

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 Council, 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 2018)
- Please send an invoice to the address enclosed with this form (in time to allow settlement by 31st July 2018)

Paying by card

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

Card No.

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

Cardholder Name (as on card)

Address of cardholder (if different from previous page)

Postcode

Signature

Date

Send your booking to:

Convention 2018, Tricia Rees-Jones, 7 Tallowood, Lower Charlton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5QN

Keep up to date with news about Convention 2018 – visit our website www.abcd.org.uk

For more information and accommodation details, and Young Conductor bursaries and masterclasses, please phone Tricia Rees-Jones, Convention Administrator, on **01749 330160 / 07497 895664** or email convention@abcd.org.uk.

For timetable and general **abcd** enquiries, please contact Rachel Greaves on **01935 389482** or email 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.

Your data

Your personal data from this form will be stored securely by **abcd** and used by our staff and tutors for the purpose of administering this course/convention only. We will only pass details onto any third party that are essential for us to administer the course, such as booking accommodation for you or informing caterers of dietary needs. If you are not already a member of **abcd**, the data will be destroyed after one year unless you tell us you would like us to keep you informed about future courses and events. We will ask you about this separately. You can find out more about how we store and use your data and what your rights are on our website.

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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ABCD 33rd Convention

24-26 August 2018 • Leeds Beckett University

Refresh your repertoire & technique over one inspirational choral weekend!



Leeds Contemporary Singers

For latest information visit www.abcd.org.uk



Welcome to Leeds -

abcd Gala Concert

back by popular demand

Saturday 25th August 2018, 7.45pm • Leeds Cathedral



Convention always presents a kaleidoscope of ideas, connections and choral refreshment, and this year's will be no exception, inspiring and challenging in equal measure.

Five strands weave through the programme, focusing on: young choirs; choral music & the community; technique; repertoire; and a bank of essential management and administration knowledge.

We feature the outstanding education work of Opera North and the Diocese of Leeds Singing Programme, both schemes reaching thousands of children.

How can we make choral music more richly diverse? Our community and access sessions will inspire you to meet this huge challenge, starting with a plenary seminar on diversity.

To invigorate your technique, we welcome Charles MacDougall, Craig Lees (pop and contemporary techniques) and Jenevora Williams on choral misconceptions. There are many conducting masterclasses, including the opportunity to conduct a typical local choir and a children's choir. New this year are sessions on orchestral conducting in partnership with Making Music, welcoming a local amateur orchestra.

The knowledge bank examines administrative and legal matters and provides vital tools for managing volunteers and working with boards and committees.

You'll return from Convention with an extraordinary amount of new repertoire: explore this with Opera North Chorus Master Ollly Rundell, Craig Lees, composer Vytautas Miškinis and Janet Oates (Contemporary Music for All), alongside the ever-brilliant publishers' repertoire sessions.

Convention closes with Ethel Smyth's glorious Mass in D under the superb direction of Neil Ferris - a final session to delight and inspire. Not to be missed!

Thomas Leech,
Convention Artistic Director and Chair, **abcd** Yorkshire



Truly outstanding groups join us for the Gala Concert. We welcome New Dublin Voices, Leeds Contemporary Singers and the NYCCGB Boys' Choir.

New Dublin Voices

Conductor *Bernie Sherlock*

NDV's programmes are fresh, innovative and exciting, ranging from medieval to contemporary. They have given numerous Irish and world premieres and won prizes at major competitions throughout the UK and Europe, most recently the Grand Prix at the 2nd International Baltic Sea Choir Competition in Latvia last year.



Leeds Contemporary Singers

Musical Director *Craig Lees*

Once dubbed 'The Fleetwood Mac of choirs', and winners of BBC One's primetime talent show 'Pitch Battle', LCS comprise the most talented up-and-coming artists in the UK today - a fresh take on contemporary choral singing, with an utterly different sound.



National Youth Choir of Great Britain Boys' Choir

Conductors *Lucy Joy Morris and Robbie Jacobs*

One of the NYCCGB family of choirs, the National Youth Boys' Choir have recently sung in Southbank Centre's Chorus Festival and in the world premiere of Ben Parry's '*Sports Shorts*'. In our Gala Concert the Trebles Choir and Cambiata Voices perform separately and jointly.

Bar and barbershop

At the welcoming Friday night plenary session, enjoy drinks and chats with other delegates, followed by slick barbershop singing from Hannah and the Hurricanes, World Championship mixed quartet silver medallists 2016 and UK Mixed Quartet Champions 2014 and 2015.

Themes, Presenters and Sessions



Themes

Access and community

A first for Convention: a plenary panel session on diversity in choirs. How do we encourage a wider community to take part? Paul Whittaker OBE, founder of Music and the Deaf, and Community Choir expert Em Whitfield Brooks show how singers of all experience levels can improve their choral confidence.

Knowledge bank

Knowledge of the ever more complex nuts and bolts of running a choir is as useful for conductors as for committees. Topics include PRS, people management and team building in a choral context. Staff from fellow choral organisation Making Music share their expertise.

Repertoire and style

Our unfailingly popular repertoire-reading sessions feature the latest publications from our exhibitor publishers and composers. Lithuanian composer Vytautas Miškinis takes you through some of his own compositions, and Oliver Rundell, Chorus Master of Opera North, looks at opera for choirs.

Technique

Masterclasses and hands-on advice for conductors: watch real conductors work with real choirs! Leeds College of Music lecturer and singer Craig Lees demystifies teaching choirs to perform contemporary rock and pop. Popular US presenter Jonathan Griffith helps you to bring sanity back into your rehearsals, while Charles MacDougall looks at warming up choirs – effectively!

Young choirs

Sessions led by Opera North Education and the Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme,

both with huge experience of working with young people. Leading vocal-health exponent Jenevora Williams leads a session on the vital issue of adolescent voice change, plus sessions on new resources for youth choirs and expert guidance on how to deliver them.

New - orchestral-conducting masterclasses!

In association with Making Music
Yes, you CAN conduct an orchestra. To prove it, try it! We welcome a local Leeds ensemble for you to conduct in masterclasses focusing on music for choir and orchestra.

Sessions

Encourage diversity in choirs

This plenary-session panel includes Manvinder Rattan, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Conductor Training at Sing for Pleasure; plus Churchill Fellow Luzili Mulindi-King and performance poet Michelle Scally Clarke, recounting how they met and overcame the inclusivity challenge personally.

Living vocally

Craig Lees
Senior Lecturer, Popular Music Degree course, Leeds College of Music, Craig explores fresh approaches to teaching, arranging and performing contemporary Rock & Pop Music. Topics include repertoire choice, style, arrangement techniques, song interpretation and incorporating movement into performance.

Singing rock & pop

Craig Lees
Enjoy a quick tour around rock and pop choral singing, with fresh ideas to inspire your choir. Learn new songs, explore new techniques

in style and blend. In this highly interactive workshop you'll be encouraged to sing and learn from Craig throughout.

Working with young voices

Jenevora Williams

As a leading exponent in the field of vocal health and singing teaching, Dr Williams asks: are you giving your young singers the best tools for strong, healthy singing? She outlines the vocal possibilities and limitations throughout young singers' development – in particular the vital issue of adolescent voice change in girls and boys.

Fake views confuse

Jenevora Williams

If you've ever told singers: "Support the voice"; "Find more space"; "Stand up straight"; "Place the sound"; you're ambiguous at best, at worst misleading! Misconceptions and alternative facts can confuse singers. Following a brief exploration of the singing voice, we should consider re-evaluating what we say to them and how we say it.

Bring back rehearsal sanity!

Jonathan Griffith

Would you like your choir to sing in tune? With a full, resonant sound? Would you like the best vocal exercises? This session is for you! Co-Founder, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY), Jonathan has decades' experience teaching young children, youths, teenagers, amateur, semi-professional, professional adults and older adults to become better musicians in rehearsals and performance. These proven techniques can be used in every rehearsal, making singers



look forward to their practice time; every rehearsal becomes a learning experience.

"You want me to sing WHAT?"

James Meaders

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) has long been used to transcribe foreign texts into symbols which have one, and only one, sound. Can choirs use it to achieve better blend, more lovely colour and improved intonation? Based on his work as a singer and teacher, Dr Meaders, DCINY Associate Artistic Director and Conductor, has long been an advocate of IPA for choirs and seen how dramatically it improves their unification of tone. His interactive session focuses on the IPA's vowel and diphthong symbols and how to introduce them to your choir.

Vocalise, vocal ease, quality keys for inclusive choirs

Em Whitfield Brooks

If your choir or group includes diverse singers with greatly differing levels of ability and experience, but you're not sure how to bring the best out of them - this workshop is for you. Em's practical session offers ways in, warm-ups, tips & exercises, rooted in a physical approach to the voice, which will improve singers' technique, enhance their collective sound, increase their confidence and ensure their enjoyment.

Tuning the high-performance choir

Michael Bonshor and Xenia Davis

This session introduces psychological concepts relating to group dynamics and social learning within group singing activities. It examines choral group dynamics and the role of the conductor in adult amateur choirs. Practical applications of evidence-based

research will be demonstrated in interactive sections, encouraging participation in choral team-building exercises and singing as a group.

Signed song

Paul Whittaker OBE

Profoundly deaf from birth, Paul nevertheless studied music at Oxford and the RNCM before founding Music and the Deaf in 1988. His session introduces signed song; you can have a go at signing something yourself and enjoy the fun & challenges of signing different styles of music. In the evening, Paul will be signing for the gala concert.

Meet the composer

Vytautas Miškinis

Convention is honoured to welcome this amazingly prolific Lithuanian composer, with over 800 religious and secular works to his name, together with innumerable choral-competition prizes. As a highly-experienced conductor he knows how to make music practical as well as beautiful: his session gives an insight into how he achieves this.

Choral core components

Charles MacDougall

Choral Director for The Voices Foundation and a very fine tenor (Voces8, Gabrieli Consort etc. plus much solo work), Charles is also an expert vocal coach. His session is on warm-up technique: the vital core procedure for getting the best out of every voice in your choir.

Your choir CAN sing opera!

Oliver Rundell

Pianist, Cambridge organ scholar and now Chorus Master of Opera North, Oliver knows how daunting and yet how enjoyable tackling operas can be for choirs which aren't used to them.

Don't be frightened – come to his session and see how your choir can achieve memorable operatic results!

Repertoire reading sessions

A Convention highlight for many, these brilliant sessions introduce you to new music for SATB, youth and community choirs, some published by the composers themselves. Your key to fresh music for your concerts next year.

The uplift of singing

Diocese of Leeds Singing Programme leaders

The Diocese of Leeds has the largest church programme of choral music for young people in the UK, benefiting 3500 children weekly: over 100 groups in 53 schools. Find out from the people who run it the colossal difference their inspiring work makes to children's morale, confidence and self-belief.

Conducting masterclasses

Two sessions: one with a local Leeds adult choir, the other with a children's choir. Whichever one you come to, you'll learn so much!

Final plenary - discover Ethel Smyth!

Neil Ferris

Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus and recognised as one of the country's leading teachers of choral conducting, Neil brings Convention to a stupendous close by leading you in a performance of Ethel Smyth's glorious Mass in D.

Music Exhibition

Convention's music-trade exhibition is a wonderful place to browse, get ideas, plan new repertoire, plan choir tours, book workshops, buy equipment and much more. All major music publishers, tour agents and many other specialist suppliers will be there.

Pre-Convention Conducting Course 23-24 August

Led by **Amy Bebbington** and
Susan Hollingworth



This practical course looks at rehearsal and conducting techniques for leaders of all kinds of choir - no minimum experience is required. You can participate

either as conductor or attend as an observer; 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 Amy and Susan are expert and versatile choral and orchestral conductors with many years' experience. **abcd**'s Director of Training Amy holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts, specialising in Choral Conducting, from Texas Tech University and Susan, **abcd** Vice President, was named Choir Master of the Year by Gramophone Magazine in 2010.

Young Conductors' Course 24-26 August



Led by **Lucy Griffiths**

Open to all aged eighteen to 25 not currently earning a living from conducting, this course runs parallel with Convention so that students can attend Convention events as well. Lucy gives group tuition in the basics

of choir training and conducting, and works on rehearsal and leadership skills. This is a practical, hands-on course; the emphasis is on informality and small-group tutoring.

Lucy is one of the most respected conductor-animators of her generation. Her leadership experience ranges across vocal and instrumental music-making with professional, amateur, youth and adult ensembles at the very highest level of each.

Bursaries available!

Thanks to funding from the Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, a limited number of young conductors can benefit from subsidised places at just £120 each this year. The Oxford University Press Andrew Potter Bursary is given in memory of Andrew Potter, formerly Director of Music Publishing at OUP and founding member of **abcd**, and supports attendance at the Pre-Convention and Young Conductors' Courses. For eligibility details, contact Convention Administrator Tricia Rees-Jones on 01749 330160/07497 895664, or email convention@abcd.org.uk.

The city of Leeds

Capital of Yorkshire and Humberside, Leeds is also financial capital of the North of England. With a population of 750,000, Leeds is one of Europe's greenest cities and, at the same time, one of the most gracious. But despite its high-Victorian urban grandeur, nowhere in Leeds is far from Yorkshire's magnificent countryside - 'God's own county', as Yorkshiremen rightly call it.



Leeds Beckett University, venue for Convention this year, has come a long way since its origin in 1824 as the Leeds Mechanics Institute. Now a University with three campuses - one in India - Leeds Metropolitan (as it then was) won the award for "outstanding contribution to the local community" at the annual higher education awards ceremony hosted by The Times Higher Education Supplement in 2006.

Convention events and accommodation are in Headingley campus. Set in picturesque grounds, many of the campus facilities look out onto the Acre, a grassy expanse at the head of which sits the magnificent James Graham building which houses the stunning Gandhi Hall, where this year's Exhibition will be held. There is on site parking available.

Travelling to Leeds

Leeds is incredibly easy to travel to. The city is one of the principal hubs of the northern motorway network, with the M1 and M62 intersecting to the south and the A1(M) to the east. By rail there are frequent links to London and other major UK cities, and to Manchester Airport. Leeds Bradford International Airport is about 10 miles north-west of the city centre. Inside the city the bus services are excellent.

Venue contact details

Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS6 3QS (N.B. Sat Nav: LS16 5LF)

Telephone: 0113 812 8555.

Website: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk

About time Convention starts at 3.15 pm on Friday afternoon with the opening of the Exhibition. 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, contact Tricia Rees-Jones, Convention Administrator, on 01749 330160/07497 895664, or email convention@abcd.org.uk.

Online booking now available!

Visit www.abcd.org.uk/events/abcd-convention

Convention Fees

Book online! See www.abcd.org.uk/events/abcd-convention

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.

abcd Members

Pre-Convention Conducting Course, 23-24 August

£165 if booked by 30th June, £175 if later

Main Convention, 24-26 August

£295 if booked by 30th June, £315 if later

Saturday only

£135 (incl. lunch & dinner but not gala concert ticket)

Sunday only

£110 (incl. lunch)

Young Conductors' Course, 24-26 August

£295 if booked by 30th June, £315 if later

Total Convention fee £ _____

Accommodation on site

Please indicate your accommodation requirements by ticking the relevant boxes below. All prices are per room and include bed and breakfast.

Thursday 23 August

Friday 24 August

Saturday 25 August

En suite single room (£49 per night) En suite double room (£75 per night)

Total Accommodation fee £ _____

Please tick here to request further details of Young Conductor bursaries.

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 £70 (individuals), free for under 25s, £35 for anyone aged 26 or 27. Payment now will last until 30 April 2019.

Total fee £ _____

Your contact details

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

County _____

Postcode _____

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 _____