCO diploma in his Upper Sixth year in 2020, and FRCO with prizes in 2022. You can see Romain in action at the Clifton console in some splendid Messiaen on the video link here!



The requirements made of forthcoming candidates are as follows:

- to be of at least Grade 7 standard or equivalent on the organ by the September of entry into the Sixth-Form; or else a highly proficient pianist (at least Grade 8 level) with the ability and interest to progress quickly on the organ



- to have an interest in a university or conservatoire organ scholarship after Clifton (e.g. Oxbridge, Durham, St Andrews, RCM, Birmingham Conservatoire etc.), which can be studied alongside a Music or non-Music related degree
- to take A-level Music and/or Grade 8 Music Theory together with supplementary training in theoretical and keyboard skills
- must fulfil the standard Sixth-Form academic entry requirements of the College

The opportunities include:

- one-to-one tuition in organ, voice and possibly another instrument as appropriate
- in highly flexible combination with the full-time College Organist, accompanying the College Chapel and Chamber choirs, playing for the College's weekday morning short



- services and monthly full services and evensongs, as well as on regular trips to other cathedrals
- if sufficiently advanced opportunities to accompany Tuesday Evensong at Bristol Cathedral
- concerto opportunity at the annual Summer Serenade with as professional orchestra (concertos movements in 2022 included works by Prokofiev, Vivaldi, Koussevitsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Donizetti)
- assistance with choral conducting skills, working with the Chamber Choir

- first-class music facilities in the refurbished Joseph Cooper Music School, complete with multiple grand pianos (as of 2022 including a Fazioli-212 model), a suite of 15 Yamaha practice pianos, state-of-the-art recording studio, three classrooms fully equipped with Apple Macs, and the support of a department of four full-time staff members and over 30 visiting music teachers.



Clifton College Chapel, Bristol

The organ was built by Harrison & Harrison in 1911. In 1977 the actions were converted from pneumatic to electro-pneumatic and some tonal changes (marked * below) were made. The organ was overhauled in 1994, when a new combination action was provided. The Double Ophicleide was installed in 2017.

Pedal Organ

1. Open Wood	16
2. Open Diapason (<i>18 from 19</i>)	16
3. Sub Bass	16
4. Geigen (<i>from 18</i>)	16
5. Octave Wood (<i>from 1</i>)	8
* 6. Octave Geigen (<i>from 18</i>)	8
7. Flute (<i>from 3</i>)	8
* 8. Fifteenth (<i>from 18</i>)	4
* 9. Mixture 15.19.22	III
10. Double Ophicleide (<i>from 11</i>)	32
11. Ophicleide	16
<i>I Choir to Pedal I Great to Pedal</i>	
<i>III Swell to Pedal IV Solo to Pedal</i>	

Choir Organ

12. Double Salicional (<i>12 from 3</i>)	16
13. Stopped Diapason	8
*14. Principal	4
15. Flageolet	2
*16. Nasard	1 ^{1/3}
*17. Mixture 22.26.29	III
<i>V Swell to Choir</i>	
<i>VI Solo to Choir</i>	

Great Organ

18. Gross Geigen	16
19. Large Open Diapason	8
20. Small Open Diapason	8
21. Hohl Flöte	4
22. Octave	4
23. Wald Flöte	4
24. Octave Quint	2 ^{2/3}
25. Super Octave	2
*26. Tierce	1 ^{3/5}
27. Mixture 19.22.26.29	IV
28. Tromba	8
29. Octave Tromba	4
<i>VII Choir to Great VIII Swell to Great</i>	
<i>IX Solo to Great X Great Reeds on Pedal</i>	
<i>XI Great reeds on Choir</i>	

The manual compass is 58 notes;
the pedal 30 notes
The actions are electro-mechanical

Swell Organ

30. Open Diapason	8
31. Lieblich Gedeckt	8
32. Salicional	8
33. Vox Angelica	8
34. Gemshorn	4
35. Lieblich Flöte	4
36. Fifteenth	2
37. Mixture 12.19.22	III
38. Oboe	8
<i>XII Tremulant</i>	
39. Double Trumpet	16
40. Trumpet	8
41. Clarion	4
<i>XIII Octave XIV Solo to Swell</i>	

Solo Organ (42-46 enclosed)

42. Viole d'Orchestre	8
43. Harmonic Flute	8
44. Concert Flute	4
45. Orchestral Bassoon	16
46. Clarinet	8
<i>XV Tremulant</i>	
47. Tuba	8
<i>XVI Octave</i>	
<i>XVII Sub Octave</i>	
<i>XVII Unison Off</i>	

Accessories

Eight general pistons and general cancel
Eight foot pistons to the Pedal Organ
Four pistons to the Choir Organ
Eight pistons to the Great Organ
Eight pistons to the Swell Organ (duplicated by foot pistons)
Four pistons to the Solo Organ
Reversible pistons: I-IV, VIII, IX; 11
Reversible foot pistons: 17, VIII; 10
Combination couplers:
Great and Pedal Combinations
Coupled
Generals on Swell Foot Pistons
32 general and 8 divisional memories
Balanced expression pedals to Swell and Solo Organs

HARRISON & HARRISON, DURHAM





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**Together,
we are
Clifton**

cliftoncollege.com

For further information, including to arrange a visit, please contact:

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www.cliftoncollege.com/admissions

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