

## M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>				
Digital Approaches to Medieval Chant and Local Religious Heritage				
<b>LEAD INSTITUTION</b>				
Name of HEI institution	University of Nottingham			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>				
Name of organisation	Bodleian Library			
Website	<a href="https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/">https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/</a>			
<b>PROJECT</b>				
<p>UK archives preserve thousands of medieval music books and their fragments. But who made them, and for whom? Working with experts at the University of Nottingham and Oxford's Bodleian Library, this project leverages the latest digital technologies to develop innovative localisation techniques, to benefit archives, heritage organisations, and their audiences.</p> <p>Scholars have long known that medieval Christian singers used a 'universal' repertory of chants in intensely local ways. Every book had its own playlist, so to speak, which when analysed closely discloses information about its place of origin or historical affiliation. The successful student will have the opportunity to take this proven methodology and, for the first time, realise its full digital potential.</p> <p>Paying particular attention to understudied medieval books in Nottingham and Bodleian manuscript collections, the PhD will attempt to answer three core research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can computational and 'big data' approaches bring to existing, pre-digital methodologies for localising medieval music books, including fragments?</li> <li>• Given recent advances in data science, manuscript study, and digital musicology, what new methods and techniques might be developed to isolate and interpret their place-based significance?</li> <li>• How can this new knowledge be disseminated and applied successfully in curatorial and heritage contexts, to maximise scholarly and public engagement?</li> </ul>				
<b>PROCESS</b>				
<p>The successful PhD student will be equipped to develop a wide portfolio of research and professional skills, allowing them to cross the boundaries between scholarly, curatorial, and heritage applications. Training will be available in key skills appropriate to the candidate, whether through participation in courses (e.g. Palaeography at the Bodleian, Data Science at Nottingham, Oxford's Heritage Pathway), by working with members of the supervisory team, or from placement opportunities.</p> <p>Key aspects of the research process include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation and publication of digital indices of important music manuscripts, to be published in the eminent <a href="#">CANTUS database</a> for the benefit of global research audiences;</li> <li>• using knowledge of medieval musical and liturgical practices to inform new or updated catalogue entries for institutional collections, enhancing the user experience;</li> </ul>				

- posing new questions of medieval music manuscripts and pioneering new technologies or digitally informed approaches to answering them;
- preparing and delivering public workshops that can impact professional practice in archival or heritage settings, and in turn increase their exposure or accessibility.

## PLACE

To maximise the benefits of in-person research and supervision, as well as of the collected resources of two leading UK research institutions, the project is structured so the student can enjoy extended periods of residency at the Bodleian (9 months in Y1, 6 in Y3, and 3 in Y4) as well as in Nottingham. Travel expenses to/from Oxford and other research costs are defrayed by an annual grant from the Bodleian, awarded pro rata FTE. The student will be affiliated to Music and the School of Humanities at Nottingham, and to the Gardens, Libraries & Museums (GLAM) Division within the University of Oxford. They will have privileges in both institutions, including library access and borrowing rights, desk space, and training opportunities.

At the University of Nottingham the student will be supervised by Dr Henry Parkes (Music) and Dr Rob Lutton (History). Staff at Manuscripts and Special Collections will assist with access to collections, and with a public engagement event. At the Bodleian Library Dr Andrew Dunning (R.W. Hunt Curator of Medieval Manuscripts) will be the lead supervisor, supported by Dr Peter Toth (Cornelia Starks Curator of Greek Collections). The student will gain practical experience from working with specialists in this world-leading medieval manuscript collection, and from working with a professional public engagement team to prepare a project-related workshop and exhibition. Monthly supervisory meetings will be held in person wherever possible, with non-local supervisors present via video call.

There is the option of a two-week placement with the [Digital Analysis of Chant Transmission \(DACT\)](#) project in Canada.

## PERSON

The ideal applicant will have a lively interdisciplinary mind and a strong commitment to communicating the results of their research. They will have Master's-level experience in at least one of the areas below, with a willingness to gain new knowledge in the others:

- medieval music, including knowledge of religious contexts in which it was sung, its repertoires and genres, and familiarity with standard research resources;
- skills for researching medieval manuscripts, including palaeography (study of handwriting), codicology (study of the book), and some knowledge of Latin;
- digital humanities methods and approaches, for instance working with databases, data wrangling and analysis, GIS, or ability to work with code;
- working in archive, museum, or heritage environments, whether their experience is in collections, education, interpretation, or communication.

*(750 words)*

**HOW TO FIND OUT MORE.** Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Henry Parkes
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	<i>Henry.parkes@nottingham.ac.uk</i>