

60TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER SCHOOL 2024



FOR SINGERS, CONDUCTORS AND VOCAL LEADERS

Saturday 10th to Saturday 17th August 2024, Keele University

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.

COURSE

Ranging from the popular **singers'** and **choral courses**, through **Foundation** and **Intermediate** choral conducting levels 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 year after year.

TIMETABLE

Our new course timetable starts on Saturday mid-morning (with registration and coffee from 10.00am) and ends after breakfast on the final Saturday. 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. Individual singing lessons are available at an additional cost. After dinner each evening there is time to relax and participate in a varied programme of concerts and informal social activities.

Our Diamond Jubilee Summer School features a formal dinner dance at Keele Hall on Tuesday 13th August and a whole-course performance of *Twelve Trees*, a special anniversary commission by Katy Lavinia Cooper on Friday 16th.

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, newly upgraded facilities, and comfortable 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.



ON BROADWAY COURSE (Saturday – Tuesday)

Join tutor and musicals enthusiast, Louise Ellinson, as she explores classic show tunes along with more modern musical numbers. This course is suitable for people of all experience levels and the ability to read music is not required. The course begins every day with a warm-up session followed by a morning of practical and active sessions. As well as an end-of-course performance, there will be plenty of time for informal social singing. The course continues on to the choral courses.

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

Choral Course Member

CHORAL COURSES (Wednesday – Saturday)

This year, our popular, half-week choral courses start at 9.45am on **Wednesday** morning and finish after breakfast on Saturday, with a performance on Friday evening. The **Consort Course**, led by special guest conductor Alain Louisot, is for experienced singers and good sight readers who enjoy exploring challenging repertoire and singing in a small ensemble. Alternatively, join Suzzie Vango, choral expert and founding member of renowned female ensemble *Papagena*, as she takes you on an uplifting journey of **upper voice music***. For more information about these courses, please visit our website.

*This course is for Sopranos and Altos. Tenors and Basses not wishing to sing on the Consort Course will be welcomed as singers on the Intermediate 2 conducting course.

The whole course combines forces from Wednesday morning to perform a large choral work, accompanied by orchestra and conducted by our Advanced conducting students which this year is specially written for us by composer, choral conductor and SfP Head of Marketing, Katy Lavinia Cooper. An alternative, informal series of workshops (exploring different genres and themes) will be provided for those who are happier singing in a smaller, more relaxed group.



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 COURSE

The Foundation course provides fundamental key skills and systematic technique 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. This course is for those new to SfP conducting technique and complete beginners.

INTERMEDIATE 1 COURSE

This course 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 excellent preparation for the demands of the Intermediate 2 course.

“I absolutely loved my week at summer school on the Foundation Course. The other students were really welcoming, and the tutors were extremely positive and recognised each pupil's unique strengths.

Foundation Conductor

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.

INTERMEDIATE 2 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 Learning. 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 excellent preparation for the demands of the Advanced course.

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

Peter Owens, Trinity College of Music

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 practice the techniques that have been introduced, alongside a range of optional sessions which include an introduction to orchestral conducting technique. Participants will have opportunities to work with various forces including a

larger group of singers, an accompanist and a small orchestra. 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 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 Learning. 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 practice 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, 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.

COST

	Singers	Foundation Conductors	Intermediate 1 Conductors	Intermediate 2 Conductors	Advanced Conductors
Full week (singers and conductors):					
Course fee (non-member) *	£640	£680	£680	£730	£730
Accommodation **	£245	£245	£245	£245	£245
Additional Friday night (bed & breakfast only)	£47	£47	£47	£47	£47
On Broadway course only (Sat – Tue):					
Course fee (non-member) *	£390	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation **	£105	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Additional Friday night (bed & breakfast only)	£47	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anniversary Dinner (includes dinner, bed & breakfast on Tuesday 13 th)	£87	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Part week choral courses (Wed – Sat):					
Choral course fee (non-member) *	£345	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation **	£105	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anniversary Dinner (includes dinner, bed & breakfast on Tuesday 13 th)	£87	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Course fees include all tuition, music hire, tea/coffee, lunches, evening meals and social activities.

* Members receive a discount of £55 on the above course fees. Become a member [here](#) for £45.

** This includes bed and breakfast accommodation in a single en-suite study bedroom. Please note that the beds are large singles and we are unable to take requests for double or twin occupancy. Premium single, twin or double rooms are available at the newly built Courtyard by Marriott Hotel on campus. If you wish to book premium accommodation, please choose the 'Course fee' option only and book accommodation directly with the hotel.

Payment can be made in installments up to **June 15th**, after which the fee must be paid in full. Withdrawals within two weeks of the start of the course will be liable to pay the full amount, and withdrawals within 28 days will incur a fee up to 50% of the total cost, 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

BURSARIES

SfP is able to offer a number of bursaries (to the value of £400) towards the cost of our conducting courses. These bursaries are available to teachers and vocal leaders working with primary school children (priority will be given to teachers working with disadvantaged children) and also to those aged 16-26. 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. For more information about our tutors please visit the SfP website.

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.

CONTACT US

To book a place on the course, please visit www.singforpleasure.org.uk and complete the online application form and payment. For more information about the course please email Head of Programme, Ula Weber at events@singforpleasure.org.uk



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