



## Extended Conducting Courses Initial Level London Autumn 2014

**Saturdays October 4th, November 1st, December 6th and January 10th 2015**

**St Andrews Church, Short Street, London, SE1 8LJ**

*abcd*'s choral conducting courses are designed to develop the individual. Experienced tutors work with your natural abilities and previous experience to enable you to develop your own gesture vocabulary and rehearsal technique. As the training is non prescriptive in approach, with an emphasis on a supportive and encouraging environment, it will develop confidence and practical skills which can be used by those leading singing of any kind, regardless of age group, music genre or experience of singers.

The courses consist of several sessions over an extended period, and include plenary sessions on vocal and rehearsal techniques and masterclasses. Video footage is provided to support individual study and development between sessions. A small group size is guaranteed (maximum 17 participants) to allow focus and ample practical time.

While every course will take you on an individual journey, by working with those at a similar stage of development you will increase the opportunities to share and learn from each other.



**Jo McNally** is a music educator from the USA who has been living in the UK since 1980 working as an amateur, conductor, and singer. Her current choirs include Farnham Girls Training Choir and Wokingham Choral Academy. As an amateur she has worked on special projects for the Education departments of ENO /Bayliss, Royal Opera House /Glyndbourne and the BBC Singers. She has been on the team developing and delivering *abcd* conducting courses since their inception.



**Katie Thomas** trained in choral conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and graduated with Distinction. She is currently the director of the Brighton Consort and also works with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. After adjudicating for S4C's Côr Cymru last year, this year she joins the international jury for the 2014 World Choir Games in Riga.

**Initial Course** This consists of four one-day sessions spread over 4 months. It is both suitable for those with no previous training, who are not yet conducting regularly and those who have some experience leading choral music. It is also suitable for those who want to develop and/or consolidate their conducting and vocal technique. Many who take this course are musicians who have not conducted choirs before, assistant conductors with no previous training, teachers who have been asked to lead a choir and those who find themselves conducting unexpectedly.

### Initial content

- Preparation
- Voice training – the conductor as singer
- Developing simple conducting gestures
- Learning to communicate with gesture instead of words
- Developing awareness of vocal technique
- Using warm-up exercises to develop your choir
- Score preparation for rehearsal and performance
- How to communicate with your choir and lead efficient and enjoyable rehearsals
- Guidance on choosing suitable repertoire
- Development of programme-planning skills
- As the course develops, there may also be opportunities to cover the following:
- Further development of conducting gesture
- Working with more challenging repertoire
- Development of programme-planning skills

**Course cost:** The price for all four sessions is **£265 (£235 *abcd* members)**.

The Association of British Choral Directors (*abcd*) is the only UK organisation which is devoted entirely to supporting those leading choral music, both amateur and professional. It is committed to promoting, improving and maintaining opportunities for the development of all those leading singing of any kind, whether in the classroom or in the community. It runs an extensive programme of national and regional courses, workshops seminars and an annual convention, using its network of the best choral leadership trainers in the country.

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

## Application Form – *abcd* Initial Conducting Course London Autumn 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred voice part \_\_\_\_\_

Course applied for \_\_\_\_\_

To help us plan the courses to best meet your needs, please tell us something about your musical experience, such as any past or present musical activities and why you feel the course would be useful for you. You are welcome to attach any additional information on a separate sheet if you wish.

Any choral training/conducting responsibilities/posts (past and/or current)

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Summary of any relevant Further/Higher Education/musical qualifications/*abcd* courses taken

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Why would you like to attend the course?

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\_\_\_\_\_

*Full course details and directions will be sent out in advance to all participants.*

## Payment

☐ I enclose a cheque for £50/£235/£265\*

☐ Please send an invoice for the balance to the address given (if invoicing details different to those on the form, please provide this information on a separate sheet of paper)

☐ I wish to pay £50/£235/£265\* by debit or credit card (Visa/Mastercard only)

\*delete as appropriate

Name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ CV2 \_\_\_\_\_

**We require a non-refundable deposit of £50 to confirm your booking.**

**The balance must be paid in full before the course commences**

*Cheques (in sterling only) should be made payable to the Association of British Choral Directors*

Fees exclude accommodation and meals. Students are encouraged to make enquiries with their local council, or to apply to their employer for assistance with fees as part of Continuing Professional Development where applicable.

## Membership

☐ I am / am not a member of *abcd*

☐ I am not currently a member of *abcd* but wish to join and pay the members' rate for my chosen course. I have added £\_\_\_\_\_ to my cheque/Please add £\_\_\_\_\_ to the amount debited from my card

The current annual subscription is £55 (individuals). There are concessionary rates for students and those under the age of 27. Please contact 01772 704834 for more details.

## Cancellation

If you cancel in writing on or before September 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 we will refund you, minus £50 deposit. If you cancel in writing after September 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 you will receive a 50% refund, minus £50 deposit. If you cancel on or after the course start date we will not refund you.

For further information or to place a booking please send your form and payment to:

Penny Homer, *abcd* Training Manager, 15 Cameron Square, Mitcham, Surrey,

CR4 3SH. Email [penny.homer@abcd.org.uk](mailto:penny.homer@abcd.org.uk) Tel: 07805454563

**Please note these courses regularly sell out and places will be allocated in order of booking. Booking deadline: Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2014**

Information correct at time of going to press. *abcd* reserves the right to make alterations to tutors and course content without notice.

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