

# The Song Teach na nAmhrán House

## COMMUNITY CHOIR LEADER'S TRAINING COURSE 2017

### Further Information

Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 at The Song House / Teach na nAmhrán, Falcarragh, Co Donegal, Ireland.

If you are interested in leading singing groups and choirs, or seeking to build your confidence in this area, this series of workshops will cover all the basics and much more.

#### The Course

It will give you skills for a wide variety of community settings and several previous participants have gone on to make this their profession. It is a hands-on, practical course which includes philosophy, theory and lively discussion where appropriate. There are no entry requirements and you don't need to be able to read music, though it is helpful.

The course includes:

- Philosophy and principles
- Warm Ups
- How to teach a song
- How to teach a song in parts
- How to develop a song
- Ways to improve the quality of the singing
- Building dynamics of the group
- Improvisation
- How to support individuals

#### Teaching Practice

In past years this course has run over 3 months: 4 intensive training sessions with 3 week gaps between each session, for students to practice their skills. Last year we ran this course for the first time at the Song House. Students found it invaluable to practice together, pooling expertise and ideas.

The training sessions will be spread out over the week. Between training days, students will be required to spend some time putting newly acquired skills into practice, by teaching the choir formed by the student group. This enhances the value of the course, and quickly builds students' confidence.

#### Cost: £640

In order to keep the price very accessible, the cost of this course covers teaching costs and accommodation in shared rooms. (Single room supplement available on request).

We will share food costs between us.

Last year students found that collaborating with food preparation and then eating together made a relaxing contrast to the intensity of the training.

Candy will be drawing on over 35 years' experience of teaching in a wide range of settings:

- Setting up and directing a set of five 'Singing in the Round' community choirs,
- 7 years directing her performance choir Sounding It Out,
- The Trowbridge Song Project. A 2 year Arts Council Funded multi-cultural community project

- Work in schools, Early Years, Steiner education, nursing homes and work in the corporate world.

### **Travel**

You can travel to Falcarragh easily by public transport.

- Daily Coaches from Dublin to Falcarragh (4 hours). The coach picks up at Dublin airport:  
<http://www.johnmcginley.com/timetable.html>
- Daily Coaches from Belfast to Falcarragh (2 ¾ hours). The coach doesn't stop at the airport, but if you phone them, they'll arrange for a taxi to drop you from the airport to meet the coach on the main road: <http://www.gallagherscoaches.com/Map.htm>
- Hourly minibus from Belfast airport to Derry: [www.airporter.co.uk](http://www.airporter.co.uk)  
Local buses will get you from Derry to Letterkenny, then on to Falcarragh.
- Regular flights from Glasgow and Dublin to Donegal airport. 30 min drive from Song House. Candy will make every effort to collect you if she's available. Taxis available from the airport.

### **Feedback from past students:**

Students have come from all over the UK, Northern Ireland and Germany.

There are several short videos on my website from past participants:

[www.candyverney.co.uk/training-and-workshops/](http://www.candyverney.co.uk/training-and-workshops/)

*The course met my expectations and more. I've learnt so much about song styles, harmony, communication, expression- but also on a personal level I feel like I've gone to a place within myself and got in touch with my true self. I've also made some brilliant friends.*

**Clara Atkins Trowbridge 2015 Trowbridge Song Project training course participant**

*The course far exceeded any expectation I could have had! Candy created such a safe, warm, creative environment to have a go teaching others to sing and it was so exciting to hear the results. Candy - you are inspirational! and warm, open, accommodating, supportive, nurturing, encouraging, yet also clear about what you think is important.*

**Josephine Bell, Thornbury 2014 course participant**

***Comprehensive, inspiring and joyous** are just three of the words that come to mind when I think of Candy's course. I came on this course to increase my musicality and musical skills - it's given me that and so much more. Thank you I set up a guinea pig choir of friends and neighbours to run sessions whilst on the course. My initial nervousness in doing this has been rewarded by the most extraordinary feedback from those attending, many of whom professed that they couldn't sing at all. It has been a humbling experience that has given me much food for thought about how to continue to take things forward.*

**Carole Bond, Bath 2014 course participant**

***I offered a short session to colleagues at work and was amazed by the eruption of energy, enjoyment and laughter that happened and the transformation in the group dynamic***

*I am planning to run singing groups with people in recovery from mental ill health and*

*drug/alcohol addiction*

*Excellent informative inspiring handouts and related to teaching sessions*

***incredible value course - intensive learning experience - loads of tips + practise + theory.***

*Very encouraging positive fun atmosphere*

*I would unreservedly recommend this course to anyone thinking of running a community choir. It has been a springboard of skill sharing and inspiration + new songs teach, ways to vary your teaching.*

***Candy has been extraordinarily generous with her knowledge of singing teaching.***

**Rae Levy, London      2014 course participant**

***I went away from the course confident that I had the grounding and understanding of how to direct my own choir and, indeed, have started a group, which is rapidly growing in number. Without Candy's training and encouragement, I could never have achieved this; I urge anyone, who is thinking about doing the same, to let Candy show them the way. You'll emerge from her course well-equipped to realise your dream."***

**Tony Barby, Corsham**

**2012 course participant**

*"I have gone from no experience to; teaching a group of six children, then a class of 30. Following this a performance in a school assembly with 90 children, then a weekly raise the roof 20 minute slot including 300 children. I didn't think I would ever have the confidence or the opportunity to do what I am doing."*

**Claire Corcorran, Trowbridge**

**2013 course participant**

Candy Verney : [candy@candyverney.co.uk](mailto:candy@candyverney.co.uk) : [www.candyverney.co.uk](http://www.candyverney.co.uk)

Irish phone: +353 (0)85 889 3154

UK phone: +44 (0)1225 353664