

October 6th & 7th, November 17th, January 12th 2019,
February 9th & March 9th & 10th

St Botolph's-without Aldgate (Saturdays), St John's Waterloo (Sundays)

This course consists of an opening weekend, 3 separate days and a closing weekend, spread over the course of 6 months. The group size numbers approximately 10 participants and there is a resident choir throughout the course to allow for focussed and generous practical opportunities.

This course is for those operating at a high level of choral conducting. Applicants should have a number of years practical experience (including at least one current choir), and a musical qualification, such as a BA, BMus or DipABRSM, or have completed our Progressive course.

Tutors



Peter Broadbent is the founding conductor of the Joyful Company of Singers, was the previous Director of Training for *abcd* and is a widely experienced choral clinician and adjudicator. He adjudicates at international choral competitions all over Europe and in the UK, and gives seminars and masterclasses in the UK, France, Italy, South Africa, the USA and Canada.



Sarah Tenant-Flowers is artistic director of Singscape and Papagena, guest chorusmaster with the BBC Symphony Chorus and lecturer at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She is a co-founder of *abcd*, former general manager of The Sixteen, and featured as a mentor in TV series Maestro. She also teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.



Dr Amy Bebbington is Director of Training for *abcd*, and has taught choral conducting for The University of Cambridge, The Royal College of Organists, the Association of Irish Choirs and the Halle Youth Choir. She leads the LRAM Diploma in Choral Conducting at the RAM and is a founder of the London International Choral Conducting Competition. She is in demand as a workshop facilitator, choral clinician and adjudicator.

Other tutors include Janet Lincé, Patrick Russill and Neil Ferris.

Advanced Course content

The course is broadly based on the following areas:

- Vocal health and development
- Understanding and applying vocal technique in the choral rehearsal
- Conducting gesture and communication in rehearsal/performance
- Developing a wider gesture vocabulary in connection with tone/intonation
- Score preparation and rehearsal techniques
- Choosing and considering repertoire
- Developing your singers' musicianship skills
- Programme planning

This course can lead to the Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music exam for those students who wish to take it. This can be discussed with course tutors before committing if this is preferred, as there are additional costs involved.

Fee: £885 *abcd* members, £985 non-members (includes membership to *abcd*)

Optional LRSM/FRSM Diploma, ABRSM

Music Direction diplomas are designed to reflect your day-to-day experience as a director, whether amateur or professional, and balance the demands of the repertoire against the musical, technical and interpersonal skills needed by successful directors. Candidates will need to provide evidence of Grade 8 (ABRSM) or approved substitute, and of having passed either the DipABRSM, *abcd* Intermediate/Progressive Course or other approved substitute (these include appropriate professional experience).

See <http://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/> for a full list.

Find us on social media [@abcdtweets](#)  [ABCD: Association of British Choral Directors](#)

www.abcd.org.uk

Want to know more? Here are some of our common FAQs

Why do you ask applicants to submit video footage?

We want to see you in action! It helps us decide whether this course is the right fit for you. Your video footage should be around 10 minutes long and taken from a rehearsal, not a performance. We need to see your whole self, preferably from the central viewpoint, without singers or music stands obstructing the view.

Do I have to have taken any of your other courses, or be a member?

No! You are free to apply to our training programme at any level – we assess each application individually and place people on the course we think would be the best fit for them. You also don't have to be a member, although we are offering membership as part of the course for non-members who book.

Do I need to have my own choir?

Yes – at this level you must have a choir you conduct on a regular basis.

Do I need to have any other qualifications before applying for this course?

As this course can be used to work towards the LRSM/FRSM, we would anticipate participants having passed the DipABRSM, have a music degree or similar qualification, however, we also assess applicants on their video footage and previous professional experience.

Can I pay for the course in instalments?

Absolutely – we don't have the facility to do that through our website at the moment, but we can provide invoices spread across a timescale that suits you.

How many people are on a course?

A maximum of 10 people are accepted onto each course.

Is there a choir?

A choir is provided during the afternoons of each course session except for the final session, when the choir is available for the entire weekend.

How much individual conducting time will I get?

Each participant has the opportunity to conduct twice at each session, for a total of approximately 30 minutes per day.

What happens if I can't make a session?

If you can't make one of the sessions, we are able to accommodate this and bring you up to speed ready for the next session. You'll also get video footage from the day you miss. For obvious reasons, we advise that you don't miss the first weekend or the final day.

What's in the video footage from the course sessions?

We now record all teaching sessions as well as individual podium time, which we share via an unlisted YouTube playlist. This means that only those with the link can see the videos, protecting your privacy – though we do like to share video footage across the course group. It's fine if you would prefer to keep your videos private, just let us know.

What is included in the course cost? Will I have to buy music?

We anticipate that all participants will have a copy of European Sacred Music. As the course progresses participants will be invited to bring their own choice of repertoire, and will need to be able to provide copies for all singers (30 – 40 copies).

If I drop out, can I transfer to another course in the future?

Course sessions are deliberately spaced to provide the best learning experience. For that reason, if you drop out part way through a course, we would ask you to start afresh on a new course if you wanted to complete your training. Members can transfer a portion of their fee onto a future course to offset the costs – find out more about membership here.

About *abcd*

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.