

Music

This is a week for people who want to sing... a lot! The repertoire will be taken from 600 years of great choral music, from the early Renaissance to the present day. Normally you will be singing 2-6 to a part. However the workshop is designed for singers of all levels so sometimes we will divide into groups according to the amount and type of rehearsal help you need (so those who need note-bashing and those who read music well should not be frustrated). We will endeavour to get most of the music to you in advance, so you have a chance to swot up if you are so inclined!

La Maison Verte

La Maison Verte provides the perfect backdrop for these weeks of musical, culinary and social immersion. It is an old wine mansion in the heart of the Languedoc countryside, yet situated centrally enough for us to enjoy village life. La Maison Verte has a swimming pool, rehearsal spaces, a library and a large, beautiful garden.

Food

We use local chefs who enjoy preparing traditional Languedoc dishes as well as more exotic fare so that we can savour the best of Southern French cuisine. We'll be providing local wine, free of charge, with your evening meal.



Close by

In the unlikely event that you suffer from "cabin fever" during the week there is plenty to escape to. Beaches are 30km away, the picturesque town of Pezenas (Moliere's home) is just 10km away, and the mountains are 15km to the north. Bikes are available and there are lakes and pretty villages to visit very close by.



Price

All prices are in Euros. The fee for the week is €495 for a shared room (single room options are available), which includes:

- Bed and board
- Two meals a day (breakfast and supper)
- Free wine with evening meal
- Up to 6 hours tuition a day
- Additional informal singing in the evening
- Access to the tutors at all times for individual vocal advice
- A public performance at the end

If you would like a single room, there is a supplement of €80 per person and a single ensuite is an extra €120 (subject to availability).

Non-singing partners are welcome, at a cost of €410 but children cannot be accommodated.

IF YOU BOOK AND PAY BEFORE 29 FEBRUARY, YOU RECEIVE A 50 EURO DISCOUNT!

VERTE MUSIQUE CHAMBER CHOIR WORKSHOP

AT LA MAISON VERTE, LANGUEDOC, FRANCE



25 August – 1 September 2012

www.lamaisonverte.co.uk

La Maison Verte, 31 ave Henri Mas, 34320 Roujan

anne.roberts@easynet.co.uk

0033 (0)4 67 24 88 52

Verte Musique

Verte Musique is the imprint for the courses run by Francis Steele and Anne Roberts at La Maison Verte in Languedoc in France. The tutors for the Chamber Choir Workshop are Francis Steele and Joel Thomas.

The Chamber Choir Week

This week is designed for people already singing in choirs to get together for a fantastic holiday with others who have the same interest. Although the week is primarily about singing, we place emphasis on the holiday element of things; good food, good wine, getting out and about, and above all, having fun. The week will be geared towards presenting some kind of concert at the end, but we are keen for it to be as low pressure and low stress as possible. Perhaps more of a party with a musical interlude.

You couldn't work with more sympathetic and talented tutors than Francis Steele and Joel Thomas, who are both skilled at encouraging people to achieve more as singers than they ever thought they could.



If you want a friendly environment to build your skills and confidence in Chamber Group singing, then this is the course for you.

Francis Steele - Director

Francis is musical director of Verte Musique and was, for thirty years, a professional singing bass for such groups as The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen and the Gabrieli Consort. He is a renowned editor, currently working with OUP to produce new, practical editions of Renaissance masterpieces. Since 2003 he has developed a world-wide reputation as a vocal group coach/tutor. He enjoys working with less experienced singers as well as professionals.

Joel Thomas – Tutor and Accompanist

Joel Thomas has many years experience as a professional conductor, composer and voice trainer of both adults and childrens choirs. His conducting career started by winning the title of 'Manchester Musical Director of the Year' whilst still a student at the Royal Northern College of Music. Currently heading the choral department at The Conservatoire, Blackheath, he conducts several choirs each week for singers of all abilities, all of which perform frequently, often touring abroad.

What singing experience do you need?

You do need to be able to sing in tune! And a little bit of experience is always helpful. But you don't need to be able to read music fluently. If you do, don't worry, because we will endeavour to tailor the sessions to the needs of the group.

Course Date

25 August – 1 September 2012

Itinerary

The Course runs from Saturday to Saturday, arrival not before 2pm and departure by 11am on the final day. Normally we begin singing at around 6pm on the first Saturday with a whole group session, before a welcome dinner where people can get to know each other. Thereafter the daily schedule is – well basically up to you but this is what we suggest; breakfast at around 8-9am, 10am a warm-up led by Joel



followed by a group session until 1pm. You are free until 4pm which allows you to find a cosy restaurant for lunch, or to buy your own at one of our friendly local epicerics, and to have a swim or siesta, singing starts again around 4 until 7pm.

Aperitifs are followed by dinner. Most evenings there is informal singing in the rehearsal room after dinner; do feel free to bring your favourite songs to share, with a few copies extra for your colleagues.

Wednesday is a day off – sight-seeing is recommended!

The Chamber Choir Week is designed so that you will have the time of your life. We hope you will.

Contact Details

**La Maison Verte: 31 ave Henri Mas,
34320 Roujan, France
0044 (0)4 67 24 88 52
www.lamaisonverte.co.uk
anne.roberts@easynet.co.uk**

"This is a beautiful place, and has been a great experience. Thank you for your inspiration and help."

"Great music, great musicians, great patience, great organisation, GREAT WEEK".

"Flaubert was mistaken when he said that the only things which made life worth living were Shakespeare, Mozart's Don Giovanni and the sea; he had obviously never been to La Maison Verte".

Participant feedback 2011.

Application Form

Please complete this form and send it back to us at La Maison Verte, 31 ave Henri Mas, 34320 Roujan, France or email it to anne.roberts@easynet.co.uk. We will contact you shortly to let you know how to pay, to give you travel information, and joining instructions. Submission of an application form at this point does not constitute a binding commitment. Please do not send money, when you submit your application.

Course Date: 25 August – 1 September 2012

(Please fill in even if you have come before, so that we can keep abreast of the massive musical strides taken over the past year!)

Name..... M/F.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Voice part (SATBarB) Date of birth

Comfortable working vocal range (imagine the letters below are notes on a keyboard and circle the two comfortable extremes of your range):

c,d,e,f,g,a,b,c, d,e,f,g,a,b, middle c, d,,f,g,a,b,c, d,e,f,g,a,b,c

Please rate your sight-singing ability (this is not essential but it is useful to know so we can decide how to help you get the best out of your singing week). Please tick the statement which you think most accurately describes your sight-singing

I can't read music at all

I can read music but can't really sight-read

I can sight-read simple music but need help with more complicated things

I can sight-read quite well, but usually make errors the first couple of times through

I'm a very good sight-reader

Once you have sent your form back to us, we will send you an email offering you a place, an invoice for the whole amount (which is non-returnable), travel recommendations and joining instructions. In the mean time, please tell us what accommodation option you'd like. Remember, all prices quoted are in Euros.

† *I would like to apply for a shared room at €495*

† *I would like to apply for a single room for an additional €80*

† *I would like to apply for an ensuite room at an additional €120*

I would like to bring a non-singing partner/friend €410

† *I am a vegetarian (please note that because of the small number of people on the course we can't cater for any special diets except vegetarian).*

Please tell us how you heard about the course

And/or Please also invite the following singer/s to this or future courses:

Name Voice

Address

Email..... Phone

Name Voice

Address

Email..... Phone

Please return this form to Anne Roberts, La Maison Verte, 31 ave Henri Mas, 34320 Roujan, France. If you have any queries, please contact Anne Roberts or Francis Steele at:

Email: anne.roberts@easynet.co.uk

Phone: +44 (0)4 67 24 88 52

Or via our website:

www.lamaisonverte.co.uk - Verte Musique