

# Singing History



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The 'Singing History' project is an exciting new project being piloted by the Manchester Singers. The project seeks to enhance the KS2 curriculum through exploring vocal music from Manchester's history. There will be **no charge to the school** for this project.

## **Project Aims**

Through a one hour workshop, Manchester Singers' 'Singing History' project aims to:

- Enhance KS2 National Curriculum for Music, with additional links to History.
- Introduce an aspect of local history and music which is often neglected in text books.
- Teach pupils at least one new song which will enhance their practical music skills.
- Introduce pupils to different voice types and choral singing.
- Improve their fluency, control, presentation skills, and expression within ensemble performance.
- Enhance pupils' aural skills and ability to reproduce sounds from their aural memory.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a British period of music history.
- Understand that local and national socio-historical issues may affect how, when, where, and why music is performed.

## Links to the National Curriculum

- ✓ Play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
- ✓ Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing use of aural memory.
- ✓ Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of the history of music.
- ✓ Study of local history.
- ✓ Study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.



Singing History

## **Manchester Singers: Who we are**

Manchester Singers is a professional a cappella vocal ensemble whose repertoire includes music from the Renaissance to the contemporary. They have performed at Manchester International Festival, Brighton Early Music Festival, The Sixteen's Sounds Sublime Festival, and numerous concerts, events, and workshops around Greater Manchester. Members of the ensemble include young singers trained at the University of Manchester and the Royal Northern College of Music and many have participated on training programmes with The Sixteen, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Welsh National Opera, and Glyndebourne.

Our singers are also experienced educators and work regularly in schools with local music services, lead and conduct choirs and choral societies, and engage in workshops with other arts organisations.

For more information about the ensemble please visit: [www.manchestersingers.co.uk](http://www.manchestersingers.co.uk) or contact Dean Parker, Education Manager at Manchester Singers on [manchestersingers@gmail.com](mailto:manchestersingers@gmail.com)



## Workshop Structure

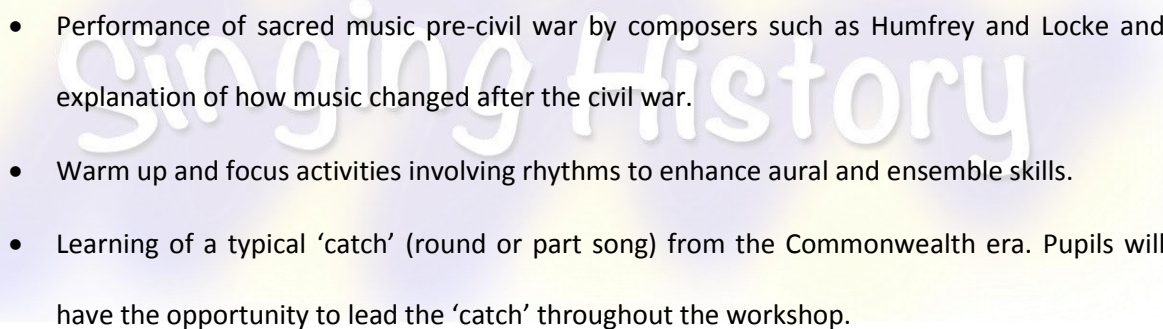
### Singing History: Music Performance during the Commonwealth

During the civil war and Commonwealth music quickly changed from a public and religiously driven art form to a domestic past-time. Parliamentary soldiers and supporters destroyed many cathedral organs and music, sacred or otherwise, was forbidden on the Sabbath and in church. At this time, Manchester was a stronghold for parliamentary supporters. Charles Worsley, the city's first MP, was a strong supporter of Cromwell. Roundhead troops were based at a billet at Wythenshawe Hall which now possesses a statue of Cromwell displayed in the city centre until the 1980s.

This workshop will demonstrate music's sole availability through participation during this period.

### Programme structure:

All workshops will be staffed by at least 4 (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) members of Manchester Singers. Workshops will run for one hour and will include:

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- Performance of sacred music pre-civil war by composers such as Humfrey and Locke and explanation of how music changed after the civil war.
  - Warm up and focus activities involving rhythms to enhance aural and ensemble skills.
  - Learning of a typical 'catch' (round or part song) from the Commonwealth era. Pupils will have the opportunity to lead the 'catch' throughout the workshop.
  - Analysis of the text: what are the songs about? Why do you think they were written? What can they tell us about life during the Commonwealth?
  - Extension: drama task, act out the song in small groups.

## **Additional Information and Next Steps**

Please find below information regarding the logistics of the project and how we can adapt each project to fit specific needs of your school.

- This project is in the pilot stage. All projects in this stage will be provided free of charge to schools.
- Maximum of 32 pupils per workshop (in line with adult to child ratio guidelines).
- Workshops will be 45-60 minutes long (this is may be flexible to fit in with school timetables).
- Workshops are appropriate for the whole of Key Stage Two.
- We ask that more than one workshop is booked per day. For example booking four workshops for four different groups or classes over the course of a whole school day, morning, or afternoon.
- Workshops would ideally take place in a larger space than a classroom: school hall, art room, sports hall etc.
- All workshop leaders have experience working with primary age children and hold enhanced DBS certificates.
- For our own publicity and funding applications to ensure the continuation and progression of our education projects we would like to photograph the workshop sessions. Please find a consent letter to be sent out to parents on page 8.
- We ask for one member of school staff to be present at all times during the workshops for safeguarding and also to provide feedback on our project which may be used on funding applications and publicity for future projects.

To book a workshop please email the School Information Form below to Dean Parker at [manchestersingers@gmail.com](mailto:manchestersingers@gmail.com)

## School Information Form

<b>School Name</b>	
<b>Contact Details</b>	
<b>Preferred date and time of workshops</b>	
<b>Classes to be involved in workshops</b>	
<b>Room available for workshop</b>	
<b>Resources available for workshop (e.g. interactive whiteboard/projector, speakers, piano/keyboard)</b>	

Please email completed forms to Dean Parker, Education manager at Manchester Singers on [manchestersingers@gmail.com](mailto:manchestersingers@gmail.com)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Manchester Singers will be running an exciting new singing workshop in your child's school called 'Singing History' on.....

Please confirm that you are happy for photographs to be taken of your child during this workshop. Photographs will be used in printed and online publicity for the ensemble and their education work.

Please return forms to your child's class teacher by.....

Best Wishes

Mr. Dean Parker

Education Manager,  
Manchester Singers

