Russell Scott Entertainment Limited
proudly presents

A festival for learning and making great music!
Launched in 2016, The UK Choir Festival is a festival aimed to support, train and bring choirs together in a beautiful setting where people can learn, develop and thrive.

Produced by Producer & Musical Director, Russell Scott, the festival is designed for choirs of all abilities, ages and style, no matter whether you are a local community choir, a cappella choir, school or university choir, gospel choir, choral society or barbershop choir.

The UK Choir festival is produced to give choirs the opportunity to be taught by some of the top workshop leaders in the UK.

The UK Choir Festival promises to be exciting, informative, collaborative and culminates each day in an opportunity for each choir to perform on stage.
2017 WORKSHOP LEADERS
meet the team

POLLY BENNETT
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER AND PRACTITIONER
Polly Bennett is a movement director, choreographer and practitioner working across the broadest applications of movement.

MARK DE LISSE
VOCAL COACH, CHORAL DIRECTOR & ARRANGER
Mark De-Lisser is one of the most sought after choral directors and arrangers in the industry.

KAREN GIBSON
CHOIR CONDUCTOR AND WORKSHOP LEADER
Karen Gibson, a full time choir conductor and workshop leader, is a powerhouse of inspiration and energy.

STUART OVERINGTON
CONDUCTOR, VOCAL ANIMATOR AND COMPOSER
Stuart Overington is an accomplished conductor, vocal animator and composer working between Manchester and London, UK.
DAVID LOWE
CLASSICAL MUSIC VOCAL SPECIALIST
David Lowe is a classical music vocal specialist having worked with some of the most renowned choirs in the world.

GREG BEARDSELL
MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND CHORAL LEADER
Greg Beardsell is a leading light in music education and performance.

ULA WEBER
CONDUCTOR, TEACHER TRAINER AND WORKSHOP LEADER
Ula is a leading conductor, teacher trainer and workshop leader, whose work has taken her around the UK and as far afield as Poland, Uganda, Ukraine, Thailand, China and New Zealand.

BAZIL MEADE
FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL OF THE LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR
Bazil Meade has been working in the music industry for over 2 decades. He is the founder and principal of the World famous ‘London Community Gospel Choir’.

JOANNA L’ESTRANGE
EX-SWINGLE MD AND JAZZ VOCALIST
Joanna Forbes L’Estrange is a professional soprano and jazz vocalist whose stylistic versatility and consummate musicianship has resulted.

JOANNA TOMLINSON
PROFESSIONAL SINGER & CHORAL DIRECTOR
Joanna Tomlinson is a conductor, singer and vocal trainer who trained at the Royal College of Music.

RUSSELL SCOTT
PRODUCER, PERFORMANCE COACH & MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Russell Scott has been in the industry, professionally, for over 35yrs working in the worlds of Classical and Musical Theatre.

PETE CHURCHILL
EDUCATOR & CHORAL DIRECTOR
Pete Churchill has been working as a composer, pianist, singer and teacher for over two decades.

BEN SAWYER
TRAINER & CHORAL DIRECTOR
Ben Sawyer is quickly gaining an enviable reputation as a dynamic conductor and choir trainer, always able to draw the best from his singers.
EXPERIENCE
what will it be like

Whether you decide to attend one day or the whole weekend, The UK Choir Festival will be a fun, informative and exciting weekend of music-making.

Each day will begin with a warm-up by one of our expert leaders, followed by a series of workshops on various elements of singing.

It will involve practical and method teaching, and everyone will be involved. There will be mass choral singing, demonstrations, and each day, choirs will be given the opportunity to take part in a final performance.

The festival is non-competitive, but very much 'hands-on' for everyone to watch and learn from each other whilst being guided and developed by some of the best workshop leaders in the UK.

There will be opportunities to busk, make new friends and talk to the workshop leaders, as well as learn new techniques, brush up on performance, and hear about tips and tricks to help you be the very best you can be.

The UK Choir Festival is unique, and in 2017 is returning to the beautiful city of St. Albans in Hertfordshire. We are also expanding with added dates in Manchester!

Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity of learning from the very best and being part of some incredible music making.
2017 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE
in Manchester & St. Albans

Workshop leaders and timetable subject to change.
8:45
Doors Open

09:00
Registration

09:30
Welcome / Introduction

09:45 - 10:15
Day 1 – Session 1: The Warm Up
Each day begins with an energised and focused warm up session presented by one of our workshop leaders.

10:15 - 11:05
Day 1 – Session 2 with David Lowe
Conquering the Mysteries of Vocal Technique

11:05 - 11:30
Morning Break

11:30 - 12:20
Day 1 – Session 3 with Bazil Meade
The Gospel Workshop

12:20 - 13:20
Lunch Break

13:20 - 14:10
Day 1 – Session 4 with Ula Weber
You Can Sing in Polish!

14:10 - 14:20
Afternoon Break

14:20 - 15:10
Day 1 – Session 5 with Russell Scott
The Art of ‘Choral’ Performance

15:10 - 16:00
Performance Rehearsal

16:00 - 17:30
Performance Session
The day concludes with performances by all choirs wishing to take the opportunity of performing on stage in front of our leaders, choirs and invited guests.

17:45 - 19:00
Close / Platinum Session
Manchester - Day Two Sun 9th July 2017
The Main Hall

8:45
Doors Open

9:00
Registration

9:30
Welcome / Introduction

09:45 - 10:15
Day 2 – Session 1: The Warm Up
Each day begins with an energised and focused warm up session presented by one of our workshop leaders.

10:15 - 11:05
Day 2 – Session 2 with Joanna Tomlinson
It’s All About the Breath!

11:05 - 11:30
Morning Break

11:30 - 12:20
Day 2 – Session 3 with Mark De Lisser
Connect To Effect

12:20 - 13:20
Lunch Break

13:20 - 14:10
Day 2 – Session 4 with Stuart Overington
Varied Voices

14:10 - 14:20
Afternoon Break

14:20 - 15:10
Day 2 – Session 5 with Polly Bennett
The Movement Workshop - Move Your Music (Lycra Not Included!)

15:10 - 16:00
Performance Rehearsal

16:00 - 17:30
Performance Session
The day concludes with performances by all choirs wishing to take the opportunity of performing on stage in front of our leaders, choirs and invited guests.

17:45 - 19:00
Close / Platinum Session
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| 10:15 - 11:05 | Day 1 – Session 2 with Greg Beardsell  
  Pitch and Putt |
| 11:05 - 11:30 | Morning Break |
| 11:30 - 12:20 | Day 1 – Session 3 with Karen Gibson  
  The Gospel Workshop |
| 12:20 - 13:20 | Lunch Break |
| 13:20 - 14:10 | Day 1 – Session 4 with Ben Sawyer  
  Blend and Balance |
| 14:10 - 14:20 | Afternoon Break |
| 14:20 - 15:10 | Day 1 – Session 5 with Mark De Lisser  
  Connect To Effect |
| 15:10 - 16:00 | Performance Rehearsal |
| 16:00-17:30 | Performance Session  
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There are 3 options for choirs to choose from. Prices are per person, per day.

**SILVER**
- £29
- Full admission
- Access to all workshops
- Unreserved seating
- Opportunity to perform in final showcase
- Performance feedback
- Complimentary Festival Programme

**GOLD**
- £34
- Full admission
- Access to all workshops
- Reserved seating
- Guaranteed seating in the front section of the raised tier
- Opportunity to perform in final showcase
- Performance feedback
- Complimentary Festival Programme

**PLATINUM**
- £39
- Full admission
- Access to all workshops
- Reserved seating
- Guaranteed seating in the front section of the raised tier
- Opportunity to perform in final showcase
- Performance feedback
- 1-2-1 Feedback and Q & A session with workshop leaders
- Complimentary Festival Programme

Limited number of Gold & Platinum tickets available.

All prices are per person per day and are inclusive of VAT.

Bookings are non-refundable, non-transferable and non-exchangeable unless the event is cancelled. Terms and conditions apply.
Choir Director Mastermind Session
(SATURDAYS ONLY)

In addition to the festival workshops which are open to all choir members, we are delighted to offer Chorus Directors and Choir officials the opportunity to attend an extra session at the end of the festival day at 17:45.

The Choir Director Mastermind Session is sponsored by Total Choir Resources, and headed up by Victoria Hopkins & Christine Mulgrew. The session is aimed at answering all types of questions for discussion including choir politics, running a choir, legal matters, repertoire, producing concerts, promotion, arranging choir socials, dealing with personalities, and literally anything related to running a choir.

It will take the format of a structured, but informal, brainstorming session, sharing ideas and thoughts about running a choir, and gaining from a wealth of knowledge from the workshop leaders.

Tickets for this extra 75min session are just £12 each and can be added to your basket at the time of checkout.

The session will run concurrently with the Platinum sessions, so if your choir is booked for a Platinum session, your choral director (and any additional choir officials) will be able to drop in and out of the mastermind session as necessary.

A maximum of 4 tickets may be purchased by each choir for this event.
REGISTER NOW
book now to reserve your places

To process your booking, you will need to confirm how many tickets you require.

Tickets must be purchased by the Choir as a whole.

Tickets are not available on an individual basis. (Additional tickets may be purchased later).

Please have your bank or credit card details ready to complete your booking.

Please ensure you have read the Terms of Booking and the FAQ section before proceeding.

To book proceed to:
ukchoirfestival.com
Can I buy tickets at the door?
No - all tickets must be purchased in advance of the festival via the website.

How do I purchase additional tickets?
Upon receipt of your initial booking, you will receive a coupon code to use when buying further tickets - this permits ticket quantities of any amount including single tickets.

Can I purchase individual tickets?
Tickets are only available to choirs, thus we have a minimum order of 4 tickets. Tickets are not available to individuals. For choirs attending, upon receipt of your initial booking, you will receive a coupon code to use when buying further tickets - this permits ticket quantities of any amount including single tickets.

Can we have copies of any music or lyrics in advance?
Any/all music and lyrics needed for the workshops will be published in the complimentary festival programme provided to you upon arrival. We are unable to forward these to you ahead of the festival.

Our accompanist is not available, are you able to help us with an accompanist?
We may be able to ask one of the other choirs’ accompanists to play for your choir. Please contact us at your earliest convenience with your requirement and we will do everything possible to help.

Can we bring instruments with us?
Instruments requiring amplification or power are not permitted. Acoustic instruments are permitted. There will be a small storage area available for those bringing instruments, as instruments cannot be kept with their owners due to space restrictions in the theatre - Storage facilities are provided at the owner’s own risk. We also provide a Grand piano for those wishing to have piano accompaniment. Choirs must bring their own accompanist (who must have a valid ticket for the event). Choirs may also opt to perform a cappella.

Can we have a pianist, do they need a ticket for the festival?
Yes, all those attending need a ticket, no matter their capacity or what time they arrive.

How long will my choir get to perform for?
Depending on the numbers of choirs performing, each choir will have the opportunity of performing for up to 10 minutes. This can be a cappella or with piano (a grand piano is available for use at the venue). Backing tracks are not permitted. Choirs will be notified of exactly how long their allocated slot will be nearer to the time of the festival.

Do we have to read music?
There is no requirement to read music as part of the festival.

Can I reserve my places and pay later?
Due to high demands for the festival, full payment must be made at the time of booking. We cannot hold or reserve tickets.

Will our performance be publicly critiqued?
The UK Choir Festival is non-competitive, however, there is wonderful opportunity to receive some feedback by our expert panel of workshop leaders who will make notes on your performance. These will be forwarded to each choir confidentially after the festival. You will receive invaluable notes and opinion as well as suggestions for improvement and development to help you in the future.

Can I buy tickets in different price bands?
All tickets must be in the same price band for each day purchased.

How many choirs will be taking part?
We expect around 20 choirs to be taking part each day of the festival, but numbers are dependent on group sizes and seating capacity.

Can a choir be paid to perform at the festival?
The festival is not a concert for professional choirs. We do not pay choirs to perform. The UK Choir Festival is a series of amazing workshops and gives choirs an opportunity to learn from the very best workshop leaders and perform alongside other choirs.

Is the festival suitable for all ages?
The UK Choir Festival has an open to all policy to encourage diversity, opportunity and equality. Both children and adult choirs are permitted to attend. However, all attendees are the responsibility of the choir, and for choirs whose attendees are under the age of 18, must ensure chaperones are in attendance as required under UK law. It is also important to state that inappropriate behaviour of any kind will not be tolerated. The management have the right to refuse admission or remove attendees in the event of any behaviour it feels is inappropriate. No exchange or refunds will be given. Choirs should ensure the festival is suitable for their attendees and understand the format and expectations thereof.

How does the seating work?
The festival is not a concert for professional choirs. We do not pay choirs to perform. The UK Choir Festival is a series of amazing workshops and gives choirs an opportunity to learn from the very best workshop leaders and perform alongside other choirs. No matter where your choir is from, you are welcome.

What about parking?
There is plenty of parking available in and around the venue complexes. There is also room for coaches to drop off and pickup. There are however, no parking facilities available for coaches.

Can we buy tickets for the Chorus Director Mastermind Session separately?
Tickets for the session should be purchased at the time of booking your choir’s tickets. However, should you book your tickets and then later decide you’d like to purchase them, please Contact Us.

Can we bring guests to the festival?
The festival is strictly for choirs only and is not available to the general public.
ACCOMODATION

We are proud to have partnered up with two amazing hotels close to the festival venues.

Upon receipt of your booking you will receive an exclusive festival discount coupon to use if you require accommodation.
FESTIVAL SPONSORS
thank you

Vocalzone are proud to be sponsoring the UK Choir Festival for their second year.

Vocalzone is a medically licensed pastille for the over-use of the voice. It was first developed in 1912 by William Lloyd, a leading nose and throat surgeon, for the Great Enrico Caruso. Vocalzone has since been used by some of the world’s top performers, including Sir Tom Jones, Frank Sinatra, and Rihanna. The three main ingredients in Vocalzone are essential oils. Myrrh tincture, menthol, and peppermint oil. The myrrh acts as a natural anti-inflammatory reducing swelling of the vocal chords and therefore reducing irritation, whilst the menthol and peppermint help clear the airways.

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