



Extended Conducting Courses

Initial Level

London Autumn 2016

23rd October, 26 November, 8th January 2017 & 5th February

The Hall School, 23 Crossfield Road, London, NW3 4NU

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 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.

The Initial course is suitable for those with no previous training, who are not yet conducting regularly and/or want to consolidate their technique. Many who take this course are musicians who have not conducted choirs before, assistant conductors for choirs with no previous training, teachers who have been asked to lead a choir and those who find themselves conducting unexpectedly. The course is also suitable for those who would like to develop their conducting and vocal technique and have some experience in leading choral music, or have previously passed the course at Initial Level I. Passes are awarded at Initial I or II Level.

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

Initial Course 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

Some participants may be given the opportunity to work on these in greater depth, including:

- Further development of conducting gesture
- Working with more challenging repertoire
- Development of programme-planning skills

Course cost: £280 (£250 *abcd* members). All music is provided.



Graduating with First Class Honours and a Master's Degree in Piano Performance, **Amy Bebbington** was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts, specialising in Choral Conducting, from Texas Tech University. Amy forms part of the Choral Conducting tutor team for *abcd*, leading courses for young people and adults across the country, and is delighted to be the Artistic Director at this year's convention.

Amy recently spent five years as Choral Director for the Royal College of Music Junior Department Choirs and is a musicianship tutor for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. Highly sought-after as a choir trainer, Amy worked on BBC2's *The Choir: Sing While You Work*, runs choral direction training days for the Military Wives' Choirs' Foundation, and facilitates workshops around the country. As a teacher trainer/animateur, she has worked for Trinity/Open University, Glyndebourne Education Outreach, Sing for Pleasure, Music of Life and Youth Music.

Amy has had choral works published by Shawnee Press (USA) and Banks Music Publications (UK), works which have been performed by award-winning choirs on international stages. This year, she was invited to adjudicate for Choir of the Year, Music for Youth National Festival and at the Cheltenham Music Festival (amongst others). Amy is in great demand as a choral clinician, mentor and teacher, and is currently Musical Director for Holmbury Choral Society, Dorking Camerata and Nota Bene (Stevens & Bolton Office Choir).

Application Form – *abcd* Initial Conducting Course London Autumn 2016

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Telephone _____ Preferred voice part _____

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)

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

Why would you like to attend the course?

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

Payment (delete as appropriate)

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

- I enclose a cheque for £50/£250/£280 (cheques should be made payable to The Association of British Choral Directors)
- 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/£250/£280* by debit or credit card (Visa/Mastercard only)

Name as it appears on the card _____

Card number _____

Expiry Date _____ CV2 _____

The balance must be paid in full before the course commences

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 (please delete accordingly)

- 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 £43.50 to my cheque/Please add £43.50 to the amount debited from my card

The current subscription rate for the rest of the year is £43.50 (individual), which runs from now until May 2017. There are concessionary rates for students and those under the age of 28. Please contact len.fletcher@abcd.org.uk for more details.

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

Penny Homer, *abcd* Training Manager, 37 Coningsby Court, Mitcham, CR4 2JT.
Email penny.homer@abcd.org.uk Tel: 07805454563

Cancellation

If you cancel in writing on or before 7th October 2016 we will refund you, minus £50 deposit. If you cancel in writing between 7th and 22nd October you will receive a 50% refund, minus £50 deposit. If you cancel on or after the course start date we will not refund you.
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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