

# BEESTON BIG SINGS

## WORKSHOP & BOOKING INFO...

\*\*\*When you book, please choose 1 workshop for the AM session and a different one for the PM session!\*\*\*

#### Workshop ratings....to give you an idea what to expect!

1 = Suitable for anyone - no need to read music. No experience of singing in groups necessary.
 2 = Ability to read music would be helpful. Experience singing in parts also preferable.

# Workshop 1 - 'Singing for the Soul 2' - Earthy Folk with Ursa Major

Blurb - After a hugely successful debut at the first Beeston Big Sing, Ursa Major is thrilled to be back with you! This beautiful workshop offers more of the same soulful vibes you loved, with a whole new set of songs. Prepare to connect with an eclectic mix of singing and choral techniques, infused with groovy, earthy rhythms that will nourish your soul and leave you feeling inspired and grounded.

Rating - 1

**Bio** - Ursa Major is a group of five versatile professional singers and musicians formed in 2018 with a heart for community and well-being. Highly sought after for their performances and dynamic workshops across the East Midlands, they're excited to share this new experience with you.





### Workshop 2 - 'Doo-wop' A cappella - Simon Thompson



Blurb - In my head, I am an a cappella version of an Everly brother, a Beatle, or Art Garfunkel. I'm not quite as 'modern!', I'm more a Frankie Lymon, A 5 Satin or a Spaniel – music of the 50's- or even an Ink spot from the 30's! I really enjoy the sound of close harmony, which is melodic, rhythmic, romantic and leaves room for a bit of improvisation and humour....via the 'Doo-wap' era! We'll sing a cappella in parts – melody, higher and lower – or SATB – and you can use lyrics or learn by ear. We'll sing 'Goodnight, Sweetheart' (1953-The Spaniels) and 'In the still of the night' (1956 The 5 Satins) and generally come away singing 'Woo-oh-oh-oh-oh!'

#### Rating - 1

**Bio** - I've been a choirboy, a musical theatre type, a primary school teacher and now for the last 42 years, a geezer at the front of a choir, waving my arms about and cracking a few jokes. Fortunately, the singers know what they are doing! I'm lucky to be a part of some wonderful local groups, with excellent singers and instrumentalists. I have worked for many years with choirs in many different settings and contexts at home and abroad. In addition to the larger choir concerts, I sing in small groups at the Nottinghamshire Hospice, Hayward House, Hope House, Care Homes and Memory Cafes. In this workshop, I am representing my 'boy band', 'Oldish Spice' and one or two may pop in to join us!

#### Workshop 3 - 'Kiss from a Rose' - Em Bish

Blurb - This nineties power ballad is filled full of juicy harmonies, strong melodic lines and fabulous lyrics. 'Kiss from a Rose' was written in 1987 by Seal, but he threw the tape recording into a corner thinking the song was rubbish!! It got shared by the record company and shown to some film producers and they put Seal on the map. The song has been used on the soundtrack to Batman and Never ending Story III! It is also a song that has followed us through the decades and has become a go to track when you want a feel good Pop ballad with a touch of dramatic tension. If you want to explore singing 'Kiss from a Rose', then you'd be very welcome!

Rating - 1

Bio - I'm a secondary Music teacher in Nottingham and have sung in choirs from the age of 9. I've been inspired by other leaders who have gone before me, and I used to conduct behind the conductors back for fun mimicking him, until one day he caught me! Instead of telling me off, he encouraged me to keep at it!!...So I did! In my previous job, I set up and led 100 strong School Youth Choir in Exmouth. Performing at the Devon county show was definitely a highlight, next to a live tractor show and several cow and sheep auctions!! When I moved to Nottinghamshire in 2016, I discovered Beeston Mums Choir, and soon, word got out that I had some experience in leading a choir and so it came to be that I was given opportunities to lead a few songs with these amazing Mums! I then got involved in BVYC and have loved being part of this community. I love working with young people and it is a privilege to be part of their musical journey. I currently help to lead BVYC alongside Becky Oakland and am looking forward to meeting fellow keen singers at Big Sing!



. . . . . . . .

. . . . . . . . .

. . . . . . . . . .





#### Workshop 4 - 'Joy with Bach' - Hugh Morris

**Blurb** - If you had to pick one stand-out composer of all time, Bach would have to be on the shortlist. 'Jesu, joy of man's desiring' is justly one of his most beloved pieces, and being based on a chorale (hymn) tune is much more approachable than some of this more complicated choruses. We will learn the music from scratch; and enjoy singing it with the flowing accompaniment. Warning: it's a real ear-worm of a piece!

Rating - 3

**Bio** - Hugh Morris is an experienced choir trainer, educator and workshop leader. He has been leading and inspiring choirs for over 30 years; in that time he has worked with everything from local community groups to professional cathedral and chamber choirs, conducting everywhere from concerts in care homes to live broadcast performances on BBC Radio 3. He enjoys music of all kinds and sharing that love with singers from all backgrounds and ages. In his current role as Director of the Royal School of Church Music, he works regularly with gathered choirs across the country, and internationally, and is pleased to join this day local to his Derbyshire home.

#### Workshop 5 - 'It's YOUR Voice!' - Deborah Norman

#### Blurb - It's YOUR Voice!

Come along to this informative and interactive workshop where you discover more about how your instrument works, how to use it more efficiently and where to go if you need more help! The workshop will be a fun session full of exercises and tips on how to look after your voice. There is no need to bring anything with you – just your voice! Please wear something comfy and bring a drink of water. The session is designed for all abilities and although there will be some movement it is totally adaptable for all participants. (If you have been before come again as there is always something new to learn)

Rating - 1

**Bio** - Deborah Norman is a singer and voice teacher. She has worked as a professional operatic soprano for over 25 years, performing on international stages and in the UK. Deborah runs a very successful teaching studio in Beeston where she works with all ages and abilities. She is passionate about helping people find their voice whether they are beginners or more advanced students. Deborah offers individual lessons and runs bespoke workshops on vocal health and learning more about the awesome human voice. Since training as a vocal health first aider Deborah has become increasingly interested in helping people understand more about their own voice, how to spot vocal issues and how to keep the voice in tip top condition!





## REFRESHMENTS

Tea/Coffee and Cake included in ticket price!



Bring your own packed lunch to eat on site, or get something from one of the great places to eat along the High Rd and in Beeston- recommendations available on the day!