



New Course
for 2019

Sing for Pleasure

Summer School 2019

for Singers, Conductors and Vocal Leaders

Saturday 10th – Sunday 18th August 2019, Keele University, Staffordshire

Ranging from the popular Musicianship for Singers and Choral Courses, through Foundation and Intermediate choral conducting skills to the demands of the Advanced Conducting Course, there is something for every choral enthusiast at Summer School. The sociable atmosphere of the week generates an extremely supportive learning environment, which in turn leads to a high level of achievement and enjoyment with many participants returning again and again.

TIMETABLE

The course starts on Saturday evening with supper and ends after breakfast on the final Sunday. Each day will begin with a vocal warm-up followed by a combined choral session, emphasising the place of singing at the heart of the organisation. The separate courses then follow their own programmes of workshop sessions, study periods and refreshment breaks during the day. After supper each evening there is time to relax and participate in a varied programme of concerts and informal social activities. Our final concert includes Haydn's wonderful *Harmoniemesse*, with orchestra. We are delighted that former Young Conducting Scholar and composer, Michael Betteridge has been commissioned to write a piece especially for our Intermediate 2 Conducting Course.

The SfP Summer School provides a wonderful opportunity for singers, conductors and vocal leaders alike to enjoy a high standard of music making geared to all levels of achievement in a stimulating and friendly environment.



VENUE

Set in magnificent parkland and overlooked by the stately Keele Hall, Keele Conference Park forms part of Keele University and combines the perfect central location with award-winning catering, flexible facilities and accommodation in en-suite single rooms.

Keele University is a campus site and easily accessed from the M6, A34 and A50. Stoke-on-Trent is the nearest railway station and the closest airports are Birmingham International or Manchester.



SING
for
PLEASURE

Singers' Courses

Singers' Courses

Saturday – Wednesday

Musicianship for Singers helps you connect what you hear and sing with what you read in the music. This course is a useful preliminary to the Choral Courses later in the week, and a refresher for those who have studied musicianship before.

New for 2019 is our **English Heritage Singers' Course**, which focusses on English folk song and choral music. This course is suitable for people with some experience of reading music.

The above courses begin every day with a warm-up session followed by a morning of practical and active sessions. As well as an end-of-course performance in Keele Chapel, there will be plenty of time for informal social singing as well!

Both courses continue on to the Choral Courses (see below).

Choral Courses

Thursday – Sunday

Our popular, half-week Choral Courses start at 9.00am on Thursday morning and finish after breakfast on Sunday, with a performance on Saturday evening.

The **Consort Course** (led by Rupert Gough, Director of Choral Music at Royal Holloway) is for experienced singers and good sight readers who enjoy exploring challenging repertoire and singing in a small ensemble. **Sing Gospel** is for anyone wanting to explore traditional and modern gospel music, led by gospel expert and renowned singer, Themba Mvula. Alternatively, if you would like to try your hand at singing a popular choral classic, then **Fauré Requiem** might be for you.

For more information about these courses, please visit www.singforpleasure.org.uk

"Everyone involved with SfP is so encouraging, friendly and talented. My course was better than a holiday. I am definitely coming again next year!"

Choral Course Member



Conducting Courses

For over 50 years SfP has provided high quality training for choral conductors and vocal leaders. In that time we have developed courses that allow conductors to acquire an initial repertoire of effective conducting gestures and techniques and then build on that in their individual ways and according to their varying experiences. Many of our previous students have gone on to win major national and international prizes with their choirs, and some of them now teach the courses that provided them with the skills that power their success.

Foundation / Intermediate 1 Courses

Foundation Course

The Foundation Course is for complete beginners or those keen to discover the basics of our approach. It is a particularly appropriate course for those wishing to lead singing in the classroom as well as for those working with adults, as it provides the key skills upon which further development can be built.

Repertoire at this level is simple. Rounds and easy part songs allow every opportunity to work through most conducting challenges without being so complicated that they get in the way of learning the skills that participants need.

Intermediate 1 Course

Participants with some experience of conducting and vocal leadership will benefit from this course. It builds on the skills developed at Foundation level and uses more challenging repertoire to stretch participants further.

Repertoire at this level is more challenging than at Foundation level without being so demanding that it gets in the way of effective learning, and provides an excellent preparation for the demands of the Intermediate 2 Course.

Course Delivery

The Foundation and Intermediate 1 Courses are delivered in two ways - technique sessions that include practical demonstration of all the key aspects of conducting and workshop sessions that allow all participants an enviable amount of podium time to put into practice what they have learnt in a comfortable learning environment.

All members of the group sing for each other in workshop sessions, building a camaraderie and supportive atmosphere that is unparalleled. Participants will also observe members of the Intermediate 2 and Advanced Course at work and will be able to take advantage of the learning these sessions can provide through singing.

"I was overwhelmingly impressed by the very happy and mutually supportive atmosphere."

Peter Owens, Trinity College of Music



"I can't recommend this course highly enough. I enjoyed every moment of the week as it maintains a fantastic balance between hard work and enjoyment."

Intermediate 1 Conductor

Intermediate 2 Conducting Course

The Intermediate 2 Course enables participants to develop their skills further, using more challenging repertoire. Conductors are encouraged to broaden their range and complexity of gesture and idiom. This course is designed for those who have successfully completed previous SfP course levels and, occasionally, experienced conductors are accepted at this level at the discretion of the Head of Conductor Training.

Repertoire at this level is more technically and musically challenging than at Intermediate 1 in a way that gives participants every opportunity to build on their existing skills. It provides an excellent preparation for the demands of the Advanced course.

Course Delivery

The Intermediate 2 Course is delivered through technique sessions to broaden conducting skills and learn about the wider role of leading a choir, and practical workshop sessions with plenty of podium time to practise the techniques that have been introduced, alongside a range of optional sessions which may include choral arranging, vocal health, repertoire planning and an introduction to orchestral conducting technique.

Participants will have opportunities to work with various forces including a small choir, a larger group of singers and an accompanist. They will also observe members of the Advanced Course at work and will be able to take advantage of the learning these sessions can provide through singing.

Advanced Conducting Course

The Advanced Course enables participants to significantly develop their skills in a wide range of choral and orchestral situations. Conductors are encouraged to broaden their knowledge and application of complex musical ideas and idioms. This course is designed for those who have successfully completed previous SfP course levels and, occasionally, experienced conductors are accepted at this level at the discretion of the Head of Conductor Training.

Repertoire at this level is more technically and musically challenging than at Intermediate 2 in a way that gives participants every opportunity to build on their existing skills.

Course Delivery

The Advanced Course is delivered through practical workshop sessions with plenty of podium time to practise the techniques that are raised in each style of piece, and dedicated sessions teaching baton technique and orchestral conducting, alongside a range of informative sessions to broaden understanding of vocal health, choral arranging, recitative, historical styles and periods, organ registration, writing and presenting programme notes, and concert management.

Participants will have opportunities to work with various forces including a small choir, larger groups of singers, a full orchestra, and the whole course during combined choral sessions.

Accreditation

Advanced conductors may take the LRSM diploma in choral directing, please see the website for more details.

BURSARIES

SfP is able to offer a number of bursaries (to the value of £350) towards the cost of our conducting courses courtesy of the John Lewis Partnership. These bursaries are available to teachers and vocal leaders working with primary school children and also to those aged 16-26 considering a career in this area. To apply, first check the bursary criteria on our website and then indicate your request when applying for the course.

TUTORS

Our highly skilled team of tutors are all members of SfP and bring a range of experiences as professional conductors, musicians, teachers, trainers, adjudicators and workshop leaders. Our tutors this year include Catherine Beddison, Rebecca Berkley, Naomi Berry, Katy Cooper, Don Gillthorpe, Nick Graham, Manvinder Rattan, Imelda Shirley and Ula Weber.

For more information about our tutors please visit the SfP website.

The National Choral Organisation – investing in choral futures



COST

	SINGERS	FOUNDATION CONDUCTORS	INTERMEDIATE 1 CONDUCTORS	INTERMEDIATE 2 CONDUCTORS	ADVANCED CONDUCTORS
Course fee (full week) *	£510	£560	£560	£610	£610
Choral Course fee (part week) *	£225	-	-	-	-
Accommodation fee (full week) **	£250	£250	£250	£250	£250
Accommodation (Choral Course) **	£105	-	-	-	-
Additional Wednesday extra ***	£50	-	-	-	-

This includes all tuition, music hire, tea/coffee, lunches, evening meals and all social activities.

* Non-member supplement of £40, or become an individual member for just £25. ** This includes bed and breakfast accommodation in a single en-suite study bedroom. *** Optional dinner, bed and breakfast for people wishing to arrive on Wednesday evening for the Choral Course.

A **deposit of £200** is required to secure your booking. The balance of fee is payable by July 1st and the deposit then becomes non-refundable.

Withdrawals within two weeks of the start of the course will be liable to pay the full amount, so participants are encouraged to take out holiday insurance in case of an unforeseen cancellation. For full T&Cs please visit the event listing at www.singforpleasure.org.uk

CONTACT US

For more information about the course, please contact **Ula Weber** on **07817 217223** or email events@singforpleasure.org.uk

To book a place on your chosen course, please visit www.singforpleasure.org.uk and complete the online application form. You can pay directly via the Sing for Pleasure online shop or by bank transfer (see details below).

Account Name: Sing for Pleasure
Sort Code: 08-90-04 Account Number: 65013498

In order that we can identify payments please reference your transaction with your surname and 'SS18'. eg. Smith SS18.

ABOUT SING FOR PLEASURE

'Sing for Pleasure' was founded in 1964 as the British branch of the international 'A Coeur Joie' movement. SFP aims to encourage the enjoyment of choral singing, inspiring high standards of performance. The movement now boasts a wide range of events each year across the country. It organises many singing events for children and adults, and it plays an increasingly active and important role in offering help and advice to teachers, choral and orchestral conductors, running conducting courses and summer schools, as well as professional development programmes for teachers, school-based singing days and events for children.



Sing for Pleasure is a member of A Coeur Joie International.

Sing for Pleasure

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