



The BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy 2017



About the BBC Proms Youth Choir

The BBC Proms Youth Choir, established in 2012, offers talented youth choirs 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 international Chorus Master Simon Halsey.

This year we are inviting existing youth choirs across the UK to take part in the BBC Proms Youth Choir 2017 alongside 36 singers from the BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy. The group will then perform at the BBC Proms 2017.

About the BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy

The newly launched 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 and amateur 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 in preparation for the BBC Proms Youth Choir residency and performance at the BBC Proms. 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. 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.

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 to regional hubs after this first pilot year.

Who is the BBC Proms Youth Choir Academy for?

The Academy is for young people aged 16 to 21 (Year 12 and above) who can demonstrate:

- 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

We are particularly keen to involve young people who:

- Have little or no experience of singing in a group in a choral context – they might not have sung in a choir before or not for some time, or perhaps they enjoy singing in a community or church group that doesn't require them to read music
- Come from different musical backgrounds who will work together as part of a diverse new youth choir

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. All singers 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. Any singers needing further financial assistance are encouraged to contact Garth at the BBC Proms team directly.

How can young singers apply?

Please pass on the attached application form and project outline to any young people who you think would be suitable for the opportunity and would benefit from being involved.

To apply, singers should complete 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 applicants 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.

After 3 December, the selection panel will decide who to offer a place to based on their application form and their performance on the day. We will be in touch with young people directly by Friday 9 December to confirm whether they have been offered a place.

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.

Best wishes,

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