Back to Basics

June 20 2015

Longsands School, Longsands Lane, Preston, PR2 9PS

Led a choir for a while and want to refresh your basic skills? Been asked to take the reins at your school choir? Sung for years and want to know what it’s like to stand at the front? Or interested in leading a singing group and want to find out more?

Join us from 10am to 5pm on Saturday June 20th for a day exploring and refreshing the basics of singing leadership. abcd tutor Martin Cook will refresh and develop skills such as hand gestures, warm up exercises, communicating with singers and making rehearsals efficient and enjoyable.

Places are available for £35 abcd members and £40 non-members. Observers are also welcome, with places available for £15. Simply fill in and return this application form, either by post to Penny Homer, 37 Coningsby Court, Mitcham, CR4 2JT or email penny.homer@abcd.org.uk. Alternatively you can book online, just visit our website!

www.abcd.org.uk

Application Form – Back to Basics, Preston 2015

Name ____________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
Postcode _______________________________________________________________
Email _________________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone ________________________Preferred voice part______________________

Light refreshments will be offered on the day, but please bring your own lunch

Payment

• I enclose a cheque for £40/£35/£15  ☐
• Please send an invoice to the address given  ☐
• I wish to pay by Visa Debit or Credit card  ☐

Name as it appears on the card__________________________________________
Card number___________________________________________________________
Expiry Date__________________________ CV2__________________

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

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 enclose a cheque for/Please add £________ to my debit

The current annual subscription is £55 (individuals).

Cancellation

We regret that no refunds can be made unless the event is cancelled. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the advertised programme if circumstances dictate this.

Booking deadline: Friday 29th May 2015

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

The Association of British Choral Directors, Registered Charity Number 1085226, is a Company Limited by Guarantee number 3985838, registered in England & Wales.
Dr Martin Cook originally trained at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he studied piano and piano accompaniment. After graduating he emigrated to Canada where he worked, for four years as a school music specialist in Newfoundland. It was in this role that he was first noticed as a choral conductor and as a result went on to study choral conducting at Boston University. After returning to the UK he developed his career in teaching, his last post being as Director of Music at The Blue Coat School in Liverpool, but he maintained an active musical career beyond the classroom, both as a pianist and a conductor. His high school choirs toured regularly throughout Europe, performing in Venice, at San Marco, Vienna, at St Stephen’s and Votivkirke, Maastricht in the Basilica, Prague in St Nicholas’, and in the cathedrals of St Sebastian and Santander in Cantabria. For ten years he conducted the Chester Music Society Junior Choir and under his direction they twice reached the semi-finals in “The Sainsbury’s Choir of the Year Competition” and also received awards at the Montreux International Choral Festival and The Riva del Garda International Choral Festival. From 1997 – 2009 Martin was Musical Director of Sandbach Voices. Under his direction they performed many of the major choral works, including Handel’s Messiah, Bach’s B minor Mass, Brahms’ Requiem, Mendelssohn’s Elijah, Rossini’s Stabat Mater, Haydn’s Creation and a host of other works.

In 2009 Martin was offered an Assistantship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA in order to study for a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting. While there he assisted in the delivery of music theory courses, conducted the All Collegiate Choir and taught conducting to undergraduates. His dissertation is: “A Survey of The Sacred Choral and Orchestral works of Sir Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941). After completing his degree he worked in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as Director of Music Ministries at Christ Episcopal Church for a year, before returning to the UK. He returned in November 2013 and is now working as a freelance conductor and teacher of Piano, Organ and Voice. He presently conducts Shrewsbury Choral Society, St Helen’s Male Voices, Upton Heath Church of England Primary School Choir and Bunbury Parish Church Choir.

**Forthcoming abcd events**

**Singing Day with Paul Mealor**

May 23rd, St George’s School for Girls, Edinburgh

Join us for a day exploring the music of celebrated composer Paul Mealor. Repertoire will include *Wherever You Are, Sleep On, In Flanders Fields & My Song*.

Bring your own lunch; tea and coffee will be provided. 

Price: £15 abcd members, £20 non-members

**Behind the Music**

June 14th, Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead

A half-day workshop for anyone interested in the relationship between choir and conductor, led by Andrew Potter - former PRS Chair, Publishing Director at OUP and experienced chair and choral director.

It will look at the way choirs govern themselves, including the process of choosing and contracting a music director, as well as managing the relationship from the perspective of conductor and committee.

Price: £30 - any MD and committee member from the same choir can attend for a total of just £35.

**Come and Sing with John Rutter**

August 29th, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

An informal afternoon of singing with celebrated composer and conductor, John Rutter.

Explore John’s own music and a selection of his other favourite pieces.

Singers of all ages and experience are very welcome.

This event is part of abcd’s Annual Convention, taking place in Manchester over the weekend of 28 - 30 August. This is the foremost event for anyone leading singing in the UK, open to all.

Price: £10 (£5 students)

For more information about any of abcd’s events and courses, contact our Training Manager on penny.homer@abcd.org.uk or 07805 454563