



National Centre for Folk Arts

Vocal Workshop Week

With Maddy prior, Rose-Ellen Kemp, Christina Shewell

Mon 8 – Fri 12 July 2019

Dear Song Week Participants,

Maddy, Christina and I are very much looking forward to meeting you all and hearing your wonderful voices raised in song! We have prepared a timetable for your perusal (attached), which culminates in an informal concert on Thursday evening when we'll share the songs we've been working on.

There are a number of songs we'll be focussing on which we'd like you to familiarise yourself with in advance; we've provided sheet music and audio files below.

The songs to focus on are:

-NIGHTVISITING

-GRAFTON

-SAO ROMA

-(the others in the soundcloud playlist only if you get chance)

You can find scores to download by clicking this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5wikfh1yjxh7gq/AABhzZXyAtFPNvVMf9Y6Mb5ra?dl=0>

You can find the SoundCloud audio file here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-611050447/sets/halsway-manor-2019-vocal-workshop-week>

We will also learn a few very simple songs at Halsway together; these will be taught by ear with sheet music available for those who want it.

We hope that there is a wide enough range of material for everyone to enjoy something. We have tried to select songs which have a reasonably traditional SATB range so everyone will be able to find a part in their pitch range. Please though if you do have any comments/feedback/questions please do come to one of us straight away and don't wait until the end of the week!

Questionnaire: It would really help us if you could...

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PRE-COURSE QUESTIONNAIRE (BELOW) AND SEND IT AS A WORD DOC OR IN THE EMAIL BODY TO rose-ellen@stonesbarn.co.uk

1. Name
2. Singing range or gender
3. Age
4. Tell us something you like about your voice...
5. Tell us two things you want to improve about your voice/singing...
6. Is there anything specific about vocal technique you would like us to try and include in the course?
7. Do you have any comments about your spoken voice, and how it works for you in your ordinary life?
8. Have you had any singing or spoken voice training?
9. What would you like to get out of the course?

Thank you!

To give you more idea what we will be up to, the learning outcomes are as follows:

- To participate in a group singing week which will contribute to social wellbeing
- To learn or refresh knowledge of vocal anatomy and physiology
- To learn or refresh knowledge of vocal hygiene (how to care for the vocal tract)
- To learn some techniques to prepare the body and voice for singing ('warm-up')
- To experiment with connecting with the voice, using both body and voice exercises and games
- To see identify and practically explore examples of common voice issues regarding; tone, breath control, posture, power etc.
- To have an introduction to the teachings of the Complete Vocal Institute (Denmark) who are on the cutting edge of vocal science and teaching technique
- To learn and/or refresh knowledge of a few choice accapella pieces
- To have had the opportunity to share questions and ideas with three 'professional voicers', and – equally important – with each other
- To have had an individual 1:1 session within a small group with one of the three tutors

Some background to the songs and arrangements:

Grafton

From the Sacred Harp tradition of religious singing in north America. Sometimes known as Shape Note. Both original shape note manuscript and more recognisable sheet music is provided. This is in 4 parts, traditionally sung accapella in large groups and with great vigour! We have recorded each part (SAT and B) in 2 sections each as they are quite long. The low parts may be sung a female octave above. You are welcome to sing any part in any octave; we are not precious about octaves! It is slightly slower on the recording because there are one or two unexpected notes to listen out for.

Sao Roma

A traditions Romani Gypsy song. There is a tempo shift (speeds up a little) after the first section (there are three distinct selections, all sections are repeated ie. AABBC). Rolled 'r' is ideal and emotive vocal breaks are good too (more info on that later!)

Deep Harmony

This beautiful song comes from the English pub carol singing tradition based around Derbyshire. These are also known as Village Carols. Village Carols more often than not only had 2 parts which were 'set'. These were usually a melody and a bass part. Other than these two parts, the crowd in the pub would do as they pleased and there would usually be some instrumentation to accompany.

Nightvisiting

This song was written by Maddy and arranged by Maddy, Rose-Ellen and Abbie Lathe and has no distinct SATB format. Please just pick the part which works best for your range and/or sing a higher or lower octave wherever you feel it necessary. The song is a modern homage to the madrigal and requires great accuracy of phrasing and timing.

Reclaimed

This song was written by Rose-Ellen in 3 parts for 3+ voices. It was written in support of and as healing for women/people who are LGBTQ who face violence and abuse in their everyday lives. It has an underlying 6/8 feel although it is 4/4. It should keep a constant tempo.

There will be a feedback form to ask you after the course if we have covered these outcomes because everyone loves paperwork!

See you all at beautiful Halsway Manor very soon,

Warmest wishes - Rose-Ellen, Maddy and Christina xxx