



The BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy 2017

The BBC Proms Youth Choir is recruiting young people aged 16-21 from all musical backgrounds to perform at the BBC Proms 2017



About the BBC Proms Youth Choir

The BBC Proms Youth Choir began in 2012, and offers young singers the opportunity to perform at the world's greatest classical music festival, the BBC Proms, while developing their choral skills during a four-day residency in Birmingham led by choral director Simon Halsey.

This year we are inviting 36 members of the newly launched Proms Youth Choir Academy to join the Proms Youth Choir and perform at the BBC Proms 2017.

About the BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy

The BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy aims to find undiscovered voices from all musical backgrounds and develop them in a choral setting. The Academy offers young singers the chance to develop their voice, explore classical choral singing and technique and work alongside professional classical singers.

Through a series of workshop sessions with choral conductor Grace Rossiter, conductor David Lawrence and four members of the BBC Singers (the BBC's full-time professional choir), singers in the Academy will learn about singing in a choir and develop vocal technique while working towards their performance at the BBC Proms. The structure of the Academy programme will be designed to best support singers, starting from the basics of classical choral technique, developing as a team in a supportive and friendly environment. Although helpful, singers do not need to be able to read music to be part of the Academy, but they should have a good musical ear. Singers will be taught the music as suits the needs of the group (both learning the music by ear and using scores), and we will provide audio tools for singers to practice their part at home.

In 2017, the PYC Academy is being held in London and is inviting applications from young people based in London and the South East. We aim to expand this to other areas after this first year.

What are we looking for?

The Proms Youth Choir Academy is for young people aged 16 to 21 (Year 12 and above). We are looking for people who have:

- A love of singing
- A voice with potential

- Enthusiasm and willingness to learn and develop in a choral setting, as part of a team
- Commitment to take part in all Academy sessions and learn the piece

If this sounds like you then we'd love to hear from you!

We especially encourage you to apply if you have little or no experience of singing in a group. You might not have sung in a choir before or not for some time, or perhaps you enjoy singing in a community or church group that doesn't require you to read music.

Dates

We anticipate that workshop sessions will be scheduled twice a month (one Thursday evening and one Saturday afternoon) between January and the residency, with some flexibility if needed around June exam time. You must also be able to attend the following dates:

3 December 2016	Workshop and selection day, Paddington Academy
January to July 2017	One Thursday (18.00 – 21.00) and one Saturday (13.00 – 17.00) per month
10-14 July 2017	BBC Proms Youth Choir residency

It's free to take part in the Academy. The BBC Proms will cover the cost of reasonable travel expenses for singers to attend sessions in London and the residency in Birmingham. Accommodation during the Birmingham residency will be organised by the BBC Proms. If you need further financial assistance to take part in the PYC Academy, please contact Garth at the BBC Proms team directly.

How can you apply?

Please fill in the attached application form and send to getinvolved@bbc.co.uk with 'BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy' in the subject line by Monday 14 November 2016.

Applications will be considered by the BBC Proms and BBC Singers teams and selected applicants will be invited to a free workshop and selection day on Saturday 3 December 2016. The day will offer you the chance to meet the team and each other and have a go at singing as a group in a fun, informal and friendly setting.

Throughout the day we will be looking for people who we think are ideally suited to the Academy and will be selecting 36 young singers to join the Academy. The aim of the day will be to offer everyone a fun and accessible introduction to choral singing, regardless of whether they are then offered a place in the Academy. We will then be in touch with you to let you know if you have been offered a place by Friday 9 December.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or would like any more information, please contact Garth McArthur, Learning Manager, BBC Proms and London Performing Groups, by email on garth.mcarthur@bbc.co.uk or call 07764 336243.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Best wishes,

Garth McArthur (Learning Manager, BBC Proms and London Performing Groups) and Catherine Humphrey (Learning Administrator, BBC Proms and London Performing Groups).