

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.

If you wish to complete the certificate there will be assignments to complete in the following months, with as much tutorial support as you need via skype, phone or email.

This course addresses key questions, for example:
For how long should a boy continue to sing treble?
What repertoire is suitable for young voices?
Why can girls' voices become breathy?
How easy is it to damage young voices?

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

This is a very popular course; it has sold out every time so far. Over 90 teachers have now studied Teaching Young Voices and they have loved it.

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 thorough 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!"