

A Cappella

Spring Fest

12th March
2017

Choral Workshop
Now in our 7th year!



10:00am – 5:10pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre
in Didcot, Oxfordshire
(Advance booking essential)



Prospectus

Welcome to A Cappella Spring Fest 2017

This prospectus gives you all the information you need to register for our 7th annual A Cappella singing festival.

Once again we have a wonderful team of tutors who we know will deliver a fun and productive day of singing. Some of them will be familiar to those of you who have been to previous ACSF workshop days, but as always, we have made a few changes. We always try to offer something slightly different for those of you who come every year so this year we've booked world class beatboxer Andy Frost to lead two morning workshops. Vocal percussion is becoming more and more popular in contemporary a cappella and we think Andy is the best 'VP' tutor out there right now, so this is a great opportunity for everybody to have a go. Andy will also be supporting Liz Garnett's contemporary choral stream in the afternoon.

Please read all the information about the classes very carefully so that you choose sessions appropriate to your singing experience. As in previous years, we will be asking you to make a first and second choice of classes, and the sooner you register, the better chance you have of being given your first choice. If you have any problems with understanding the booking process, please get in touch, by phone or by email.

After classes in the morning, and spending the afternoon in your choral groups, we will all come together to share performances. This is always a wonderful climax to the day and, as before, CD recordings will be available at £5 each. These can be ordered when you register, or on the day, and will be sent out as soon as the CDs are produced.

Despite prices rising all around us, the cost of this year's event will remain at £47.50 per person which we know is excellent value for money. Our event is not run for a profit so please tell your friends and encourage other people to attend. Please note – if 10 or more people sign up together the cost will be £42.50 per person.

Soon after registration you will be given electronic access to music and learning materials for your chosen choral stream. There is an additional cost of £5 if you would like the music and learning material posted to you rather than receiving it electronically.

We look forward to receiving your registrations and greeting you on the day.

Steven

Steven Launchbury
(on behalf of the organising team)

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The Venue

We are very pleased to return to the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot. The 200 seat auditorium and different sized classrooms has proved ideal for the format we have adopted. The Cornerstone hosts many different types of arts events and the Centre has a very experienced team.

One of the main reasons for choosing the Cornerstone is its accessibility. Didcot is easily reached from the A34 and we are pleased to say that there is free parking available all day within a 5-minute walk in the car park adjacent to the nearby Sainsbury's store. The Cornerstone is also a short walk from Didcot Parkway railway station, although services on Sunday mornings are limited. The postcode of the theatre is OX11 7NE, but note that there is no direct road access to the theatre entrance. Full details of the venue, including a map, can be found at: <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org>. GPS coordinates of the car park next to Sainsbury are 51.6087, -1.2378 (some Sat Navs require this to be entered as N51.6087, W1.2378).

Tea and coffee will be provided during the course of the workshop. There are a number of options for lunch in the area, including several sandwich outlets, as well as opportunities to book lunch at the Cornerstone's own cafe.

For anyone wishing to travel the day before, there is a Premier Inn located very conveniently at the turn off to Didcot from the A34.

The Cornerstone Arts Centre



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Choral Directors and Class Leaders

Andy Frost started out as the drummer for professional country band 'Jackson Queen' with whom he toured the clubs and theatres of the UK. Whilst gaining experience with this group Andy joined forces with Britain's top country guitarist Glen Mitchell and formed a band with him which led to multiple tours with other bands. One distinct style of drumming to come out of his time playing on tour was derived from making noises with his mouth. Most commonly known as 'beat boxing', Andy taught himself how to incorporate his now extensive knowledge of drum styles and rhythms into what he would come to call 'vocal percussion'. Aged 22, Andy wowed a cappella sensations 'The Magnets' with his unique mouth drumming and immediately secured a job with them. He quickly became one of the world's most interesting, reliable and entertaining beat boxers. He is now touring the world with We3, a trio derived from Magnets members.

Jo Sercombe works in Bath and nationally as a vocalist, Musical Director and workshop leader and is particularly keen to make singing accessible to all, regardless of skill or experience. She loves to encourage creativity in others; working with adult singing groups, community choirs, schools and colleges, businesses, and even on cruise ships! Closer to home, Jo founded and directs the Bath Community Gospel Choir and the Sunrise Gospel Choir and teaches 'Singing for Actors' at Bath Spa University. She is also the Gospel Workshop specialist for The Ambassador Theatre Group in London's West End.
Facebook: Jo Sercombe Vocalist

Dr Liz Garnett is a musicologist, choral clinician and close-harmony arranger. Her research focuses on music and social values, and her publications include two books, *The British Barbershopper: A Study in Socio-Musical Values* (2005) and *Choral Conducting and the Construction of Meaning: Gesture, Voice, Identity* (2009). She was Head of Postgraduate Studies at the Birmingham Conservatoire until 2009, since when she has been working internationally as a performance coach with choirs, conductors and vocal ensembles.

Helen Lappert is a conductor, singing teacher and a performer. Her interest in the a cappella style was inspired by joining 'Amersham A Cappella' in 1998 where, 5 years later, she became Musical Director. Since then, the chorus has flourished, winning the Good Housekeeping Choir of the Year and the National Barbershop Contest in 2010 and again in 2016. Helen sings in the award-winning quartet 'NoteOrious' and coaches a cappella groups in the UK and overseas. In September 2014 she launched the exciting mixed a cappella group, 'Strictly A Cappella'. An off-shoot of this group, 'Strictly Barbershop', was created as a one-off venture to compete in May 2016 in the inaugural mixed barbershop contest which they won. Those who work with Helen describe her approach as energetic, fun, inclusive and very encouraging.

Bernard Soper is a qualified and experienced school teacher and has been a very successful Subject Leader for music for many years in several schools throughout the country. He is an experienced choral director who has led successful school choirs, has been Musical Director for Crawley Operatic Society and Maiden Erlegh Gilbert and Sullivan Society and then as Earley Community Choir. He has led Thames Vale Singers and now leads the a cappella group, 'Crescendo'. Bernard has a wide interest in all kinds of choral music with a special interest in the physical and emotional well-being that simply having fun with music can enhance. He now works in Reading, Berkshire as a freelance accompanist, piano teacher and general music teacher.

Fest Song

One of the joys of the day is the opportunity for impromptu singing. This year to mark Rick Astley's spring 2017 tour and his visit to Oxford on the Saturday after Spring Fest, we've chosen an arrangement of his signature hit, 'Never Gonna Give You Up'. This Stock Aitken & Waterman production was the UK's best selling single in 1987 and topped the charts in 25 countries including the US. As well as learning the harmonies, everybody will need to master the chorus and take turns at singing it. If you're not of an age to know it already, it only takes minutes to learn from the official video. This year, we aren't proposing to perform the Fest Song in a public 'Flash' event but everybody will sing it after the warm-up in the morning and again at the end of the day. Note that a couple of the morning classes will also use it as source material to demonstrate technique.



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Your Choices For The Day

In common with last year, the two class sessions are both held in the morning leaving the whole afternoon, with a short break, to perfect your choral piece. We've also managed to make the morning sessions slightly longer this year by tinkering with the Earth's rotational speed. As usual, you can mix'n'match any class from Session A, any class from Session B, plus a choral option to make your ideal workshop day. Note however that the two beatboxing classes in the morning cover the same material so don't pick this option for both your A and B sessions unless you enjoy repetition or are stalking Andy Frost.

For the choral sessions in the afternoon we are offering genres of Contemporary A Cappella, Gospel, Mixed Barbershop, Jazz and Beatboxing. The beatboxing stream will actually be working on an accompaniment for the contemporary stream and will join them during the afternoon to put it all together. If you want to take part in the beatboxing choral stream, you must have attended one of Andy's morning classes.

Numbers for each choice are limited so we ask you to provide a backup second choice. Of course, the sooner you register, the less likely it is that we have to use your backup choices. Read through the descriptions below, make your choices and register! You can do this on-line (we prefer this) or use our booking form. The details are at the end of the prospectus.

CLASS SESSION A · 10:50AM – 11:45AM · CHOOSE ONE FROM:

Beatboxing Basics

Tutor: Andy Frost

Book: Beatbox

We'll start with a vocal and mouth warm up, concentrating on posture and breath control. Next Andy will teach you the three basic sounds: 'Hi-Hat', 'Snare' and 'Bass Drum' and how to sing them all together in a groove. We'll also cover circular breathing so you can maintain a constant performance whilst singing these sounds. With your basic groove established, Andy will show you how to add extra percussive parts to make it sparkle! This is the real test and gives a musical understanding of syncopation and the relationship between different beats.

Sing Better Harmony

Tutor: Liz Garnett

Book: Harmony

Chords are more than notes that sound at the same time, they are notes that collaborate in creating whole new dimensions of musical experience. This session will explore how singers can get their notes to collaborate better, through four different approaches: the vocal, the aural, the analytical and the intuitive, with practical ensemble building exercises on the day and to take away. All four paths lead in their different ways to the same goal of greater harmonic pleasure for singers and audiences alike.

Rounds and Canons – Simple Yet Mesmerising

Tutor: Helen Lappert

Book: Rounds

Rounds and canons are great fun to sing. They're quick to learn with the instant feel-good factor of harmony and their repetitive nature means that they're easy to remember. You will be singing virtually non-stop throughout this session, covering as many rounds and canons as can be fitted into 55 minutes so that you leave the session on a high!

Music Notation For Singers

Tutor: Bernard Soper

Book: Notation

"When the music goes up you go up – when it goes down you go down" is not a very satisfactory way for beginners to start to understand how to read music. This class will introduce you to some of the basic concepts and skills needed to read music with some exercises geared to developing the 'internal map' of pitches and scales and then how to use music notation as an aid to pitching accurately and learning music more quickly and with more assurance. You may be surprised to know that you don't **HAVE** to know the notes on the staff in order to read accurately once you understand the principles and where the tonic or doh is. However, it can help, so we will deal with this too. But the main thrust of the short class will be to give you practical and mental exercises you can do at home to develop your music notation skills.

...Mix'n'Match class session B choices begin on the next page

CLASS SESSION B · 12:05PM – 1:00PM · CHOOSE ONE FROM:

Beatboxing Basics

Tutor: Andy Frost

Book: Beatbox

NB: This class covers the same material as the class A beatbox session. Do not book both!

We'll start with a vocal and mouth warm up, concentrating on posture and breath control. Next Andy will teach you the three basic sounds: 'Hi-Hat', 'Snare' and 'Bass Drum' and how to sing them all together in a groove. We'll also cover circular breathing so you can maintain a constant performance whilst singing these sounds. With your basic groove established, Andy will show you how to add extra percussive parts to make it sparkle! This is the real test and gives a musical understanding of syncopation and the relationship between different beats.

Get More Out Of Rehearsing

Tutor: Liz Garnett

Book: Rehearsing

As ensemble singers, it is all too easy to feel that the amount of progress we make in rehearsal is in the hands of our director. But there are lots of things we can do, both during rehearsals, and at home in between, to take control of our own individual progress and achievements within the shared endeavour. This session will use a variety of these techniques on the Fest song to show how we can guarantee to maximise our musical growth and personal satisfaction in our singing.

American Show Choir

Tutor: Jo Sercombe

Book: Performance

Famous for their song mash-ups, movement sequences and high production values; show choirs are a uniquely American phenomenon that have entered the British a cappella scene via cult TV shows such as 'Glee' and the blockbuster film 'Pitch Perfect'. We'll spend our session turning the Fest Song into a show choir number; complete with simple choreography, staging, and enough 'pazz' to sink a battleship! If you like to move and don't mind singing Rick Astley songs from memory – then this is the session for you! Please wear comfortable clothing and make sure you've learnt your part of the Fest Song arrangement of 'Never Gonna Give You Up' off-by-heart in preparation for the class.

My Beautiful Voice

Tutor: Helen Lappert

Book: My Voice

Are you making the most of your vocal apparatus? Do you feel that you have more to give but don't know how to go about unleashing your voice? During this session, we will cover the essentials of posture, breath management and voice production. You will be guided through exercises and techniques that will help you to enhance your sound to reveal more depth and beauty within it. There will be time set aside for a brief individual coaching session for anyone who feels brave enough to sing in front of the rest of the group! Please come prepared with a verse or chorus of a song.

...Choices for the afternoon choral sessions begin on the next page

SINGING SESSIONS · AFTERNOON

Choose one of the singing sessions below. To make the most of the experience, you are expected to become thoroughly familiar with the song before the workshop, using the music and audio learning materials provided well in advance of the event. To help you choose, you will find a sample recording of each song on the A Cappella Spring Fest website.

The email providing you with links to the music and audio learning materials will also direct you to an on-line poll where you can see how many people in your group have opted to learn each part. If your range is wide enough to be able to sing one of several parts and the poll shows one of those parts is down on numbers, please pick that one to learn so the group has a good harmonic balance on the day. Also please check the progress of the poll a few weeks later to see if the balance has shifted radically and whether you can help out by moving to a different part.

Contemporary A Cappella

Tutor: Liz Garnett

Book: Contemporary

Uptown Funk (Ronson, Mars et al; arr. Ben Bram) – This 2014 song by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars was many months in the making, and went on to be one of the best-selling singles of all time. Its sound world owes a lot to the early 1980s funk sound of artists like Prince, and it transfers well to a cappella, since it already features sizzling vocal harmonies and a sung, rather than instrumental, bass riff.

Beatboxing

Tutor: Andy Frost

Book: Uptown Groove

Uptown Funk (Ronson, Mars et al; arr. Andy Frost) – Andy will teach a posse of beatboxers to perform 'Uptown Funk' alongside the Contemporary A Cappella group. They'll be using some of the sounds learnt in the morning session and putting them together as a polished performance. This will be a fun challenge for good breathing and good timing as well as constant sounds. Unlike the other choral streams, the beatbox part will be learnt during the afternoon rather than in advance of the event. You must have attended one of Andy's morning classes to be eligible to join this choral stream.

Rock-Out Gospel

Tutor: Jo Sercombe

Book: Gospel

Rock'a My Soul (Traditional; arr. Kirby Shaw) – Dust off your hand-claps and get on down with this fun and energising workshop on a rockin' arrangement of the traditional gospel song 'Rock-a-My Soul'. The inherent energy and joy of gospel flows out through this up-tempo version; which also gives us a chance to work on our syncopated rhythms, gospel harmonies and hand-clapping skills.

...Further choices for afternoon choral sessions continue on the next page

Mixed Barbershop

Tutor: Helen Lappert

Book: Barbershop

Since I Don't Have You (The Skyliners, Rock, Martin; arr. Aaron Dale) – With its relaxed swing tempo, this doo-wap classic is great fun to sing even if the lyrics are steeped in heartache. Originally written in close harmony, as was typical of the doo-wap genre, this song lends itself to the barbershop style. In fact, this particular arrangement, by Aaron Dale, was sung by the mixed barbershop chorus, 'Strictly Barbershop', in their gold-medal winning package for the inaugural mixed voice barbershop choral contest in 2016. To maximise this barbershop experience, you will need to learn the music off by heart. At this year's ACSF, you'll be assisted by three members of Strictly Barbershop as we work on creating a similarly vibrant performance.

Jazz

Tutor: Bernard Soper

Book: Jazz

Linus and Lucy (Vince Guaraldi; arr. Philip Kern) – written as a Jazz Piano Composition in 1964 by Vince Guaraldi, the title refers to the 'Peanuts' characters of the same name. Hence it became the theme tune for the Peanuts cartoon series. It is a bit of light-hearted fun and I'm sure rehearsing it will create much hilarity. Don't be daunted by the number of pages in the score; there are only three words to learn; dah, dot and doodle. The secret of course is getting them in the right order! Many phrases come round again, most are fairly easy and there are some delicious but slightly more challenging chords to enjoy.



Timetable

9:00am	to	10:00am	Check-In
10:00am	to	10:10am	Welcome and safety briefing
10:10am	to	10:45am	Warm up and Fest Song
10:50am	to	11:45am	Class Session A
11:45am	to	12:05pm	Tea and Coffee
12:05pm	to	1:00pm	Class Session B
1:00pm	to	2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	to	2:50pm	Singing Session
2:50pm	to	3:10pm	Tea and Coffee
3:10pm	to	4:00pm	Singing Session
4:05pm	to	4:50pm	Workshop Finale and Fest Song
4:50pm	to	5:00pm	Wrap Up and Feedback

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Registration

Having read the descriptions of the choral and class sessions, now is the time to register for A Cappella Spring Fest 2017 and make your choices.

On-Line Registration Is Available At:

<http://acappellaspringfest2017.eventbrite.co.uk>

We would prefer you to use our on-line registration as it saves us some work and ensures that your details and choices are recorded accurately. You can pay by credit card and of course, it saves you a stamp too! If you are unable to register on-line, then please use the booking form on the following two pages.

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Booking Form

Use this **ONLY** if you are unable to register at <http://acappellaspringfest2017.eventbrite.co.uk>).

Having read the descriptions of the courses and class sessions now is the time to complete the booking details and make your choices.

Please print out this page and the singing and class session page that follows. Complete **BOTH** and send your cheque to:

John Carter, 38 Truelocks Way, Wantage, OX12 7EF

If you have any queries or questions please call John on 01235 764810 or email him at registration@acappellaspringfest.org.uk

The cost of the workshop is £47.50 and cheques should be made payable to 'Oxford Harmony Workshop'. Add £5 if you require learning materials to be posted to you. Add £5 to pre-order a Showcase CD.

Title: (Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss) Please circle

Family Name*:

First Name*:

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Telephone Number:

Email:

Mobile Number:

Current Choral Group*:

(If applicable)

Usual Voice Part(s) (circle those appropriate) (BS = barbershop)

Soprano / Alto / Tenor / Bass / BS Tenor / BS Lead / BS Bari / BS Bass

*Please indicate Names and Current Choral Group as you would like it to appear on your name badge

Tick for posted learning material (add £5)

Tick to pre-order Showcase CD (add £5)

For Office Use – Chq No.:

...Booking Form continues on next page

Singing And Class Session Choices

Family Name:

Initials:

How to Fill In The Table Below

Put a '1' underneath your 1st choice and a '2' underneath your 2nd choice in each of the three colour coded pick'n'mix columns. We hope to be able to give you your first choice for each column but be aware that allocations are made on a first-come-first-served basis so do book early. Please note that the Beat-Boxing A and B classes will be covering the same ground so don't book both unless you're a very slow learner!

Class Session A 10:50am to 11:45am	Class Session B 12:05pm to 1:00pm	Singing Sessions 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Beatbox	Beatbox	Contemporary
Harmony	Rehearsing	Uptown Groove
Rounds	Performance	Gospel
Notation	My Voice	Jazz
		Barbershop