

# Bedford Choral Society – Singing Courses

(A list compiled by choir members)

The UK's adult education centre that specializes in music is local to us (Hitchin). Benslow Music Trust runs something like 150 musical short courses annually. About 20 of those are aimed at singers. [www.benslow.org](http://www.benslow.org).

Michael Procter is a singing teacher, a scholar and publisher of renaissance music, and he believes in putting the music in its proper context - so on his courses you learn better technique, you may sing beautiful music that has not been available for centuries and you will probably perform it in a church service as the composer intended. Courses in Cambridge, London, Normandy, Venice and elsewhere. [www.michael-procter.com](http://www.michael-procter.com).

Andrew van der Beek organizes mostly week-long courses for choral singers with the musical content directed by other (often quite distinguished) musicians. Courses in Mexico, UK, Italy, Spain. [www.lacock.org](http://www.lacock.org).

For those who would like to spend a week sight-reading one voice to a part with top professional tutors... or this year they are also offering a chamber choir course for several voices to a part. South of France, fabulous food. [http://www.lamaisonverte.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=43](http://www.lamaisonverte.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=43)

For those who want to do serious hard work on musicianship and technique, the British Kodaly Academy summer school should suit you. My experience is 15 years out of date - at that time a lot of attendees were music teachers there for professional development, but singers with little formal training were also welcome. There are groups for different levels of expertise. [http://www.britishkodalyacademy.org/summer\\_school.htm](http://www.britishkodalyacademy.org/summer_school.htm)

Canford summer school of music includes several choral courses - take your pick. Dorset. <http://www.canfordsummerschool.co.uk/>

Bedford is on the border between several regions. The Eastern Early Music Forum offers a parallel range of events to those of the TVEMF. Membership of one early music forum gives you the same discount in them all. <http://www.eemf.org.uk/>

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Choral Holidays can be found on [www.choralholidays.com](http://www.choralholidays.com) UK / Italy / Germany

Run by Singers holidays are on <http://www.runbysingers.org/Event2011.htm> Offer weeks in Ely / Italy / Poland / Austria. The Assisi week is particularly recommended, ending with a concert in the magnificent Basilica di St. Francesco.

Liturgical Music Courses run events in English cathedrals. They are only fielding one event this year: Winchester Cathedral 26 - 31 July. There are still a few places left. See [www.liturgicalmusic.co.uk](http://www.liturgicalmusic.co.uk)

Fiori Musicali (The early music & baroque ensemble that accompanied us for the Monteverdi Vespers in 2007) are running a week in Budapest 6 - 12 August. See [www.fiori-musicali.com/baroque-in-budapest](http://www.fiori-musicali.com/baroque-in-budapest)

The annual Tallis Festival is 4/5/6 March in London, and is "doable" on a daily basis by train from Bedford. If you have never sung the Tallis 40 part *Spem in Alium*, here's your chance ! See [www.exmoorsingers.org/tallis](http://www.exmoorsingers.org/tallis)

And finally, for (mainly) one day singing workshops, it is excellent value to join the Thames Valley Early Music Forum. An annual sub of £7 gets you a bi-monthly magazine which alerts you to lots of interesting concerts and participative events. For example, there was a one day workshop recently on *Israel in Egypt* which we are singing next term. See <http://www.tvemf.org/>

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January 2011