

ENSEMBLE HANDBOOK:

Campus Voices



WELCOME TO CAMPUS VOICES

What is Campus Voices?

Campus Voices is a flexible, open access group singing a range of choral music. The group rehearse weekly at lunchtimes, and perform at a range of informal events on campus. Campus Voices aspires to be an enjoyable and relaxed opportunity for everyone to come together and sing, and to promote wellbeing and open access to music within the University community.

Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays at Whiteknights Campus, and Thursdays at London Road campus. Download the sequence timetable for locations.

Who's in Campus Voices?

Campus Voices music is flexible and suitable for any number of voices of any type. Usually music will be in two to three parts, and moving between parts is encouraged. Campus Voices is an open access choir, and no audition is required. Typically, Campus Voices members are keen to sing, and no experience is necessary.

Membership Commitment:

Weekly sessions throughout the year are divided into sequences of differing lengths, difficulties, and themes. You can sign up for as many or as few sequences as you would like. Dates of sessions and performances (where applicable) are available on the website to download in advance. Additional rehearsals will be held on performance dates, to allow for sound check and dress rehearsal at the venue.

We understand that members of Campus Voices have other calls on their time and that they may need to miss sessions, however attendance of all sessions in a sequence is recommended for full benefit. Both campus groups work to the same schedule, making it easy to switch groups where necessary to avoid missing input.

How do I sign up?

You can register to join Campus Voices, and select your sequences here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xDv6T_zswEiQgPXkP_kOXwR2Qn2OYI9lmsVElqqCLbFUNDVNNzFVQ1VGV1ROWDJVWUJXNzRZQ1pMVC4u

Registration for each sequence will remain open until its first rehearsal.

MUSICIANSHIP:

Foundation sequences focus on finding your voice:

- Finding your voice and developing your singing range through technical exercises and physical warm ups to develop vocal stamina. You will soon be able to sing higher, lower and for longer than you thought possible.
- Establishing pitch awareness through singing with solfa, to help you learn how the notes fit together into melodies
- Establishing aural memory through copying and echoing rhythms and melodies so that you can learn to sing back and remember the music you sing in choir and sing with accurate intonation
- Establishing an understanding of pulse and rhythm through games and exercises relating to the music you're learning to sing.
- Introducing part singing in choral music
- Introducing reading music notation

Intermediate sequences focus on developing your voice and choral skills:

- Developing your singing range through technical exercises and physical warm ups to develop vocal stamina.
- Developing aural memory through copying and echoing rhythms and melodies so that you can learn to sing back and remember the music you sing in choir and sing with accurate intonation
- Consolidating an understanding of pulse and rhythm through games and exercises relating to the music you're learning to sing.
- Singing together as a choir by establishing good rhythm co-ordination
- Developing confidence in part singing in choral music
- Developing confidence in reading music notation

SEQUENCES:

Finding your Voice

Level: Foundation

Term: Autumn

Length: Individual sessions

First Session: Tuesday 10 September/Thursday 12 September

Individual sessions that will help you to develop your singing skills through fun games and songs. We'll help you to sing higher and lower, and for longer than you ever thought possible. We'll also introduce you to sheet music and how to navigate your way through a piece. No prior experience, ability, or aptitude is necessary!

Campus Voices sings Christmas

Level: Intermediate

Term: Autumn

Length: 9 Weeks

First Session: Tuesday 1 October/Thursday 3 October

Performances:

University Christmas Light Switch On, Thursday 28 November

A Hollywood Christmas, Friday 6 December

This is your opportunity to sing all your Christmas favourites with a live jazz band backing. Singers will develop their musicianship skills through fun games and songs, before performing live alongside all Music at Reading ensembles in our annual advent concert.

Sheet music will be used, so some familiarity with note reading, or attendance of *Finding your Voice 1* is useful.

Repertoire is likely to include:

All I Want for Christmas is You

Winter Wonderland

Last Christmas

Let it Snow!

Rocking Around the Christmas Tree

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Campus Voices sing Jazz

Level: Intermediate

Term: Spring

Length: 8 Weeks

First Session: Tuesday 14 January/Thursday 16 January

Performances:

TBC

Explore the musical revolution through the 1930's, 40's, 50's and into the 60's with Campus Voices sings Jazz. Singers will explore the different styles of vocal jazz music, and develop musicianship and vocal skills through fun games and songs, before performing in the local community.

Sheet music will be used, so some familiarity with note reading, or attendance of *Finding your Voice 1* is useful.

Repertoire is likely to include:

It Don't Mean a Thing, Duke Ellington

Autumn Leaves, Nat King Cole

Sway, Dean Martin

Ain't That a Kick in the Head, Dean Martin

Finding your Voice 2: Songs of Africa

Level: Foundation

Term: Spring

Length: 3 Weeks

First Session: Tuesday 17 March/Thursday 20 March

A short sequence introducing, or revising, key techniques and tips to help you to develop singing skills through fun games and songs. You'll be able to sing higher and lower, and for longer than you ever thought possible. We'll also introduce you to sheet music and how to navigate your way through a piece. No prior experience, ability, or aptitude is necessary. New music and games will be introduced, so attendees of *Finding your Voice 1* are welcome.

Campus Voices sings The Greatest Showman

Level: Intermediate

Term: Summer

Length: 7 Weeks

First Session: Tuesday 21 April/Thursday 23 April

Performances:

Big Band Big Lunch, Date TBC

Ladies and gents, this is the moment you've waited for.

Campus Voices will celebrate the summer with a medley of hits from *The Greatest Showman*. Singers will explore musical theatre vocal techniques, and develop their musicianship skills through songs and games, before performing at the Big Band Big Lunch 2020.

Sheet music will be used, so some familiarity with note reading, or attendance of *Finding your Voice 1* and/or *2* is useful.

Campus Voices sings Songs from the British Isles

Level: Foundation

Term: Summer Vacation

Length: 5 Weeks

First Session: Tuesday 16 June/Thursday 18 June

Discover the rounds, cumulative songs, lullabies, shanties, and chorus songs of yesteryear, as we take a trip back in time and explore the early English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh music traditions.

Folk music is traditionally passed through generations aurally, people learning by ear as older members of the community sang, so no previous experience or sheet music reading ability is required.

Music is likely to include:

The Rattlin' Bog

Three Ravens

The Parting Glass

An ainm an àigh

There's my True Love

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE:

Campus Voices performances are usually informal and members should wear the following, unless instructed otherwise:

- Music at Reading t-shirt, available from Music at Reading; or black, short sleeved t-shirt
- All black lower half, including black socks or tights, and shoes (without patterns or logos)
- In Winter, a black cardigan or zipped hoody is acceptable

WEBSITE:

Our redeveloped website is now available, but we've picked out some of the sections ensemble members will find most useful:

Events:

Each event throughout the year is listed, with the ability to search by key words and dates, download directly into your calendar, and display as a list or in calendar format.

Blog:

Follow our blog for behind the scenes peek at Music at Reading. We'll have guest blogs from our members and Musical Leaders, plus tips and advice to combat auditions, performance anxiety, and so much more!

Gallery:

Find professional photographs from our recent events.

Member Zone:

All information relating to ensembles will be uploaded to the Member Zone of our website, found by hovering over the Home button in the menu: <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/music/member-zone/>

You can use links to report absences, download performer briefings, schedules, and handbooks, and find *How To Guides* for any questions you have.

If there's something you'd like us to consider adding to the Member Zone, let us know.

COMMUNICATION:

Usually communication will take place through the following methods:

Absence:

Please report any absences through our online form, available in the Member Zone.

Notices

Notices will be given during each rehearsal, and then uploaded to the Member Zone as a record.

Email:

Important information will be emailed out to all ensemble members. Please ensure that your email address is kept up to date, and let us know of any changes.

Social Media:

Last minute information will be released on Facebook and Twitter, follow us and turn on notifications to stay up to date.

PRACTICE ROOM ACCESS

Music practice rooms are available for all members of the local area, including students, staff, and community members, in Building L29, London Road campus.

- Eight general purpose practice rooms; suitable for up to 5 people; no booking required.
- All practice rooms have upright pianos, music stands, and mirrors
- Two studios for ensemble rehearsal; only bookable by staff and students of the University.
- Both studios have a grand piano (or two), music stands, and a drum kit.

The facility may be used for individual music practice and ensemble rehearsals, but is not available for private tuition or commercial activity.

Opening Hours:

Term time: Monday-Friday, 07.30-22.00. Weekends, 8.00-20.00.

Non-Term time: Every day, 08.00-20.00.

University Closure Dates: Closed.

Access and Fees:

Practice Room Access is not included in Music at Reading membership. Access fees can be paid through our online store; these fees subsidise the cost of instrument repair, and upkeep, cleaning, and security of the building. Entry to Building L29 is controlled through your University of Reading campus card, or a guest access card.