

## Develop your singing skills with SOC Academy

SOC offers members free and low cost opportunities to help develop and improve their singing skills. We call our development and education programme 'SOC Academy', and encourage all members to use its benefits.

If you are not a SOC member you can still take advantage of Academy classes 1, 2 or 3 below for a small charge.

### 1. Sight-singing

- Sight-singing exercises and examples
- Recognising scales, arpeggios and patterns
- Work on rhythms
- Memory and key awareness

### 2. Theory classes

- Focus on key-recognition, one of the most important aspects in sight-singing

### 3. Vocal technique classes

- Breathing and posture
- Using breath evenly and singing a good line
- Ascending and descending phrases / keeping pitch

- Additional support muscles
- Placing the sound throughout the range / keeping pitch
- Tongue flexibility, vowel matching and blending
- Breath release for crescendo and diminuendo
- Singing staccato, runs, and general vocal flexibility

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### Vocal Clinics (free, only available to members)

One to one individually tailored help with voice development including:

- Breathing techniques
- Vocal techniques and voice production/range
- Diction
- Tips on pitch and blending
- Exploring changes in the voice
- Tips for the ageing voice

## Further information

See **ACADEMY DATES AND FEES** section overleaf for details of times, dates and fees for Academy sessions & how to book.

Academy classes are led by either SOC Musical Director Alan East or Vocal Coach Vivien Pike.

Vocal Clinics are conducted by our Vocal Coach and will be offered to individual members regularly.

Our ultimate aim is to promote quality choral singing in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Classes and clinics are aids to developing individual and choral singing skills. You may be offered advice and tips on a range of topics to consider.

Classes and clinics are not auditions. We audition new members when they join SOC, and hold auditions for smaller singing groups when necessary.

We hope you will take advantage of the range of activities available to you in SOC.

**We are very pleased to make Academy classes available to non-members as well as members.**

## ACADEMY DATES AND FEES Autumn 2014

All courses are held before choir rehearsals on Wednesdays at St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield S3 7RQ. Non-members are welcome to stay and observe or sing at the subsequent rehearsal.

### Vocal Technique course led by Vivien Pike

24 September, 1, 8, 15 October

6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Fees - Members £15      Non Members £20  
(fee includes all 4 sessions).

### Sight-singing course led by Alan Eost

12, 19, 26 November, 3 December

6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Fees - Members £15      Non Members £20  
(fee includes all 4 sessions).

**SOC members** - to book speak to the SOC Academy administrator, available at rehearsals or e-mail as below.

**Non-members** – Please e-mail [academy@oratorio.org.uk](mailto:academy@oratorio.org.uk) for further details and to book. Also see our website [www.oratorio.org.uk](http://www.oratorio.org.uk) for details of future courses when available.

## Quotes from satisfied SOC members...

*"I recently attended a vocal clinic with Vivien after I had missed out on selection for the Chamber Choir. I already was aware that my sight singing needed improvement but at this meeting Vivien made very clear that I needed to develop the depth of sound that I produce. I sing first bass at Oratorio and first baritone in a male voice choir. She gave me straightforward advice on how I should progress the required sound. I am practising this technique and already begin to hear a significant difference. Thanks, Vivien."*

**"I FOUND THE SIGHT SINGING COURSE VERY USEFUL – IT HELPED ME APPRECIATE THE WORK I NEEDED TO DO TO FEEL COMFORTABLE SINGING MORE CHALLENGING WORKS."**

*"Vocal technique classes really helped me to produce a better sound by a combination of breathing and voice production techniques."*

**"I'm really impressed with what is on offer in SOC to help improve my voice – not many choirs provide this kind of help."**

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SHEFFIELD  
ORATORIO CHORUS

[www.oratorio.org.uk](http://www.oratorio.org.uk)

## SOC ACADEMY

**Sight-singing  
Music Theory  
Vocal Technique  
Vocal Clinics**

## Autumn 2014