



# Main Course

2nd - 4th Aug

A modular three day haven for any vocal leader to share, learn, develop and reinvigorate their skills; workshopping with the best UK vocal directors and networking among other choir/vocal ensemble leaders.



**MD (Musical Director)** = Choral Conductor; Show/band pit MD; Animateur; Choir Leader; Vocal Ensemble Leader; Vocalist with a choir attached; Person who got pushed into leading their school/Sunday school/organisation or work place singing group and now feels they can't get out.

**Brunch** = a meal that has all the qualities of being chilled out and so cool people don't even have to pretend to decide which meal they're having. A level or freedom of mind that is mostly always missing from MDs.

## What is MD brunch?

MDs are a lonely breed; which is odd considering they are often surrounded by reasonably large numbers of people very attentive to their every action. Odd too because MDs seem to both love people and thrive on energy in general. Everyone is short on time, but MDs make an art of saying yes to too much, giving their lives to ensure music is happening in other peoples and ultimately run the risk of becoming stuck in their own rhythm simply by not having the opportunity or feeling free to prioritise growing/changing/developing. Most MDs also don't have a mentor or belong to a structure so have neither the potential for upstream guidance/training or even peer review.

***MD Brunch seeks to foster a space where vocal leaders of all styles find a safe and welcome space to interact with their peers rather than the usual sense of caring responsibility and trusted leadership we all have in our choir situations through:***

- ***bringing MDs together*** creating a community of like-minded and supportive musicians
- ***helping MDs to gain and develop skills***, to inspire each other to consistently explore music
- ***providing tangible time-saving and pressure-reducing tools*** like targeted expert teaching in compact sessions, repertoire advice through experienced peers, reliable broader network of dep cover and contacts/resources exchange.



### ***A little bit more about the menu:***

**10.30-11am** each day we'll start with some coffee, pastries, networking and vaguely themed story sharing.

**11-2pm** each day we will explore both how we use our warm-ups and prepare the material for rehearsal: various focuses, how we can utilise the music our rehearsals and through purposeful planning ensure our warm-ups target and support the music of our session. On Saturday, we'll apply the thinking to learning a ridiculous number of them from each other at high speed!

**DISCUSSION LUNCHEs:** There are nice big windows between the sessions that will allow for further in-depth discussion and exploration over meals of the topics of the day or simply things we need hive mind solutions for.

# Itinerary

## Thur 2nd Aug

- 10.30 Coffee and Banter
- 11.00 - 14.00 The warm-up: vocal technique and engagement
- 15.30 - 18.30 Teaching techniques and approaches: Efficient Rehearsing, Fix Tricks, Gesture and Choral Practice
- 19.30 - 21.30 Choir Session 1; Varied pedagogies for various repertoire (open to everyone's choir members so we practice our techniques from the day)

## Fri 3rd Aug

- 10.30 Coffee and Wish Lists
- 11.00 - 14.00 The warm-up: breathing and posture
- 15.30 - 18.30 Teaching techniques & approaches: Workshop Skills & CME Pedagogy
- 19.30 - 21.30 Choir Session 1; Varied pedagogies for various repertoire (open to everyone's choir members so we practice our techniques from the day)

## Sat 4th Aug

- 10.30 Coffee and Hilarious Gig Stories
- 11.00 - 14.00 The warm-up challenge: I dare you NOT to laugh whilst learning 30 warm-ups
- 15.30 - 18.30 Wait, HOW Does My Voice Work???
- 19.00 Top Secret Flashmob: details nearer time but we wrap 7.30 ish.  
Pub by 8pm!

### *3.30-6.30pm Featured Workshops teaching techniques and approaches on:*

#### *Thur 2nd Aug*

##### **Efficient Rehearsing, Fix Tricks, Gesture and Ensemble Practice** (Dominic)

Sometimes we just need to teach quickly. But still do it well. Can we? Are we good at efficiently using best practice? Just watch Dom, he'll show you how.

#### *Fri 3rd Aug*

##### **Workshop Skills & CME Pedagogy** (Jane)

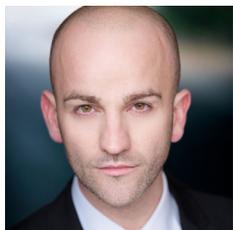
What's the difference between teaching a session and leading a workshop? Do we have the creative tools to facilitate this? Risk, Trust and discovering how to bend the skills we already have to achieve these.

#### *Sat 4th Aug*

##### **Wait, HOW Does My Voice Work???** (Jenevora)

After a workshop on the anatomy of the voice dispelling myths we will actually watch one-to-one sessions with singers with damaged voices training us to understand bad flags and how to signpost our singers to better vocal health.

**And who are these amazing people we get to work with? (full bios on FB event page)**



### **Dominic Ellis-Peckham**

Dominic Ellis-Peckham will headline this first gathering. And if you haven't been hit by lightning yet, don't worry, he'll make up for that. His astounding energy is absolutely equal to his exceptional musical skills and passion for teaching music to others. Working amongst the most acclaimed UK institutions Dom is vastly experienced at dealing with any musical problem.



### **Jane Wheeler**

Jane Wheeler is recognised as one of the leading youth workshop facilitators in the UK. So much so that there is no national level music education organisation that she has not led large scale projects for and is now working globally to bring together and train the best of these musicianship skills. Finding a way to respectfully engage disenfranchised youth, displaced youth or even hard-nosed music leaders, Jane is an unlimited well of musical ideas and energy, with a creativity and playfulness that can inspire everyone.



### **Dr Jenevovra Williams**

Dr Jenevovra Williams is the UK's foremost vocal researcher with the ability to communicate difficult awareness issues in exceptionally practical and accessible ways. Truly understanding the mechanics of the vocal apparatus coupled with the needs of singers of all ages herself an accomplished performer, Jenevovra can demonstrate how to engage complex technical needs to achieve true musicianship.

## **Registering your place**

Head over to **[mdbrunch2018.eventbrite.com](http://mdbrunch2018.eventbrite.com)** to reserve your place!

#### **Leaders**

- Three days £120
- Two days £100
- Day rate £60

#### **Choir Rates**

- Thur & Fri £30
- Day rate £15

Venue: St George's Church, 28 Aubrey Walk, Kensington, London, W8 7JG

Enquiries: [mdbrunchuk@gmail.com](mailto:mdbrunchuk@gmail.com) / 07731 573 579

Full itinerary and further info: Search for **MD Brunch Main Course** on Facebook.