



Summer School Descriptors 2024

MORNING SESSIONS

MUSICIANSHIP (Solfège) Mornings 09:40 - 12.05 (includes coffee break).

These daily compulsory classes will give all participants support for their own personal musicianship training. When music is learned using Kodály's approach, skills vital to advanced music making such as "inner hearing", rhythmic coordination and harmonic hearing are strongly developed from the beginning. The approach is therefore relevant for instrumental teachers as well as class music teachers, specialists, and non-specialists alike. By the end of the course, participants will achieve full musicianship certification at an agreed level with their tutor which can be used towards full British Kodály Certification.

Level 1/2 with Helen Blackmore

This is aimed at those with no or very little previous experience in music OR in using relative solfa. The class will include some of the following:

- Working with pentatonic scales
- Intervals found in the pentatonic scales
- Rhythm names
- Handsigns
- Coordination exercises
- Simple Diatonic work

Level 3 with Lynne Clark

This course is suitable for students who have completed Level 1- 2 Kodály Musicianship training OR those who have some musical knowledge but are new to working with relative solfa.

After a brief revision of the pentatonic scales the focus of this course will be the complete diatonic major and natural minor tonalities. The course is designed to improve your personal ability to sight sing without the aid of an instrument. Singing will use solfa and absolute letter names, incorporating unison and two-part work. Musical understanding will be reinforced through listening extracts and practical activities.

Level 4 with Lucinda Geoghegan

This course is suitable for students who have a strong musical background (diploma/degree in music) but who are new to the relative solfa system.

After a brief introduction to benefits of working with relative solfa the students will be engaged in practical music making to improve ability in unaccompanied sight singing. Practical examples will include unison work, two-part exercises, canons and technical work.

Level 5 with Christopher Andrews

This course is aimed at those who have covered the concepts in Level 4 and are ready to move on. Working further with diatonic and modal melodies, you will gain an understanding of the concept of moveable do and modulation within melodies. The class includes harmonic work, coordination exercises and ensemble work.

Level 6 with Areti Lymperopoulou

This level will move on from simple diatonic work and include some of the following:

- More challenging diatonic work
- Modes
- Modulation
- Harmonic work
- Coordination exercises

Level 7/8 with James Cuskelly

This class will focus on some of the following:

- Further consolidation and intensive practice of pentatonic and diatonic work
- Chord progressions – root position and inversions
- Coordination exercises
- Memory work
- Dictation
- Modal musical material

Level 9/10 – Arpad Toth

This class will work at a more advanced level. Special emphasis is placed on the development of stylistic awareness through the study of harmony and form of selected works from the art music repertory from Renaissance to Modern and Contemporary music.

It may also include the following:

- Kodály's pedagogical compositions
- Pentatonic material with metric and melodic challenges
- Counterpoint, imitation, fugue

METHODOLOGY AND EARLY AFTERNOON SESSIONS

CERTIFICATED COURSES LIVE AT SUMMER SCHOOL

This year we are offering the exciting opportunity to complete methodology in Early Years Level 2, Primary Level 1 and Secondary Level 1 for certification towards the British Kodály Certificate. During Covid all courses became available online but now that we are back face to face, we are convinced that the learning experience is far superior live – nothing can replace singing together, playing games together and the joy of group music making. Feedback from students who have attended live courses would certainly support our thoughts.

Session One Choices (13:00 – 15:00)

EARLY YEARS 2 with Helen Blackmore

This class is open to anyone working with children aged 3 – 4.
You can attend this class for audit (with no assessments) OR for certification.

If you wish to do certification, please note that you may do the complete Early Years Certificate in any order so you can attend this class even if you haven't done any other modules.

NB Those completing the course for certification MUST attend Musicianship (at a level suitable for you), both Methodology Sessions and Vocal Technique in Session Three

EARLY YEARS THREE/PRIMARY LEVEL ONE with Lucinda Geoghegan

This course will focus on working with children aged four to seven. You can attend this course for certification or audit.

The course is suitable for those working for the Early Years Certificate (you may have completed Early Years One and/or Early Years Two OR you may be starting the Early Years Certificate which is the only certificate course you can do in any order).

The course is also suitable for those who are beginning the Primary Certificate Course which must be done in order starting with Primary One.

Topics covered in this course include: Reading readiness (preparing the skills needed prior to musical literacy), introducing rhythm reading, pitch reading, listening activities, using picture books in a music lesson and lesson planning

NB - If you are doing this course for assessment, you MUST attend choir, musicianship (at a level appropriate to you), both Methodology sessions and Conducting (at a level appropriate to you).

SECONDARY LEVEL ONE with James Cuskelly

This course will focus on working with children in lower secondary level. You can attend this course for certification or audit.

The course is suitable for those working in a Secondary School setting or for those working with an older beginner in Kodály inspired work.

The course will be the first level of the Certificate in Secondary Music Education outlining repertoire and strategies for teaching older beginner in a vocal based approach to music learning.

Topics covered in this course include the introduction of simple time rhythms elements, pitches of the pentatonic scale, metre, part work and lesson planning.

NB - If you are doing this course for assessment, you MUST attend choir, musicianship (at a level appropriate to you), both Methodology sessions and Conducting (at a level appropriate to you).

Session One – Carousel Choices (13:00 -14:00| 14:00 – 15:00)

MUSICIANSHIP AND REPERTOIRE FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIR with Chris Andrews

A bumper session of warm-ups, arrangements of teaching repertoire and ways to use Kodály-inspired scaffolds to squeeze musicianship into our precious rehearsal time!

BSL CHOIR with Dr Paul and Anne Whittaker

The little brother and big sister duo, Paul and Anne Whittaker return to the NYCOS Summer School with their BSL choir sessions. A chance for you to give your voice a rest (if you wish) and sign instead.

These turn the music into a visual form and encourage you to think more about the words you hear and sing. We'll look at a range of songs and challenge you to sign in harmony and counterpoint too. Don't worry if you've never signed before; we'll take you by the hands (perhaps literally) and guide you through.

How to sound Cool at the Keyboard with Richard Michael

- Improvising on 2 and 3 chord tunes using pentatonics
 - Funky vamps and riffs
- Playing any tune with just 3 notes
- Blues licks and grooves
- Learning 251 patterns in major and minor keys

(All material is in "Jazz Piano for Kids" pub Hal Leonrad)

Session Two (15:30 – 17:00)

Conducting

The conducting module can be completed by anyone interested in leading singing groups or ensembles. This year, we will be offering three levels – Level 1 with Lynne Clark, Level 2 with James Cuskelly and Level 3 with Arpad Toth. This course contributes towards the British Kodály Certificate courses, following the same content as the Australian Kodály Certificate. This course can be taken for full certification in a level agreed with your tutor.

Objectives

Candidates will develop:

- an understanding of Kodály philosophy and its application in contemporary learning contexts.
- musical leadership and direction in group settings
- professional knowledge to design, plan and assess Kodály-inspired pedagogy
- professional practice skills to implement and reflect on Kodály-inspired pedagogy

Please see our Conducting Module Content Descriptors for more detailed information about what skills will be covered in each level.

There will be an opportunity to decide which level is best for you at Summer School but if you are not sure which level to book on for, please get in touch with Anna Ghazal. Those attending Summer School for certification will have priority for these classes but there will be some limited availability for those not attending for assessment.

Conducting Level 1

This module is for the absolute beginner. We will explore posture, the roles of each arm and the basic beating patterns. How do you get people to start? and stop? How can you convey the musical interpretation to the performers? What do you need to consider for rehearsal preparation?

The class will form a small choir for individuals to conduct, so you will have the opportunity to put the theory into practice. Repertoire will be based on simple canons.

NYCOS Kodály Summer School Conducting Module

VOCAL HEALTH AND TECHNIQUE with Wilma MacDougall

Wilma has had the privilege of teaching singers of all ages and abilities for over 30 years and looks forward to sharing some of the best practically-adaptable, easily-accessible well-proven facts and technical exercises - very useful 'add-ons' for your own area of expertise and enjoyment of singing.

Session 1 - Vocal Health and Longevity

Factual and practical session covering simple ways to enable both the speaking voice and singing voice to work at its optimum level well into the future.

Session 2 - Why and How to Warm Up the Voice

'How do we know what pitch to start on, what range should we use, how long should the warm up be, what exercises are effective ...?'

In this session we will cover some of the basics of vocal technique and vocal exercises. Enhance your 'Warm up toolkit' for choirs/classes/individuals with exercises which are efficient, effective, fun and adaptable for all ages and stages, including your own voice.

Session 3 - The Voice as an Instrument within our bodies

Unlike any other musical instrument, we cannot see or touch the voice - this session covers the basics of how the voice works both holistically and physiologically, and how it develops from nursery age through to the latter years.

Session 4 - 'Unlocking the voice'

Whatever the age and stage of our pupils, our aim as a teacher/conductor/1:1 tutor/music educator is that those we teach enjoy singing with ease, musically and expressively.

Working on vowel alignment, consonants, breath support and legato line, this session covers technical and practical tips which have a positive influence on tone, range, clarity of text and vocal stamina for all ages and stages.

Session 5 - Vocal Gymnastics for all

One of Wilma's go-to sayings for vocal technique and warm ups is 'Keeping it fun...keeps us vocally fit'

This session covers 'vocal gymnastic' exercises to advance the following skills: coloratura singing, staccato, vocal onset and offset, and extension of range. Discover how to appropriately incorporate the above skills into the simplest of exercises for use from nursery ages through to the latter years.

Session 6 - The full circle

This session is an opportunity for some (subject to numbers) to test out their 'enhanced singing toolkit' whilst teaching the group a short song they would use when teaching at work for their specific age group (song(s) to be chosen from the core songs already being learned for the course).

Wilma will give the individuals presenting a song written and verbal feedback and 'vocal pointers' on the delivery of their song to help build their confidence and advance their personal vocal technique.

There will also be the opportunity to ask questions in each of the above sessions.

SINGING GAMES AND RHYMES with BSL with Paul Whittaker and Lucinda Geoghegan

Paul and Lucinda will share the outcome of their work during three residencies on a project combining BSL with Kodály inspired music education. The residencies will take place in East Ayrshire, Highland Region and Skye during May and June.

These will be practical sessions in which we will share games for all (some games which incorporate British Sign Language), develop some BSL repertoire appropriate for children in the Primary School, some rhythmic work and discussions on the impact of the residencies and access to a new resource which will be available to all participants.

Session Three (17:15 – 18:30)

METHODOLOGY – certificate only

Exploring diverse repertoire for the Kodály Classroom – Chris Andrews

In these practical sessions, we explore new songs and activities that reflect a more diverse, 21st-century classroom, ideas for integrating materials effectively into your curriculum, and why the diversification of repertoire matters.

Jazz in the Classroom with Richard Michael

- How to teach by ear
- Choosing the right material
- Writing simple arrangements using 3 notes Harmonising by ear
- How to direct a jazz band/choir

Ensemble Singing – Arpad Toth

Coming soon!

NEW TO NYCOS KODÁLY SUMMER SCHOOL AND WONDERING WHAT PATHWAY TO CHOOSE?

Here are some suggested choices but of course you can attend whichever classes you wish if you are not doing a certificate course.

Early Years teachers/leaders

Musicianship level of choice

Session One: Early Years Methodology

Session Two: Singing Games for All

Session Three: Early Years

Primary Teachers with no previous Kodály knowledge

Musicianship level of choice

Session One: Primary One Methodology (audit) / Musicianship and Repertoire for Choirs/ BSL Choir Session Two: Conducting or Singing Games for All

Session Three: Diverse Repertoire / Jazz Music in the Primary School/ Ensemble Singing

Secondary Teachers with no previous Kodály Knowledge

Musicianship level of choice

Session One: Musicianship and Repertoire for Choirs/ BSL Choir/ Jazz Piano

Session Two: Conducting/ Vocal Health and Technique

Session Three: Diverse Repertoire / Ensemble Singing

Instrumental Teachers with no previous Kodály Knowledge

Musicianship level of choice

Session One: BSL Choir/Jazz Piano

Session Two: Conducting

Session Three: Jazz Music in the Primary School