



**Association of British  
Choral Directors  
Midland Region**

## **Choir Matters and Singing Afternoon**

**Sunday, 15th March 2020**

**Woodborough Village Hall,  
Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, near  
Nottingham NG14 6DX**

### **Choir Matters 10:00am-1:00pm**

Starting with a presentation from Bernie Bracha and Nadine Cooper, founders of *The Tuneless Choir*, the morning session is for choral leaders, members of their choirs and anyone interested in discussing choir related topics, looking at repertoire and warm-ups that work. Led by local **abcd** members.



### **Singing Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30pm**

**All singers are invited to sing:  
Music for Lent and Easter.**

Choruses by Handel (*Messiah*), Bach, Stainer (*Crucifixion*) and others led by **Peter Siepmann** and a repertoire session exploring pieces by local composers.



email: [midlands@abcd.org.uk](mailto:midlands@abcd.org.uk)

to reserve your places giving details of names and voice types.

Pay on arrival, cash or cheque

**abcd members for the whole day: £5**

**Non-members: £10**

**£5 morning only**

## Timetable for the day:

(timings approximate and subject to change)

- 10:00 Coffee and catch up  
10:15 Warm ups - led by *abcd* members  
10:30 *Tolerating the tuneless* presentation by Bernie Bracha and Nadine Cooper of *The Tuneless Choir* followed by Q&A.  
11:00 Discussion groups:  
a) Strengthening choir numbers  
b) Make them feel welcome  
11:50 Comfort break  
c) Dealing with conflict  
12:35 Richard Jefferies, Winston Churchill Fellow introduces "At least they're having fun", our next event on 30th May in Lichfield.  
1:00 Bring and Share Lunch  
2:00 Singing session led by Peter Siepmann.  
Music for Lent and Easter  
3:00 Tea Break  
3:15 Repertoire session led by *abcd* members and composers  
3:45 More Singing with Peter Siepmann  
4:30 Finish.



## How to find Woodborough Village Hall:

Woodborough lies North of Nottingham between the A614 and A6097.

**From the A614** take the B684, go through 1 set of traffic lights, turn L off a RH bend, signposted to Woodborough.

### **Woodborough is signposted off the A6097.**

Once in Woodborough at the Church, opposite The Four Bells Inn turn onto Lingwood Lane. The Village Hall is on your left immediately after the school.

Use NG14 6DX for satnav

Link to location map:  
<https://goo.gl/maps/RXwBPsdFfAftA7ZD9>

There is parking at the hall and on Lingwood Lane itself.

The hall has level access to all areas.

**Peter Siepmann** is a conductor, organist and teacher, and has been involved with Nottingham's musical life for over fifteen years.



He was educated at St Edward's School Oxford and the University of Nottingham (from which he holds both undergraduate and doctorate degrees), and since 2007 has been Organist and Director of Music at St Peter's Church Nottingham.

In September 2019, Peter became Director of Music of the Nottingham Bach Choir. As a conductor, accompanist and continuo player, he has performed many of the major works of the choral repertoire with choirs of all sizes, both on the concert stage and in a liturgical setting.

Alongside his work as a conductor and organist, Peter is an Examiner for ABRSM and an experienced teacher at Repton School, where he is currently Head of Academic Music.

Peter is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and a number of his organ pupils have gone on to cathedral and university scholarships.

## **Tolerating the Tuneless: the value of a truly entry-level choir**

Having spent 30 years in secondary education ABCD member **Bernie Bracha** left in 2012 to pursue her passion for community music. She currently leads two community choirs and two Tuneless Choirs and also sings with Mirabilé. Bernie continues to work in education as a leadership coach, supporting primary and secondary teachers in challenging schools throughout England.

After graduating in Chemical Engineering at Cambridge, **Nadine Cooper** worked in management consulting in London, business planning and project management at Boots Head Office. Since 2005 she has enjoyed learning from a wide range of different pursuits such as web design and interviewing applicants for the magistracy. Nadine was told at the age of 12 to "stop singing as you're spoiling it for everyone else" and longed for a forum in which she could sing like no one is listening.

Nadine and Bernie met by chance in 2015 and the following year launched the first Tuneless Choir for those who lack the ability, practice or confidence to sing in tune. Attendees were invited to "sing like no one is listening" in a completely non-judgemental environment. The choir struck a (possibly dissonant) chord with a large number of adults, many of whom had been told to stop singing or mime by others. In response to people enquiring how they could start up their own choirs, over 30 Tuneless Choirs now operate around the UK.