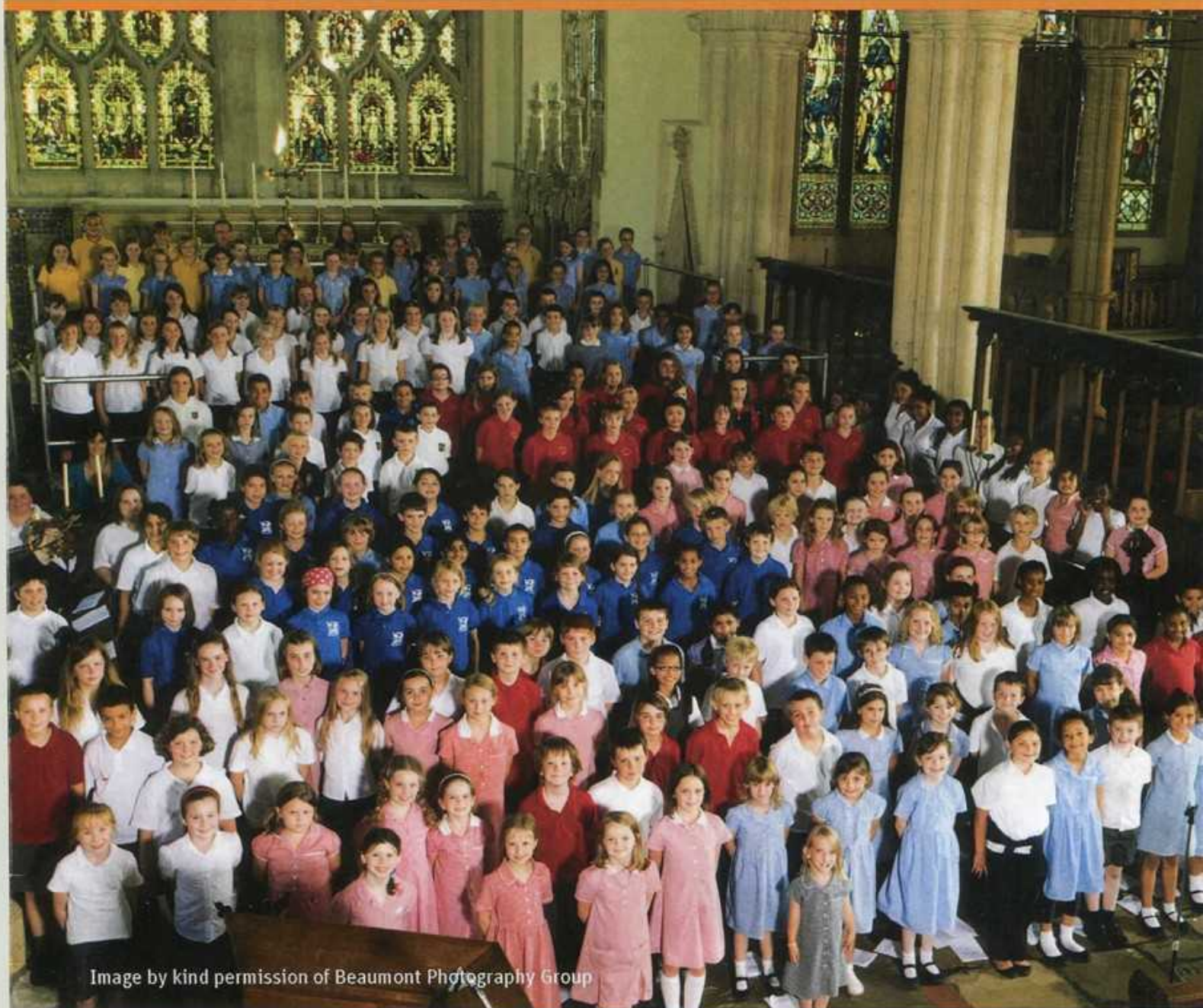


40<sup>th</sup>



*NAPE* Oxfordshire  
Festival of Voices



**Dorchester Abbey** 16-20 June 2025

Conductors:

**Peter Hunt and Kevin Stannard**

**£1**



# NAPE OXFORDSHIRE - FESTIVAL OF VOICES 2025

## *Schools participating*

### **Monday 16th June**

Brookside, Bicester  
Chesterton  
St Andrew's, Chinnor  
St Barnabas, Oxford  
St Edburg's, Bicester  
St Michael's, Oxford  
William Fletcher, Yarnton

### **Tuesday 17th June**

Ducklington  
Ewelme  
St Amand's, East Hendred  
St John Fisher, Oxford  
Windmill, Oxford  
Wood Farm, Oxford

### **Wednesday 18th June - lunchtime**

Chilton  
Kidmore End  
King's Meadow, Bicester  
SS Mary & John, Oxford  
St Ebbe's, Oxford  
West Oxford, Oxford

### **Wednesday 18th June - evening**

Botley  
Cumnor  
Dorchester, St Birinus  
Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton  
Middle Barton  
St Andrew's, Oxford  
St Francis, Oxford  
Wheatley

### **Thursday 19th June**

Checkendon  
Freeland  
Great Milton  
Hanborough Manor, Long Hanborough  
Mill Lane, Chinnor  
St Mary's, Bicester  
St Nicholas, Oxford  
Stanford in the Vale

### **Friday 20th June**

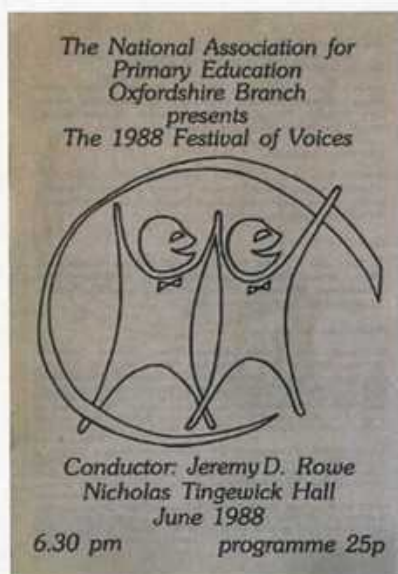
Benson  
Caldecott, Abingdon  
Didcot Primary Academy  
Northbourne, Didcot  
St John's, Wallingford  
Stadhampton  
Wantage Primary Academy



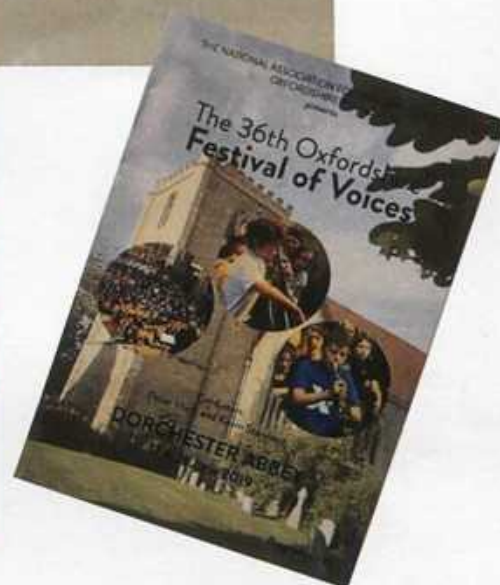
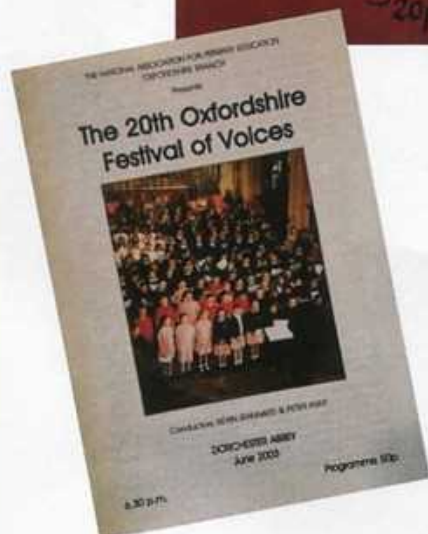
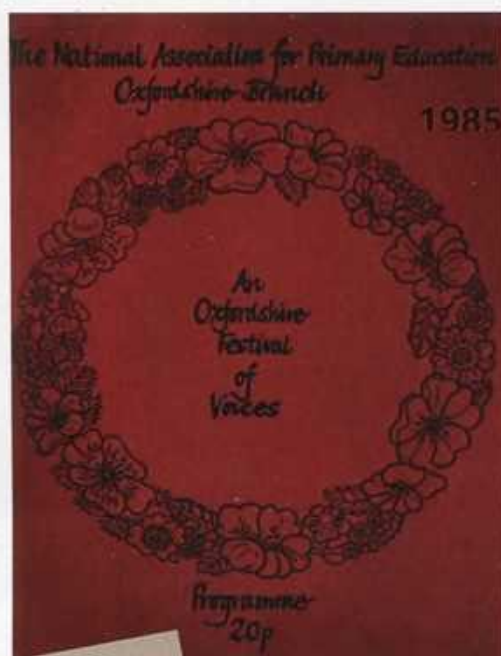
## **NAPE OXFORDSHIRE AGM 2024**

We are excited that this year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 23 September, 5.00 at the inspirational family book shop in East Oxford : Caper in Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE, just off the Iffley Road followed by Professor Mick Waters, President of NAPE : talking about 'Unfinished Business: some educational priorities for today' - a tribute to the life and work of Tim Brighouse

**ALL WILL BE WELCOME** - your school will circulate the details when confirmed or you can ask to be informed personally [napeoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:napeoxfordshire@gmail.com)



4 decades of  
programmes







## years of songs

With songs from *Abiyoyo* to *Zum Gali Gali*, children taking part in Festival of Voices concerts across the last forty years have sung almost 400 songs collectively.

Songs have been extremely wide-ranging in style and subject matter with music from around the world stimulating our young people's interest including folksongs and spirituals, gospel favourites and sea shanties.

*World in Union* (Skarbek/Holst), an ever-present since the Rugby World Cup of 1992, has been the most used song, closely followed by Lin Marsh's *Believe* and *Somewhere Out There* (Horner/Mann/Weil).

Some of the most enjoyed songs have been from the treasury of song in the music industry: film, theatre, shows etc. We have embraced many different languages, the music of contemporary songwriters as well as pop songs from the 1950s to the present day; and the children have loved singing about animals. To date it is 24 different creatures including an *Inchworm*, *Rubber Duckie* and even a *Purple People Eater*!

Roger and Hammerstein's  
**CAROUSEL**

**Those Magnificent  
Men in their  
Flying Machines**

**OLIVER!**

**Aladdin**



What type of animal could possibly be a  
*Purple People Eater*?

# The Songs

1. **Consider yourself**  
*words and music by Lionel Bart*
2. **Who will buy?**  
*words and music by Lionel Bart*
3. **Sing**  
*words and music by Joe Raposo*
4. **Those magnificent men in their flying machine**  
*words and music by Ron Goodwin*
5. **A whole new world**  
*music by Alan Menken, words by Tim Rice*
6. **You'll never walk alone**  
*words by Oscar Hammerstein II, music by Richard Rodgers*
7. **Try everything**  
*words and music by Sia Furler, Tor Erik Hermansen and Mikkel Eriksen*
8. **La Cucaracha**  
*traditional Chihuahuan, verse Maurice Welsh (adapted)*
9. **Hotaru Koi**  
*traditional Japanese*
10. **Tongo**  
*traditional Polynesian*
11. **Banaha**  
*traditional Congolese*
12. **Sailing**  
*by Gavin Sutherland, arranged by Peter Hunt*
13. **This train**  
*traditional*
14. **Believe**  
*words and music Lin Marsh*
15. **World in Union**  
*words Charlie Skarbek, music by Holst/Charlie Skarbek*

# Sing for the joy of singing

John Howson

for the 40th Anniversary of the Oxfordshire Festival of Voices June 2025

Sing for the sound of singing  
Sing for the joy of singing  
Sing for the harmony of singing:  
So, sing we all together.

As we sing together here,  
Different schools, but single purpose,  
Combining in this special place  
For forty summers since.

Forty years of many pupils,  
staff and parents, come all to  
Celebrate in song and sounds  
Old, new, would be traditional.

Music for our times,  
Dorchester's summer voices  
From all of Oxfordshire,  
To celebrate our schools

Proud you stand today,  
To thank the hours  
Of patient practice  
For this joyful celebration.

Jesse window  
Wooden pews  
Swelling organ sound  
Your special Abbey.

Give thanks for all  
That forty summers  
Brought the sounds  
you take away today.

Leave with a song in your heart  
Take with you the friendship,  
The joy of satisfaction,  
And your lifetime of memories.

There will be a collection for **SAVE THE CHILDREN** at the end of the concert

*Save the Children works in 120 countries, including the UK, to help children who are sick, homeless, alone, vulnerable and who need medical care, food, education and protection. Whenever disaster strikes, we're there – saving lives.*



**Save the  
Children**



# The Band

## **KEVIN STANNARD** conductor Monday - Tuesday - Friday

Kevin is very proud to have been associated with the Festival of Voices since the 1980s; he has conducted FoV concerts at the Wembley Conference Centre, the Fairfield Halls in Croydon, St Andrew's Hall in Norwich and Dorchester Abbey. He taught music in Oxfordshire schools for 10 years before moving to lecture at the University of Wolverhampton from 1995-2019 followed by a very enjoyable spell as Choir Master at Oundle School.

Kevin is currently a Music Engagement Officer for the Heart of England Music Hub which involves teaching piano and singing and running the choirs at Blue Coat School Coventry.

Kevin has compiled three songbooks for children published by Oxford University Press and his current work, involving children's cantatas co-written with Rebecca Thompson can be found at: [www.Jacobsladderproductions.co.uk](http://www.Jacobsladderproductions.co.uk); their 'Creature Cantata III' was recently performed at Coventry's Albany Theatre. He has also co-written 'The Lady Godiva Musical' with Aaron Ashmore which is to be performed outdoors in Coventry's Broadgate Square. At the moment he is writing the incidental music for a play: 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' to be performed in the Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis in 2026.

Kevin also directs the Berkswell Church choir, the Uniting Singers in Solihull, the Leamington Spa Chorale and the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir.

## **PETER HUNT** conductor Wednesday (both concerts) - Thursday

Peter has enjoyed conducting Festival of Voices for twenty-eight years. After an extensive career in secondary schools and music education, mostly in Oxfordshire, he retired from the Music Hub for Berkshire, having been Head of Voice and Deputy Head. He now lives in Devon but maintains connections with Oxfordshire.

He is nationally known and respected for the inspirational **Voiceworks series** of books published by OUP, which are helping teachers to gain confidence and transform their children's singing abilities around the world. His new book of singing rounds - **SingCircle** - was published last August.

Peter is still an active singer, and has just finished his second season as Musical Director of Exeter Choral Society. This autumn sees the fourth annual chamber choir SingCircle Weekend at Dartington Hall in Devon which he runs with a colleague. In addition to still enjoying a paddle about on the River Dart, he is exploring further wonders of Dartmoor and showing more interest in walking the South West coast path.

## **AMY MALKIN** violin

Amy started playing the violin when she was seven. She has sung in choirs from an early age at school, college and university.

She has been playing in the band for the Festival of Voices for over 20 years now. And each time is just as much fun and special as the last.

Amy is currently loving life, making and selling her own natural skincare products under the name "From Bee to You Balms". She remains a busy mum of two and the proud doggy Mum of "Strider"

She hopes the music lifts our spirits and brings the joy we feel each year.

## **ANNA KEEN** bass

Anna has been involved in the Festival of Voices for more years than there are frets on a bass guitar, first singing in the choir while her dad was the drummer in the original band; then, at the age of 14, joining him in the band as bass player for the National Festival of Voices in London, before also becoming involved in the Oxfordshire festival, which she has been delighted to play for ever since. When not playing bass, Anna is a full time gardener, and occasional artist.



## JAMES GAFFORD drums

James began his music education at Chipping Norton School, before going on to study percussion and music performance at the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford, Surrey.

He has recorded and performed with different artists of varying styles, and enjoys playing with his band The Reprobeats around Hampshire, West Sussex and Surrey.

## ANDREW McKENNA piano

Andrew hails from Toronto, with a B.Mus degree from University of Toronto and a Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

He is now based in Wokingham and has been providing scores, arrangements and orchestrations for a wide range of international clients since 1995. Past projects have included work on films such as Persuasion, Judy, and Bohemian Rhapsody, along with arranging work for Explora Cruise Lines and composition and sound design work for LEGOLAND Parks. He teaches Composition and Music Technology at A Level at Luckley House School, and also regularly accompanies the Berkshire Youth Choir....and really enjoys returning to the Oxfordshire Festival of Voices each year!



## The Guest Players

### Monday 16 June

quintet	Beatrice Dancer	piano	Chesterton School St Barnabas School
	Suel Kim	violin	
	Helenka Jackson, Kayla Pang	piano	
	Robin Arbuthnott	drums	
	Alfred Stafford	guitar	

### Tuesday 17 June

Tomos Hawkins	voice	Wheatley Park School
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### Wednesday 18 June afternoon

Julian Tai	piano	Kings Meadow School
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### Wednesday 18 June evening

trio	Emma Bingham	cornet	St Andrew's School
	Maya Anane	violin	
	Peirui Liu	violin	St Francis School
	Danielle Axe	piano	

### Thursday 19 June

Natasha, Danielle and Isla Roberts	voice	Henry Floyd Grammar School, Aylesbury, formerly Mill Lane, Chinnor
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### Friday 20 June

Kenix Kan	viola	Didcot Primary Academy
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## years of the band

The inaugural Festival of Voices band was formed in 1984 by Jeremy Rowe (conductor), Val Scarff (piano) and Tony Keen (drum kit) and this team, joined on bass by Alistair Smith in 1989, shaped the band in its early years.

Kevin Stannard took over the baton in 1991 having brought pupils from the Isis Middle School, Oxford to sing in the late '80s and Peter Hunt came on board in 1996, to share the conducting responsibilities.

In the '90s there was a wonderful group of students from Oxford's Cherwell School, including Michael Simpson (piano/percussion), Daniel Francis (trumpet), Edwin Scroggie (drum kit), Marcus Moss (bass), Kirsty Wood (trumpet), Kellie Crothers (soprano/clarinet) and Tom Poster (piano) - several of whom are now leading figures in the professional world of entertainment and education. How lucky we were to procure the skills of these young people!

Undergraduate musicians from the University of Wolverhampton Music Department featured strongly in the 00s, notably Jenny Hancox (piano), Gemma Wilkinson (clarinet) and Amy Malkin (violin) who is still going strong! The band currently features Anna Keen (bass) who remarkably first appeared in 2000 and James Gafford (drum kit) in 2002; the addition of Andrew McKenna (piano/arranging) in 2009 completes the line-up as we know it today. What fabulous experiences these musicians bring to the 40th birthday party!

The commitment of our band of musicians has been remarkable over the years providing a solid foundation for singing and supporting musical fluency and continuity in each performance. There have been many other musicians who have made important contributions to the band, mostly young people, including all three of Kevin's children (Madeleine, Laurence and Niall) and the following who have all played twice or more: Clive Burn, James Church, Sally Goodworth and Tim Smith (piano), William Robinson (drum kit) and Simon Finney (trumpet).



Kevin Stannard



Peter Hunt

Each day throughout the week of Festival of Voices, these extraordinary conductors take over 100 children who have never sung together before, and gently and expertly form them into the single blended chorus you see each night.

Conductors and band - we cannot thank you enough.



*I still get Festival of Voices songs stuck in my head, years after taking part.*

James,  
2007 - 2010



*...all the years of various of my children singing World in Union, which always made me cry.*

Lesley

## years of memories

I have the very happiest memories of being the pianist in the band for Oxfordshire Festival of Voices. It was such a thrill to be part of this joyful, massed celebration of music, and a lot of the songs we played/sang have been earworms ever since! I still try to find as much joy in my music-making as I can (I'm a professional concert pianist these days, as well as a composer and arranger), and have always drawn a lot of inspiration from these early and formative musical memories. 'Somewhere Out There' was always the penultimate song in FOV (before 'World in Union'), and it has remained a favourite ever since!

Tom Poster  
Band 1997 - 2000

*I always used to feel excited when we got the new song books for that year, to see what we were going to sing. I especially loved learning Thank You for the Music by Abba. It was always fun rehearsing.*

Camilla, 1999 - 2000

Clara,  
2009 - 2012

*I played a bassoon solo and sang in a girl band. Such a cool opportunity to play to a huge audience and all the other choirs.*

*I remember the excitement of filing in, seeing it fill up around us with children from other schools, and then being struck by the amazing amount of sound when everyone started singing together.*

*Then it was lovely to be asked back a few years later to play the Arutunian Trumpet Concerto as part of the programme in Dorchester Abbey.*

*The Festival of Voices was a very memorable and very exciting part of my primary school experience.*

Rosie, 2003 - 2006

At St. Andrew's, singing was universal in the school with the excitement around Festival of Voices (and getting to colour in your FoV song book!) adding hugely to the experience. I'm especially grateful for this as I have loved singing since; not to be taken for granted when so many people transition into adulthood feeling like they 'can't sing'.

Felicity, 1998 - 2002

Spike & Kate

*Every year we looked forward to Dorchester Abbey - a feat of organisation and inspiration, with all those children hanging on Kevin's every word. "From a Distance" and "World in Union" were the high point, and always brought tears to our eyes.*



# Join a band, choir, orchestra or group with Oxfordshire County Music Service

## ENSEMBLE OPPORTUNITIES for children across Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Music Service runs **Area Music Centres** on Saturday mornings in Bicester, Thame, Oxford, Witney and Didcot. Children who join our music centres learn to play music with others in a fun, engaging and social atmosphere. They are suitable for players of any instrument after their first term of learning in school or at home.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-groups/saturday-morning-music-activities>

Our three **Young Singers** groups are suitable for children aged 7-11 and run weekly in **Oxford** and **Banbury**. For more information visit :

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-groups/choirs-and-performing-arts>

**Junior Rock School** gives children aged 9 to 13 the chance to join a band, write songs and play gigs with other young musicians, rehearsing weekly on Thursday evenings in our high tech **JamPod** 'silent studio' at the Centre for Music in Headington

email [music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk) and title your email 'Junior Rock School' to register your interest

**Oxfordshire Youth Big Band III** is a chance for budding jazz musicians to join our established big bands programme on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30pm.

It's for players of saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, piano and drums at grade 3 standard or above.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-groups/youth-big-bands>



## Acknowledgements and thanks

We would like to thank the following music publishers and composers for giving us permission to use their songs: **Bucks Music Group Ltd – Hal Leonard Europe Ltd – Lakeview Music Publishing Company Limited – One Education Music Team – Sing for Pleasure – TCB Music Publishing Ltd**

*As our licences allow us to photocopy the music solely for rehearsal purposes, it is essential that all copies of the music are returned to Sue Baker for shredding.*

The rehearsal music was directed by **Kevin Stannard** : piano with singer : **Lizzie Soden** and recorded at Oxfordshire County Music Service, with support from **Mark Scobey**.

The 40th anniversary logo and programme front cover were designed by **Diane Wiles**

The Oxfordshire Branch of NAPE as ever enthusiastically thanks:

... the **Rector and Events management staff** of **Dorchester Abbey**; the **Clerk of Dorchester Parish Council** and **Oxfordshire County Music Service** for their encouragement, help and cooperation in the staging of the Oxfordshire Festival of Voices.

... **Sue Baker** for overall coordination and organisation, **Peter Hunt** for gathering the copyright permissions, **Lesley Williams** and **Lisa Sadie** for organising this programme and **Terry Stock**, branch Treasurer, for all the frustrating money management.

... the car park and box office attendants, programme sellers and all the countless unnamed school staff, parents and friends without whom the Festival would not have taken place this year and for the previous 39 years and, of course, all the thousands of singers!