



# ABCD 31<sup>st</sup> Convention

26-28 August 2016 • University of Winchester

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# Winchester welcomes the choral world



Andrew Potter,  
1949–2016.  
**abcd** founder  
member

**abcd's** 2016 Convention offers a broad range of wonderful choices for choral leaders of all kinds. Besides the usual sessions on technique, repertoire, and the voice, two key threads run through a total of thirty sessions: **Women as Choral Leaders** and our **Interaction with the Broader Choral 'World'**.

We are delighted to feature the internationally-distinguished conductor **Sian Edwards**, who will lead delegates in a fresh approach to Fauré's *Requiem*; other personalities include **John Dickson**, one of the USA's finest choral teachers, who returns with the **Louisiana University A Cappella Choir**, and **Aira Birzi a** and the international award-winning **Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir**.

Masterclasses will be available from **John Dickson** and international conductor **Alice Farnham**; the Canadian composer **Sarah Quartel** will be featured, and **Deborah Miles-Johnson** and **Jo Tomlinson** will run sessions on the science of the voice and choral sound in both adult and young choirs. **Helen Hampton**, leader of the **Popchoir** movement, will lead a session on taking Pop seriously. There will be seven valuable repertoire sessions and five question-and-answer sessions with distinguished panellists, ranging from the topic of **Singing and Well-being to Women as Choral Leaders and Composers**. Stressed out? **Mark Smith** will run two sessions on how to **Beat Stress: Do Less, Achieve More!**

With each Convention, **abcd** gives choral leaders experiences, expertise and sheer enjoyment unavailable anywhere else. 2016 will be no exception!

**Andrew Potter**  
**abcd** Trustee

## Remembering Andrew Potter

The Introduction to this year's Convention was written by Andrew Potter before his untimely death in February 2016. We have decided to leave Andrew's Introduction intact simply because the programme for the Convention is part of Andrew's huge legacy to **abcd**, along with his role in conceiving and setting up the Association over thirty years ago and helping to keep **abcd** a vibrant and vital organisation.

We dedicate the 2016 Convention to Andrew's memory.

**Leslie East**  
Chair, Trustees, **abcd**

**Amy Bebbington**  
Artistic Director, Convention 2016

# abcd Gala Concert

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016, 7.45pm • Winchester College New Hall

Extensively refurbished in 2014, New Hall is a fabulous performance space, with seating for 400 and first-rate acoustics. The perfect setting for our incredible guest choirs.

## Gala Concert choirs

### Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir

Conductor Aira Birzīņa

This prize-winning choir, winner of Radio 3's *Let The Peoples Sing* competition among many others, is based in Riga Cathedral Choir School and performs regularly as part of the worship at the 800-year old Cathedral. The choir's repertoire is extremely broad, covering Latvian folk songs, sacred and secular, classical, romantic and contemporary music, and it has a particular focus on collaborating with today's Latvian composers.



### The Louisiana State University A Cappella Choir

Conductor John Dickson

We're delighted to welcome back **abcd**'s long-time friend Professor John Dickson, who brings with him his 50-strong choir. Their history includes performances by invitation for divisional and national audiences of the American Choral Directors Association and six European tours. The chorus is chosen each year from the LSU student population and is a representative cross-section of LSU, including both graduate and undergraduate students.



### Friday night plenary session

Christmas comes early at **abcd**!

Sing carols in August and plan your Christmas programme with the help of Jo McNally and Jonathan Willcocks. Newly-published repertoire for 2016 plus a tribute to our late President, the much-missed Sir David Willcocks.

# Themes, Presenters and Events

Women as choral leaders ... Our place in the broader choral 'world'



## Ladies first – women as choral leaders & composers

*Sarah Tenant-Flowers*

Sarah chairs a session with Amy Bebbington, Sian Edwards, Alice Farnham, Sarah Quartel, Errollyn Wallen & Janet Wheeler celebrating women's increased leadership of choirs, identifying current issues and suggesting how women can do even more as choral leaders and composers.

## The world around us – music of different faiths and cultures

*Jeremy Haneman*

Jeremy conducts the Mixed Up Chorus, an intercultural, intergenerational 80-voice choir. His fascinating session explores choral music from different cultures and faiths including Arabic, Buddhist, Jewish and others. Suitable for beginners to more advanced choirs, his session involves score-reading plus improvisation and learning by ear, and explains the advantages of programming music from non-Christian traditions in concerts.

## Choral futures: healthy choral communities

What makes a healthy choral community? What if a choir folds? What's changed in the last decade and what will change in the next? Representatives from Making Music, the National Association of Choirs, Popchoir and **abcd** air their predictions and invite your views.

## Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir

*Aira Biržiņa*

An open rehearsal with this superb choir, with opportunities to ask questions.

## Wake up your conducting!

*Catherine Beddison*

Is your conducting 'sleepy'? Find out how to add that extra sparkle, to galvanise your choir! Singer and conductor, Catherine is Head of Preparatory School Music, Cranleigh, Chief Executive of Sing for Pleasure, and works as a Senior Tutor for their Conductor Training Programme.

## Behind the music: achieving healthy relations between choral leaders and choirs

*Jonathan Startup*

This workshop examines what makes a healthy relationship between music director and choir, its officers and committees, its audience and supporters. It looks at how choirs govern themselves and their interaction with the musical director, including choosing and contracting.

## New repertoire reading sessions – ever popular

*Mark Griffiths, Jeremy Haneman, Jonathan Willcocks & Val Withams*

The best way to assess new repertoire – sing it! In four reading sessions Mark, Jeremy, and Jonathan treat you to a wealth of new music to enjoy, and our exhibitor composers introduce their own works in a further session chaired by Val Withams.

## Conquer stress: do less, achieve more!

*Mark Smith*

Mark is a professional drummer who delivers effective, entertaining workshops on stress management. He explains how our minds function, letting us access our full potential. He advises companies and

individuals on time management by teaching efficient thinking, reducing procrastination and time wasting and eliminating "multi-tasking". For busy choral leaders, an absolute must!

## Miles better adult choral sound

*Deborah Miles-Johnson*

See how Debbie dramatically improves adult choirs' sound – by experiencing her technique as choir-member in a mock workshop. As former BBC Symphony Chorus vocal coach, she has a gift for communicating technique clearly and effortlessly, leaving singers enthralled.

## Choral tone: the anatomy of text

*John H Dickson*

Professor Dickson, Choral Studies Director at Louisiana State University School of Music, illustrates the vital influence of text and style on choral tone. Choral music, he believes, contains the essence of human experience and, with his superb LSU choir singing music by contemporary US composers, he'll convince you this is true.

## Conducting masterclasses – intermediate and advanced

*Alice Farnham and John H. Dickson*

Alice Farnham, Welsh National Youth Opera Music Director, is one of Britain's leading female conductors, passionate about encouraging women to conduct. She and John give intermediate and advanced masterclasses – don't miss the benefits of their international experience.

## ... Conducting technique, vocal technique & repertoire



### Singing and well-being

A panel session on how choral singing promotes physical, mental and social health; learn the latest research, likely developments in this increasingly-important field, and the opportunities it gives choral leaders. Chaired by Evan Dawson, Executive Director, Live Music Now, which leads the 'A Choir in every Care Home' project.

### Early Years

*Len Tyler*

Practical tips on how to make the youngest children into good musicians. Len's Music School is a specialist music kindergarten offering classes for children from birth to about 9 years. He'll focus on the Kodály approach in early childhood and primary school. Ideal for anyone wanting to learn more about Kodály with lots of tried and tested songs and routines, plus handouts.

### Never too young to sing well

*Jo Tomlinson*

As the incoming Director of Farnham Youth Choir and teacher of singing at Bedales School and the RCM and Trinity College junior departments, Jo knows how to obtain a quality sound from young voices. Helped by the Farnham Youth Choir she shows how it's done.

### The Farnham Youth Choir story

*David & Gillian Victor-Smith*

For thirty years, Farnham Youth Choir has been a top UK upper-voice choir for twelve to eighteen year olds, winning fourteen international awards in the last five years. Hear from David Victor-Smith the remarkable story of how a young choir in the UK's state education system achieved

international recognition – and listen to the choir who did it!

### Recording your choir

*Ken Blair*

From the prestigious BMP recording company's founder, vital information about successful choir recording: why professional recording pays, the recording process from start to finish, budgets, copyright and what to expect from the company you use.

### Typesetting your music scores

*Alan Bullard & Mike Sheppard, chaired by Leslie East*

Two experienced composers show how conductors, composers and arrangers get the most out of music software, focusing on Sibelius (up to 7.0). Expert advice on setting up a template choral score and finalising a score to publication quality, supplemented by a Q&A session dealing with common problems.

### Social media and IT - the choral leader's friends

New technology helps choral directors so much, no-one dare ignore it. In two sessions we see how everyone can use IT to source printed music, help singers learn music quickly through websites, easily record individual vocal lines and share audio and text files. Also to use fabulous resources like Facebook and Twitter for PR and audience-building quickly and at minimal cost.

### Meet the composer

*Sarah Quartel*

From Canada, Sarah is an internationally-performed composer, conductor and educator with a fresh, exciting approach to choral singing, catering for singers of all abilities and experience. Last year Bob Chilcott

conducted her 'Wide Open Spaces' premiere. Now's your chance to meet Sarah in person plus her unforgettably poignant music.

### Gospel truths

*Mike Sheppard*

Composer and arranger Mike Sheppard has many years' experience of arranging and directing Gospel music. Steal away to his session and he'll show you some very useful tricks of the trade!

### But seriously – pop music!

*Helen Hampton*

Helen, National Youth Jazz Orchestra vocalist at 18, runs Popchoir, which encourages people to join together to sing the music they enjoy on the radio. It's fun, sociable, stress-busting – and gets people singing in choirs who otherwise wouldn't. See how Popchoir works and why choral pop is ever more important.

### Requiem for Convention 2016

*Sian Edwards*

In our final session, Sian Edwards, Head of Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music, takes a fresh look at Fauré's Requiem – and you're all invited to sing!

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### abcd's ever-popular and expanding trade exhibition

Never to be missed, this year's Exhibition has more attractions than ever before. New music, specialist choral equipment, tour agents, recordings, plus useful advice from the exhibitors themselves. Many items are at considerable discounts – and all the ideas are free!

## Pre-Convention Conducting Course

25–26 August

Led by Peter Broadbent and Jo McNally



This practical course looks at rehearsal and conducting techniques for leaders of all kinds of choir – no minimum experience is required. Delegates can either participate as conductors or attend as observers; a repertoire list is sent in advance. Individual tuition will be available for conductors with more experience or who have already attended an **abcd** course.

Both Peter and Jo are experts in their field, each with a wealth of conducting experience. Jo, originally from the USA, works as an animateur, conductor, clinician, author and singer; Peter is **abcd's** Director of Training and Musical Director of the award-winning Joyful Company of Singers.

## Young Conductors' Course

26–28 August

Led by Amy Bebbington and Mark Griffiths



Open to all aged 18–25 not currently earning a living from conducting, this course runs parallel with Convention so that students can attend some Convention events as well as taking part in conducting-technique sessions. Amy and Mark give group tuition in the basics of choir training and conducting, and work on rehearsal and leadership skills. This is a practical, hands-on course; the emphasis is on informality and tutoring in a small group.

Conductor, teacher, singer, pianist and composer, Amy has been described as 'one of the brightest talents of her generation.' She has directed numerous choral ensembles in the UK and US. Mark, a graduate of Cambridge University and The Royal College of Music, is Musical Director of Coro and Director of Choirs at the Junior Department of Trinity College of Music.

## Bursaries available!

Thanks to funding from the Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, a limited number of young conductors can benefit from subsidised places at just £100 each this year. For eligibility details, contact **abcd** Training Manager Penny Homer on 07805 454563, email [penny.homer@abcd.org.uk](mailto:penny.homer@abcd.org.uk), or see our website.



## Our base – the University of Winchester

Beautifully situated with views of the South Downs, yet close to the city centre, the King Alfred Campus within the University of Winchester is our venue once again. A very popular venue when we last visited in 2009, a good deal of building work has taken place since, and as well as using The Stripe lecture theatre once again, we will be taking advantage of its new facilities. The dining hall remains unchanged, as does the high standard of catering!

## Access

The campus is built on a slope, but all buildings have full access by lift to all levels, internal and external, for those who find steps and stairs difficult.

**Accommodation** is available to book with your delegate place in the university's new Burma Road *en suite* accommodation, which is conveniently on site and just a few minutes' walk from session and meal venues. There is also, of course, hotel and B&B accommodation in the city centre and a wide range of ways to book online.

## Very easy travelling

Winchester is easily accessible by road, rail and air. It is close to the M3, London Waterloo is an hour away by train and Southampton Airport 15 minutes away by train. The university is a 10-minute walk from the railway station in the city centre.

The easiest way to book transport is online: for information on all modes of public transport see Traveline ([www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)). For fares, see the websites of the travel companies themselves.

There is free parking available on a first come first served basis in the university car parks. Spaces, however, cannot be guaranteed or pre-booked.

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## About time

Convention starts at 3.15 pm on Friday afternoon when the Exhibition opens. Sessions proper commence at 4.15 pm, and the weekend finishes at 4 pm on Sunday. The full timetable for the weekend is kept up to date on our website. Join us for the full weekend, or just for a day!

For more information on Convention, see our website at [www.abcd.org.uk](http://www.abcd.org.uk), contact Len Fletcher on 01772 704834 or email [convention@abcd.org.uk](mailto:convention@abcd.org.uk).

## Coming soon – online booking!

It's nearly up and running: keep an eye open for news of **abcd's** new system at

[www.abcd.org.uk/events/abcd-convention](http://www.abcd.org.uk/events/abcd-convention)

# Convention Fees

Fees exclude B&B but include meals and refreshments. Please indicate your Convention requirements by ticking the appropriate box(es), then choose any accommodation requirements. N.B. before completing this form check if online booking is available: visit [www.abcd.org.uk/events/abcd-convention](http://www.abcd.org.uk/events/abcd-convention) now!

## **abcd Members**

### **Pre-Convention Conducting Course, 25-26 August**

£155 if booked by 30th June, £165 if later

### **Main Convention, 26-28 August**

£280 if booked by 30th June, £300 if later

#### *Saturday only*

£130 (incl. lunch & dinner but not gala concert ticket)

#### *Sunday only*

£110 (incl. lunch)

### **Young Conductors' Course, 26-28 August**

£280 if booked by 30th June, £300 if later

**Total Convention fee £ \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Accommodation**

Please indicate your accommodation requirements by ticking the relevant boxes below.

All rooms are single en suite and are £45 per night bed and breakfast.

Thursday 25 August       Friday 26 August       Saturday 27 August

**Total Accommodation fee £ \_\_\_\_\_**

There will be a limited number of subsidised places for the Young Conductors' course at £100 each.

Please tick here to request further details

I am not currently a member of **abcd** but wish to join and pay the member's rate for Convention. I enclose my subscription with my payment (the current annual subscription is £58 (individuals), FREE for up to two years for under 25s, £11.60 (i.e. 20%) for anyone aged 26-27). Payment now will last until 30 April 2017.

**Total fee £ \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Your contact details**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am an **abcd** member, \_\_\_\_\_ region

Do you have any dietary or other special requirements? Yes/No

Do you require ground floor accommodation? Yes/No

Do you have a disability for which you might need assistance? Yes/No

If so please state assistance required \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously attended an **abcd** extended conducting course? We would like to provide a networking opportunity for alumni. Please tick the box if you have.

## **Non-members**

### **Pre-Convention Conducting Course, 25-26 August**

£175 if booked by 30th June, £185 if later

### **Main Convention, 26-28 August**

£315 if booked by 30th June, £335 if later

#### *Saturday only*

£150 (incl. lunch & dinner but not gala concert ticket)

#### *Sunday only*

£130 (incl. lunch)

### **Young Conductors' Course, 26-28 August**

£315 if booked by 30th June, £335 if later

## Early bird discounts

Book early! If you book by 30 June, you will enjoy a discount on the full fee. (No discount available for single day delegates). Delegates are encouraged to make enquiries with their local Arts Council England region, or to apply to their employer for assistance with fees as part of Continuing Professional Development where applicable. For more advice on possible funding, please contact the **abcd** office on 01935 389482.

## Payment

- I enclose a cheque for full payment (please make cheques payable to Association of British Choral Directors)
  - I enclose a non-returnable deposit of £50 (balance due by 31st July 2016)
  - Please send an invoice to the address enclosed with this form (in time to allow settlement by 31st July 2016)

## Paying by card

**Payment in full can be made by Mastercard, Visa Debit and Visa Credit cards** (please ring type of card)

Card No.

Card valid from / Card expiry date / 3 digit security no. on reverse of card

Cardholder Name (as on card)

Address of cardholder (if different from previous page)

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Postcode

**Signature**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your booking to:** Convention 2016, Len Fletcher, 6 Sunnyhill, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs PR2 9BF

Keep up to date with news about Convention 2016 – visit our website [www.abcd.org.uk](http://www.abcd.org.uk)

For more information and accommodation details, please phone Len Fletcher, Convention Administrator, on **01772 704834** or email [convention@abcd.org.uk](mailto:convention@abcd.org.uk).

For more details about Young Conductor bursaries and masterclasses, please contact Penny Homer on **07805 454563** or email [penny.homer@abcd.org.uk](mailto:penny.homer@abcd.org.uk). For timetable and general **abcd** enquiries, please contact Rachel Greaves on **01935 389482** or email [rachel.greaves@abcd.org.uk](mailto:rachel.greaves@abcd.org.uk).

Information correct at time of going to press. Please note that **abcd** reserves the right to substitute sessions and presenters without notice.

## Cancellation

If you cancel in writing on or before 25 July we will refund you, minus £50 deposit. If you cancel in writing after 25 July you will receive a 50% refund, minus £50 deposit. **If you cancel on or after 8 August we will not refund you and we therefore advise you to take out your own travel insurance against cancellation.** If you book after 15 August you may not receive an acknowledgement before the event.

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