

MANCHESTER WEEKEND FOR SINGERS, CONDUCTORS AND VOCAL LEADERS

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th November 2026

Xaverian College, Lower Park Rd, Rusholme, Manchester, M14 5RB
& Church of the Holy Name, Oxford Rd, Manchester, M13 9PG.



Sing for Pleasure offers a choice of courses around the country for singers, conductors and vocal leaders. Whether you are trying your hand at conducting for the first time, improving your musicianship skills or refreshing knowledge gained on previous courses, you can look forward to a challenging and enjoyable time in a relaxed but stimulating atmosphere.

COURSES

The Manchester Weekend includes a **Singers' Course** and conducting courses at **Essentials**, and **Levels 1 to 3**. We're excited to be introducing a brand-new Level 3 course focusing on church music in practice.

Participants interested in singing with the conducting courses will also be most welcome.

TIMING

The course starts at 10.00am on Saturday and ends at 3.45pm on Sunday. Each day starts with the whole course warming up together, after which participants engage in their individual workshop sessions. The course ends with an informal performance of some of the music learned over the weekend.

VENUE

Xaverian College is a sixth-form college and home to an outstanding music department which is very well-equipped. The campus is located close to the centre of Manchester, about a ten-minute drive from Manchester Piccadilly station. Parking is available onsite for those

travelling by car. Participants on the new Level 3 course will also be based in the beautiful Church of the Holy Name.

COURSE DETAILS

COURSE FOR SINGERS

We're delighted to welcome choral expert Matt Roughley to lead this course, open to singers of all abilities who want to broaden their repertoire and discover the joy of singing together. Matt's fun, engaging approach means everyone is welcome—whether you read music confidently or have never read a note. Come along, join in and give it a go!

COURSES FOR CHORAL CONDUCTORS AND VOCAL LEADERS

Sing for Pleasure's courses for choral conductors and vocal leaders are delivered in two ways: technique sessions include practical demonstrations of all the key aspects of conducting, and the workshop sessions that give participants an enviable amount of podium time to put into practice what they have learnt. Our methodology has an emphasis on planning and preparation, effective and efficient teaching and rehearsal support through the use of expressive and economic conducting gestures to develop well rounded and adaptable musical leaders.

The **Essentials Course** is for anyone who is new to Sing for Pleasure and builds an understanding of our key principles of training and introducing our core conducting techniques. **Level 1** is for those seeking to consolidate and embed those skills learnt on the Essentials course. **Level 2** allows participants to foster a greater confidence and self-sufficiency by broadening gesture to become a clear, supportive, motivational leader.

The **Level 3** course gives participants practical experience of rehearsing and conducting liturgical repertoire at Holy Name, Manchester. On Saturday, practical workshops and planning sessions prepare participants to conduct the church choir during Sunday worship. This course is designed for conductors who have a SfP Level 3 recommendation and our advanced alumni who are ready to broaden their musical leadership.

Repertoire for all courses at the Manchester Weekend is chosen to allow participants to make progress in all aspects of their conducting.

For further information about all our courses, including repertoire and course aims see www.singforpleasure.org.uk

TUTORS

Our highly skilled team of tutors are all members of Sing for Pleasure and bring a range of experiences as professional conductors, musicians, teachers, trainers, adjudicators and workshop leaders. To find out more about our tutors, please visit the Sing for Pleasure website.

“The Sing for Pleasure weekend courses provide the most engaging and encouraging atmosphere for people to improve or start their conducting skills.”

London Weekend, Level 2 student

COST

Essentials Course £277.60 (non-members £347)
Level 1 Course £285.60 (non-members £357)
Level 2 Course £297.60 (non-members £372)
Level 3 Course £309.60 (non-members £387)
Singers Course with Matt Roughley £73.60 (non-members £92)
Workshop singers £53.60 (non-members £67)

The course fees include all tuition, lunches, Saturday evening dinner and refreshments. Saturday night bed & breakfast is not included. There are a number of hotels in the local area.

Bursaries for the remainder of our 2026 courses will be allocated on a first-come, first-served, basis, subject to applicant qualification and approval by the management team.

BOOKING & CONTACT

To book a place on the course, please visit www.singforpleasure.org.uk and complete the online booking form.

ABOUT SING FOR PLEASURE

Sing for Pleasure champions the transformative power of the human voice. We foster high-quality singing in schools and choirs, provide unrivalled training for conductors, teachers and vocal leaders, work in community and healthcare settings, publish outstanding choral resources and commission new music. Everyone who recognises the life-changing joy of singing has a home with us - regardless of their skills or background.