

CTS Termcard Lent 2023

Music in Middle-Earth

Week 1

25 January, 19.30, Emmanuel Old JCR

There is no shortage of ear-pleasing (I'm sure there's a word for it, but guess who's too lazy to Google it) content in Tolkien's works. From brilliantly crafted poems about Durin or the Valar to nonsensical rhymes of – you guessed it – Tom Bombadil, from the deep, throaty music of the Dwarves to the high, beautiful notes of the Elves, Tolkien created and inspired no shortage of music. Let's go into it, shall we?

Forests in Middle-Earth

Week 2

1 February, 19.30, online

A cliché Tolkien topic, isn't it? The anti-industrialization, anti-modernization idylls of forests and fields, the pleasures of nature and harmony, and all of that. But Tolkien's forests can be quite a bit more than that. There's the Old Forest, which literally tries – with foresight and malicious intent – to kill the four hobbits. There's Fangorn, which is more tame (for some definition of "tame" – at least they don't wantonly kill hobbits) but still very much alive. There's much more to Tolkien's forests than first meets the eye.

Eagle Debate: Most Overrated Character

Week 3

8 February, 19.30, Emmanuel Old JCR

The CTS's signature Eagle Debate is back! This term, we're talking about characters being overrated. We will bash some characters and probably make Tolkien quite angry at some of our choices. For example, all Eagle Debates favour Tom Bombadil. In this one, he can be overrated in past Eagle Debates.

ASNAC Takeover Night

Week 4

15 February, 19.30, online

The connection between Tolkien and ASNACs doesn't need much elaboration. Tolkien inspired many to study ASNAC, and many ASNAC traditions/tales/stories inspired him. This week, we're letting the ASNACs take over the room (well, the virtual room) and talk about this two-way relationship. For example, did you know that the Cambridge ASNAC department was essentially created by a Tolkien reject?

Nation-States of Middle-Earth

Week 5

22 February, 19.30, Emmanuel Old JCR

Where was Gondor when the Westfold fell? Well, the answer's easy: in the land south of Rohan and west of Mordor. There are many nation-states in Middle-Earth, and they have very rich cultures, traditions, histories, etc. Let us take them apart and examine them (not literally – or maybe?).

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Race in Middle-Earth

Week 6

1 March, 19.30, online

Quite a touchy subject, isn't it? Tolkien's works – and Tolkien himself – aren't known for diversity - are they just constrained by the day and age he lived in? For this week, we have a guest speaker Elyanna Choi coming in (well, for a certain definition of "in"...) for a special talk on Race in Middle-Earth. Elyanna has spoken before at the Oxonmoot (an international Tolkien event hosted by The Tolkien Society), if you need any confirmation that this is going to be a good talk. The talk will specifically focus on the Noldor in Beleriand, including manifest destiny in Feanor's speech, Thingol's language ban as cultural apartheid, and orientalist dichotomy in portrayal of elves and orcs. If there's one serious Tolkien event not to miss in CTS's calendar, I think this is it.

Games Night

Week 7

8 March, 19.30, Emmanuel Old JCR

It's week 7. You're tired, we're tired. In fact, I'm too tired to write another serious description of an event, so here comes something you might recognise: Lay your troubles aside, and join us on Games Night for a light-hearted evening of Consequences, Contact, Taboo and potentially even Tinuviel Pursuit (and any other games, of course).

AGM + Storytelling and Poetry

Week 8

15 March, 19.30, online

The time of the (current) committee is over, the time of the (new) committee has come! Join us for the AGM, where, among other things, you get to become a member of the new committee (if you so wish, of course). After that (the AGM typically takes roughly 1 hour, if memory serves), we'll do some more storytelling and poetry, like at the end of last term. Unlike last term, though, it'll be up in the air in terms of what to read, and any of you who have an idea can bring something up.

Other dates for your diary:

Annual Dinner – Save the Date!

Week 7

4 March, early evening onwards

This term, we're reviving an old CTS tradition that got disrupted by - you guessed it - COVID. The Annual Dinner will be similar to the Foreyule Feast in that it involves eating and drinking, but unlike the Foreyule Feast it will be at a formally catered restaurant with possibly some guidance on how to dress (more on this will come later), with more alumni and out-of-Cambridge-ers coming. We haven't confirmed which restaurant we'll be eating at, but the Annual Dinner has been set on 4th March, so save the date!

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Annual General Meeting

Week 8

15 March, 19.30, online

One other annual event that has to happen in Lent term is the Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we review the year, undertake any submitted motions and elect our new committee for the next year. If you have any problems with the society's current constitution and you are a member of the society, you can also submit a motion to change it to the secretary (he's the guy who's been spamming your inboxes, if you didn't know) before the deadline of 1st March, with the meeting itself taking place on the 15th.

CTS Read-along: The Hobbit

Weekly

Fridays, 19.30, on the CTS Discord

This term we're going back to where it all began. In a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit...

