

RICHMOND UPON THAMES
PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL 2027

www.richmondfestival.org.uk

Choral Syllabus 2027

SECTION SECRETARY – HEIDI PEGLER

Richmondfestival.vocal@gmail.com

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

ADJUDICATOR – NICOLA-JANE KEMP

(MA Cantab (music) / MMus Opera – RSAMD)



Nicola-Jane was a choral scholar at Clare College, Cambridge and started professional life singing for The Cambridge Singers, The Sixteen and The BBC singers, before becoming a principal coloratura soprano. Opera work has included Music Theatre Wales, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and BBC Radio 2. Concert work has taken her to the South Bank, Barbican, St John's Smith Square in London and to the Middle East.

She has taught several generations of choral scholars at Clare College, Cambridge and her pupils of all voices have advanced to post-graduate study at all the major UK conservatoires and overseas. Many are regularly to be heard at Glyndebourne Festival, Royal Opera House, BBC Singers, The Sixteen, Tenebrae, The Gabrielli Consort, the Dutch National Opera and in German opera houses.

She is an ABRSM Grade/Diploma examiner, has taught for The London Youth Choir, National Youth Choir and Rodolfus Choral Courses and taught at St Paul's Girls' School, London – designated a centre of excellence for Music Theatre by the London College of Music Exams.

Whilst there, she and Heidi Pegler co-edited the award-winning series '*The Language of Song*' (Faber Music), a resource for learning to sing in foreign languages. She is a member of the ISM and served on the council of the Association of Teachers of Singing from 2008-2025 (Chair 2020-2022). She became Head of Singing at Eton College in 2015.

The junior and intermediate choral classes will take place on **Monday 15 March** at Duke Street Church, Quadrant Road, Richmond TW9 1DH.

The Junior Choirs will run approximately between 5.00-7.00pm.

The Intermediate Choirs will run approximately between 7.30-9.00pm.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 12 February

Class 800	Junior Vocal Ensemble – 11 years and under Heidi Pegler Challenge Cup for Junior Choral Singing Approximate timing – 5.00-7.00pm (TBC) Own choice of two contrasting pieces. Time limit: 8 mins	£25
Class 801	Intermediate Vocal Ensemble – 18 years and under Challenge Cup Approximate timing – 7.30-9.00pm (TBC) Own choice of two contrasting pieces. Time limit: 10 mins	£25

- A vocal ensemble can be a quartet, acapella group, barbershop group, choir etc.
- There is no upper limit on the number of singers but there must be at least four.
- The accompaniment should be piano only – there is a Bechstein grand piano at the venue. Choirs must provide their own pianist.
- Other solo instruments (e.g. flute, violin) may be included if the piece requires this.
- Unaccompanied singing is also permitted.
- Music stands are provided at the venue.
- Choirs should come to the venue ready to perform and arrive as a group – there are no changing facilities apart from toilets
- Audience members/supporters are very welcome – there is a small charge of £6 for anyone watching the session; children are free

The adult choral classes will take place on **Tuesday 16 March** at Duke Street Church, Quadrant Road, Richmond TW9 1DH and will run approximately between 8.00-10.00pm.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 12 February

Class 802	Ladies Vocal Ensemble – 19 years and over Patricia Langley Memorial Trophy for Choral Singing Approximate timing – 8.00-10.00pm (TBC) Own choice of two contrasting pieces. Time limit: 12 mins	£25
Class 803	Male Vocal Ensemble – 19 years and over Choral Trophy Approximate timing – 8.00-10.00pm (TBC) Own choice of two contrasting pieces. Time limit: 12 mins	£25
Class 804	Mixed Vocal Ensemble - 19 years and over Thomas Langley Memorial Trophy for Choral Singing Approximate timing – 8.00-10.00pm (TBC) Own choice of two contrasting pieces. Time limit: 12 mins	£25

- A vocal ensemble can be a quartet, acapella group, barbershop group, choir etc.
- There is no upper limit on the number of singers but there must be at least four.
- The accompaniment should be piano only – there is a Bechstein grand piano at the venue. Choirs must provide their own pianist.
- Other solo instruments (e.g. flute, violin) may be included if the piece requires this.
- Unaccompanied singing is also permitted.
- Music stands are provided at the venue.
- Choirs should come to the venue ready to perform and arrive as a group – there are no changing facilities apart from toilets
- Audience members/supporters are very welcome – there is a small charge of £6 for anyone watching the session; children are free
- Adjudication for classes 802, 803 and 804 will take place once everyone has performed so that everyone can listen to each other