

I have had a wonderful start to my second year of chemistry at Merton, having been awarded a distinction in my preliminary exams and university prize for my lab work in first year. I am loving my singing more than ever, frequently soloing with Merton choir, including on our recent 2 week tour to Hong Kong and Japan where I had a lullaby solo number accompanied by the choir as the encore to every concert. Next term I am looking forward to more smaller solos including in our Ash Wednesday broadcast and in the St Matthew Passion (a highlight of my time at the cathedral). I have been fortunate enough to sing plenty with other choirs too including Magdalen and The Queen's Colleges, and projects including with Edward Higginbottom, tour with University College choir and opening the university's new concert hall. I'm living with an excellent group of boys in a lovely cottage just off of Holywell Street which is very central, so things have worked out very well.

Outside college, I am the President and co-Musical Director of The Oxford Gargoyles, the university's renowned jazz vocal ensemble. It has been my greatest privilege to lead this group this year, and it has started well, having already organised the most attended Oxford based concert in the group's history and negotiating our largest ever fee for a concert at Raymond Blanc's beautiful Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. We are only just getting started and are gearing up for 2 very exciting projects; a Christmas album we hope to record in April and a run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. At the moment, our main focus is raising funds for the latter as we didn't have the budget to go last year, breaking a 20 year tradition for the group. I have applied for a grant at Eton and almost the whole group is lobbying their colleges for support, but I wondered if you might have any advice on this front?

We'd love to come and perform in London if you know of any events that could use a classy jazz atmosphere. Do check out previous versions of the group on Spotify and YouTube if you'd like to.

Best wishes to you and the Pattenmakers,

Kasper

Ps. here's a video of my lullaby solo, Suo Gan, performed in Nagoya, Japan.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L1gp5zzEYK5zV5KCB8Cr\\_ovvIkLur835/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L1gp5zzEYK5zV5KCB8Cr_ovvIkLur835/view?usp=drive_link)