

Teaching Young Voices

Three-day course for voice/singing teachers working with children and adolescents

Teaching the developing voice is a relatively under-researched area. This three-day course will look at the growth and development of the singing mechanism from birth to adult. What we learn from this can then inform our expectations of the voice at all stages of development. The session will include recordings of boys and girls at all stages of adolescence with simple ways to assess them.

This course will give you a firm foundation in the development of children's voices, what they are capable of at each stage and the issues encountered during puberty. If you are a singing teacher, a choral director, a classroom music teacher or a Musical Theatre MD – this is what you need to know. The content is based on research evidence and a lifetime of experience in the field; it is not a teaching method, you will be given the tools to devise your own teaching strategies.

Day 1

Why teach singing to children?

Recent educational research looking at learning and aptitude

The benefits of singing for achievement and well being

Foundations in vocal anatomy

Basic structure and function of the voice

Challenging assumptions in singing teaching

Choosing our language

Development from birth to 6yrs

Early musical experiences

Musical play

Vocal abilities and suitable repertoire

Day 2

Singing for ages 7-11

Vocal development

Musical development including singing in tune

Relationship between parents, student and the teacher

The role of hormones in vocal development of teenagers

Adolescent girls

Common issues like breathiness in the voice

Repertoire choices

Adolescent boys

Recognising the stages of voice change

How to keep singing though these changes

Common challenges such as working with a limited range or choosing whether to use falsetto

Less common issues such as puberphonia

Finding repertoire that fits

Day 3

Structuring lessons and practice

Warm-ups: what to do and in which order

Crossing genres: pop and musical theatre techniques

Dealing with fear – memorising music and performance anxiety

Teaching students with different learning needs, for example: dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, visually impaired

Child protection issues

Vocal health

Here's some of the feedback:

“Fabulous course!!”

“Really enjoyed it – best music course I have attended. Will be recommending it to singing teachers in Ireland”

“I very much enjoyed the whole course: it reminded me of things which had slipped my mind, confirmed I do know quite a lot, but ensured that I want to keep up to date with research and scientific discoveries, so that I can continue to try and give my pupils the best possible advice and care. Thank you very much for your help and knowledge.”

“Lots included and a through explanation for each subject, I just want to know more. Very inspiring and has sparked my interest in other areas.”

“Amazing course so useful, lovely people and makes me excited for more courses in the future.”

” It's really opened my ears to the way I listen to singers, and certainly changed the way I teach my choir.” “Very well structured and fantastic amount of content covered.”

“I thought the sessions were extremely well-structured”

“Course was perfect for me and exactly what I was looking for in terms of both content and delivery”

“I loved every minute of the course. My mind never wandered – a miracle! Every bit of the course was relevant to me and very interesting.”

“Definitely inspired me to explore certain areas further!”

“Content was fantastic and I learnt from other delegates too.”

“I love the style of teaching, it really suited my needs and interests. I think Jenevora is wonderful!”