



Congressional Chorus presents

Homesong

Program Order

Taloowa Chipota

by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate

1. Hashiat Kochcha (Sunrise)

2. Loksi' Hakshop (Turtle Shells)

Baba's American Dream by Marjan Naderi

Arirang arr. by Hyowon Woo

Pani Ka Rang by Gaayatri Kaundinya

Qabuli Palow by Marjan Naderi

TaReKiTa by Reena Esmail

Chamber Ensemble

The Road Home arr. by Stephen Paulus

Alfonsina y el Mar arr. by Cristian Perez

Vidalita arr. by Diana Sáez

Home by Louis Armstrong, arr. by George
Stewart

NorthEast Senior Singers

Ain't That Good News arr. by George
Stewart

Going Home arr. by Rollo Dilworth

"Blahoslovy, dushe moja, Hospoda" from
Liturgy No. 2 by Roman Hurko

Alternate Heaven for Refugees by Marjan
Naderi

Chalo Re Mhaare Des by Gaayatri
Kaundinya
World Premiere

"Home" from The Wiz arr. by George
Stewart
World Premiere



Program

Congressional Chorus

Dr. Allan Laiño, Artistic Director

Taloowa Chipota

Text by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate

Chickasaw translation by Joshua Hinson

Hyun Ji Choi, cello

Maria Balducci, piano

I. Hashiat Kochcha (Sunrise)

Misha pílla aashoppala' písli....

I see a light in the distance...

Hatahoot ankána' himitta'?

Who is my new friend?

Sahaksibisha milínkaha

chokkilimaat anompohóli,

He is whispering in my ear,

Sachonkasha achokmalicho'sit

imanompoli.

Gently talking to my heart.

Pisa'! Hashiat powaháa!

Look, the sun is calling to us!

Shotiha_ahámbi!

He is painting the sky!

Himmaka' poshki' alhihaat hilha'chi.

Now, our mothers will dance.

II. Loksi' Hakshop (Turtle Shells)

Baba's American Dream

Marjan Naderi, poet

Arirang

Arr. by Hyowon Woo

Hyun Ji Choi, cello

Maria Balducci, piano

Pani Ka Rang

by Gaayatri Kaundinya

Ram Eshwar Kaundinya, tabla

Rosalie Toupin, soloist

Madhuvanthi Sunderarajan, dancer

Maithri Verma, dancer

Pani re paani, tera rang kya hai?

Rangon ke liye, pani, tu pyaasa hai!

Water, O water, what is your color?

For colors, dear water, you yourself are thirsty!

Pani ki tarhah, Mann berang hai

Jeevan ke rangon ko mann bhi pyaasa hai

Just like water, the spirit is colorless

For the colors of life, the spirit too is thirsty!

Life's legacy reflects the heart's colors!

Qabuli Palow

Marjan Naderi, poet

TaReKiTa

by Reena Esmail

Chamber Ensemble

The text syllables are onomatopoeic

vocalizations of the sounds produced by Indian instruments.

The Road Home

Tune: The Southern Harmony Songbook, 1835

Arr. by Stephen Paulus

Text by Michael Dennis Browne

LeighAnne Markaity, soloist

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know there's a way,
There's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done.
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong:
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

Alfonsina y el Mar

Argentine Zamba by Ariel Ramírez
Arr. by Cristian Perez
Cristian Perez, guitar

Vidalita

Argentine Folk Song
Arr. by Diana Sáez
Cristian Perez, guitar

Palomita blanca, vidalita,
White dove, vidalita,

Pecho colorado

Red chest

Llevale esta carta, vidalita

Bring him this letter, vidalita

A mi bien amado.

To my beloved.

Palomita blanca, vidalita

White dove, vidalita,

Piquito de acero,

Steel beak,

Dile que me espere, vidalita

Tell him to wait for me, vidalita

Sin su amor me muero.

Without his love I die.

Home

by Geoff & Harry Clarkson, Peter van Steedan

Arr. by George Stewart

NorthEast Senior Singers (NESS)

Manuel Pelayo de Góngora, clarinet

Ev'ning marks the close of day,

Skies of blue begin to grey,

Crimson hues are fading in the West;

Ev'ning ever brings to me

Dreams of days that used to be,

Memories of those I love the best.

When shadows fall
And trees whisper day is ending,
My thoughts are ever wending Home.
When the crickets call,
My heart is forever yearning,
Once more to be returning Home.
When the hills conceal the setting sun,
Stars begin a peeping one by one.
Night covers all
And, though fortune may forsake me,
Sweet dreams will ever take me Home.
When shadows fall
And trees whisper day is ending,
My thoughts are ever wending Home.
When the crickets call,
My heart is forever yearning,
Once more to be returning Home.
When the hills conceal the setting sun,
Stars begin a peeping one by one.
Night covers all
And, though fortune may forsake me,
Sweet dreams will ever take me Home.

Ain't That Good News

Traditional Spiritual

Arr. by George Stewart

NorthEast Senior Singers (NESS)

Manuel Pelayo de Góngora, saxophone

Kenneth Springfield, solo

Going Home

Music by Antonín Dvořák

Words and Adaptation by William Arms Fisher

Arr. by Rollo Dilworth

Annette S. Singletary, mezzo-soprano

Maria Balducci, piano

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.

Deep river, Lord.

I want to cross over into campground.

Going home, going home, I'm a-going home;

Quiet like, some still day,

I'm just going home.

It's not far, just close by, through an open door;

Work all done, care laid by,

Going to fear no more.

Mother's there expecting me,

Father's waiting too;

Lots of folk gathered there,

All the friends I knew.

Home, home. I'm going home!

Morning star light the way,

Restless dream all done;

Shadows gone, break of day,
Real life just begun.

There's no break, there's no end,
Just a-living on;
Wide awake, with a smile,
Going on and on.

Going home, going home.
I'm just going home;
It's not far, just close by,
Through an open door.
Going up yonder, Lord.
I'm just going home.
Trials are over, Lord.
I'm just going home.

I want to cross over,
I want to cross over into campground.

Home, home.
I'm going home!

"Blahoslovy, dushe moja, Hospoda"

from Liturgy No. 2

by Roman Hurko

Blahoslovy, dushe moja, Hospoda,
Bless the Lord, O my soul,

i vse nutro moje i mja sviate Joho.

and let all that is within me bless His holy name.

Blahoslovy, dushe moja, Hospoda,

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

i ne zabuvaj usich daruvan' Joho.

and forget not all his benefits.

Vin Oczyshcaje vsi bezzakonja tvoji,

He forgives all your iniquities,

i ztsiljaje vsi neduhy tvoji.

and heals all your diseases.

Shcedryj i mylostyvyj Hospod',

Compassionate and merciful is the Lord,

Dovho terpelyvyj i mnoho mylostyvyj.

Slow to anger and abounding in mercy.

Alternate Heaven for Refugees

Marjan Naderi, poet

Chalo Re Mhaare Des

by Gaayatri Kaundinya

2022 Congressional Chorus Commission

World Premiere

Grace Srinivasan, soprano

Michelle Kannan, alto

Ram Eshwar Kaundinya, tabla

Madhuvanthi Sunderarajan, dancer

Maithri Verma, dancer

O sajani chalo re mhaare des

O dear friend, let's go to our homeland

O sajani chalo re

O dear friend, let's go

Home I'm home, home, I'm home.

Home I'm home, home, I'm home.

O sajani chalo re mhaare des

O sajani chalo re

O sajani chalo re mhaare des

O sajani chalo re

I am home, I am home

I am home, I am home

kya des hai, kya vides hai,

*What is our land, and what is foreign land, I
can't tell*

ghar kyaa na jaano

now I don't know now what home is

Jahaan bhi jaao tum

Wherever you go

videsi mat banjao

don't become a foreigner

Sadaa yaad karo

Always remember

pehchaan tumhaare

your identity

O sajani chalo re mhaare des

O dear friend, let's go to our homeland

I'm coming home, coming home

I'm coming home, coming home

O sajani, you will always be my home

O dear friend, you will always be my home

"Home" from The Wiz

by Charlie Smalls

Arr. by George Stewart

2022 Congressional Chorus Commission

World Premiere

Congressional Chorus & NESS

George Stewart, piano

When I think of home, I think of a place
Where there's love overflowing.

I wish I was home, I wish I was back there
With the things I been knowing.

Wind that makes the tall trees bend into
leaning,

Suddenly the snowflakes that fall have a
meaning,

Sprinkling the scene, makes it all clean.

Maybe there's a chance for me to go back
there

Now that I have some direction.

It would sure be nice to be back home

Where there's love and affection.

And just maybe I can convince time to slow up,

Giving me enough time in my life to grow up.

Time be my friend, let me start again.

Suddenly my world has changed its face

But I still know where I'm going.

I have had my mind spun around in space
And yet I've watched it growing.

If you're listening, God,

Please don't make it hard to know

If we should believe in the things that we see.

Tell us, should we run away,

Should we try and stay,

Or would it be better just to let things be?

Living here, in this brand new world

Might be a fantasy,

But it taught me to love,

So it's real to me.

And I've learned

That we must look inside

Our hearts to find

A world full of love

Like yours and mine,

Like home.



About the Artists



Dr. Allan Laiño
Artistic Director
Congressional Chorus

American Prize winner Allan Laiño (“lah-EE-nyoh” or / la ‘ʔi njo /) is the fourth Artistic Director of the Congressional Chorus. As a second-generation Filipino-American with wide-ranging musical influences, he aims to reshape the landscape of American choral artistry by creating an environment in which all voices can flourish.

Laiño has prepared choral ensembles for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Marin Alsop, BSO Pops and Jack Everly, NSO Pops and Steven Reineke, Piedmont Symphony Orchestra, Game of Thrones Live Concert Experience, and the Josh Groban Live National Tour. He has conducted onstage at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Kennedy Center Opera House, and Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center. His performances have been televised on programs such as the 2018 Kennedy Center Honors, CNN’s Live from the Capitol: January 6, One Year Later, and EWTN’s Annual Christmas Concert for Charity broadcast to over

140 countries worldwide.

As Co-Artistic Director of Bridge, Laiño produced, edited, directed, and sang in *America, You're Beautiful*, a short film that merged spoken word and choral music to examine racism in America. The film won the Black Truth Film Festival, Queens Underground International Black and Brown Film Festival, and Shortie Film Festival. As Co-Conductor of the Sunday Night Singers in 2012, he earned First Prize at the World Choir Games in the Mixed Chamber Choir Champions Division. He is the 2018 winner of The American Prize—Community Chorus Division, and was a finalist in two categories for the 2020 The American Prize in Composition. In 2021, Laiño was the music awardee for *The Outstanding Filipinos in America* presented at Carnegie Hall.



NorthEast Senior Singers
(NESS)

The NorthEast Senior Singers (NESS) is one of the only programs in the District that provides musical opportunities specifically for the elderly with a focus on providing older residents with performance-centered experiences alongside a community of younger singers. NESS singers generally perform three concerts each season, including a joint concert with the American Youth Chorus and Chamber Ensemble each spring.

NESS has been featured in a PBS documentary about "Arts and Aging," and stands as an example of how music can foster creative vitality in senior citizens. Studies have shown that singing can have many health benefits for seniors, including strengthened memory, enhanced, healing, improved immune system, expanded lung capacity, increased cognition, and more.



Deloris Agee

Program Director

NorthEast Senior Singers

Deloris has been a member of the NorthEast Senior Singers since 2003. Since assuming the role of teaching artist in Fall 2020, Deloris has helped prepare members to participate in an all virtual season. Under her direction the chorus produced its first virtual concert, This Little Light of Mine, and a full-length holiday concert, Proclaiming the Season: Peace, Love, and Joy. Deloris brings to this position over 30 years of experience as a choir director for all age groups. Her experience in the area of creative arts includes drama and play writing. For the past two years she has been the creator and program manager for the Puppets for Potential where she crafted over 25 hand puppets.





George Stewart

Music Director

NorthEast Senior Singers

George Stewart is a widely sought-after musician due, in part to his versatility and love for music regardless of denomination or genre. George joined the Congressional Chorus during the 2021-2022 season. He has been blessed to share his gift in various venues ranging from small Pentecostal storefront churches to television studios, in concert halls on both coasts, with his past choir, Pentecostal Glory, being the first African-American Catholic Gospel Choir to perform at the historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC.

Among George's greatest honors was being invited to perform at the White House for its annual Black History Month Celebration in February 2021 and to grace the altar as one of the musicians for the Junipero Serra Canonization Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

George served more than 35 years as choir director, accompanist and minister of music for several area churches and played on several recordings including the GIA-published "Catholic Classics, Volume VII," and the Holy Comforter St Cyprian's Church Choir's "We Offer Praise." He currently serves as the director of music for the Holy Comforter St Cyprian's Church.



Maria Balducci

Pianist

Maria Balducci, a native of the Washington DC area, is the Director of Music and Organist at St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill. Maria's degrees in piano performance are from Oberlin College (B.M.) and Roosevelt University (M.M.). She has previously served as keyboardist for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and accompanist for Chicago Opera Theater. Locally, Maria has served as accompanist for National Children's Chorus and works closely with the American Federation Pueri Cantores, the international children's choral organization of the Catholic Church. Maria and her husband Michael Voigt reside in Alexandria, VA, with their four young boys.



Hyun Ji Choi

Cellist

Cellist Hyun Ji Choi enjoys a versatile career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. She has been heard in venues as diverse as the Alice Tully Hall of the Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. to name a few. Her artistry

has taken her to perform in South Korea, Japan, Canada, Mexico, and Argentina as a soloist and a chamber musician. While living in Chicago, she performed a wide selection of solo cello and chamber music repertoires as a member of Apas Duo/Trio, appearing as a frequent and regular guest in many of the recital series and educational programs for public libraries, hospitals, and community centers in the region. She was a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony in Michigan and now appears as a guest musician for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.



Gaayatri Kaundinya
Composer

Gaayatri Kaundinya's journey as a composer began with her extensive training in Indian music from the world renowned Sarod Maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. With the unique experience of studying vocal music from an instrumentalist, she was exposed to the ins and outs of Indian instruments and orchestration alongside her vocal music training. With the rigor of Hindustani training, she developed strong ear training precision, and a prolific ability to improvise and compose music.

Professionally, her production work with AR Rahman was her first exposure to writing commercial music that blended Indian music with cinematic music. While assisting on his projects, she experimented with blending her unique Indian music training into the media music language.

She developed a unique sound and perspective on crossover music composition and representing blended identities in storytelling. This opened up opportunities to take part in major projects in Hollywood, Bollywood, and beyond.



Ram Eshwar Kaundinya
Percussionist

Ram Eshwar Kaundinya has been a life long percussionist. He started playing on human heads, graduated to the Indian Classical Hand Drums (Tablas), and is a multi-percussionist. Training with the likes of Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, Chuck Brown, and James Newton, Ram has also been a bandleader with his group Kune Do. Today Ram brings his artistic and scientific pursuits to the world of game development with Firaxis Games.



Marjan Naderi
Poet

Marjan Naderi, the 2020 D.C. Youth Poet Laureate, is an Afghan-American writer and

educator based in Washington, D.C. As a 7-time Poetry Grand Slam Champion, Naderi has been featured on The Washington Post, NPR, The United Nation's Girl Up Campaign, NBC News, Nike, and more. Her writing has been recognized by The Adroit Journal, Brave New Voices, The Split This Rock Poetry Database, and The National YoungArts Foundation where she was nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts Award. Her first chapbook, *Bloodline*, was released in 2019.

As an educator, Naderi has facilitated writing workshops across the nation. She's taught Quranic Studies at The Afghan Academy and founded the Washington International Academy Library. She's currently working with international non-profits to build schools and libraries in Afghanistan and The Gambia. Her work is featured in curricula including Fairfax County Public Schools, Bryant University, The University of Virginia, and L.M.S. Voice.

Naderi, 20, now attends The University of Virginia. She's currently working on her next chapbook, *a memoir to Afghanistan*.



Manuel Pelayo de Góngora
Reeds

Musician 1st Class Manuel Pelayo de Góngora

was born in Holguin, Cuba, where he started his musical studies at the age of ten. At 18, he moved to the capital city, Havana, where he had the opportunity to join several bands as a professional saxophonist, including "Klimax," led by Cuban percussionist and composer Gerardo Piloto. He performed at multiple festivals such as the North Sea Jazz Fest in Holland, Vienna Jazz Fest, Nice Jazz Festival, New Morning, Perpignan Jazz Festival, Jazz Fort- Medoc 97, Millau Jazz in France, Jazzhaus in Germany, Roskilde Festival in Denmark, Monteux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and Barbican Centre in England. Pelayo has also performed at the Blue Note in Paris and at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London.

In 2000, he moved to Puerto Rico to continue his musical career, exploring new genres and instruments including flute and clarinet. He played in different bands and with different artists such as Quique Talavera, San Juan-Habana, Cesar Concepción, Juan Vélez, Elias López, Cultura Profética, Tego Calderón, León de Judá, Chucho Avellanet, Melina León, Tito el Bambino and others. He also participated in Olga Tañón's musical, touring the United States and Caracas in 2003, and performed with Humberto Ramirez's band at the Heineken Jazz Fest in 2003 and Tito de Gracia's band "Naoka Jam" at the Heineken Jazz Fest in 2004. Additionally, he played with Paquito de Rivera, Dave Valentin, Giovanni Hidalgo and Chick Corea, performing on more than 15 recordings.



Cristian Perez
Guitarist

Cristian Perez is an Argentine-American guitarist/composer/arranger currently based in Northern Virginia. He graduated from GMU with a BM in Classical guitar ('10) and a MM in Jazz Studies ('12). Cristian has performed internationally (Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Bolivia, China, Dominican Republic) and continues to be very active in the local music scene. His debut album “Anima Mundi” has received numerous reviews throughout the world and reached #13 in the CMJ World Music charts in the USA. Cristian is a former Artist in Residence at Strathmore ('15). He won 2 Wammie Awards (2022) with the band Project Locrea. He has been featured on Vintage Guitar Magazine. Cristian is currently a Kremona Guitars Artist as well as an MCO Guitars Artist.



Grace Srinivasan
Soprano

Praised for her “beautiful vocalism” (San Francisco Gate) and engaging presence, soprano Grace Srinivasan has established herself in the Baltimore-Washington area as a performer of a

wide spectrum of repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to contemporary compositions. Grace's recent roles include Despina (Cosi Fan Tutte), High Priestess (Marais' Semele), Belinda (Dido and Aeneas), and Laurie Moss (The Tender Land), as well as solos in Bach's Mass in B Minor, Handel's Messiah, Monteverdi's Vespers, and Mozart's Vesperae Solennes.

A Washington, D.C. area native, Grace sings professionally as a cantor and soprano at St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church in D.C. and as a soprano at Washington National Cathedral. She has sung with groups throughout the region including the Washington Bach Consort, the National Symphony Orchestra, Cantate Chamber Singers and The Washington Chorus at venues such as the Kennedy Center and Wolf Trap.



Congressional Chorus

Soprano

Kate Burkett

†Kristina Caggiano Kelly

Katherine DeFonzo

†Karen Dowling

†Cary Gibson

Jean Godwin

†Devon Gunn

Isabel Hardy

Cassandra Hart

Sarah Havlicek

Mechelle A. King

Valerie Lehman

*†LeighAnne Markaity

Ari Masters

Sarah McNeal

Allison Moody

Mary Moynihan

Ohvia Muraleetharan

Rachel Powers

Serra Schlanger

Devon Severson

Amy Swartz

Ariel White

Amanda Zimmerman

Alto

*Cassandra Anderson

Fiana Arbab

Lynne Barstow

Cecilia Brawner

†Sarah Bruno

Louise Buchanan

Julia Chertkof

Irina Dvorak

Emily Fournier

†Michelle Kannan

Elizabeth Megginson

Bette Mohr

Neela Nilsson

Barbara Percival

Rosalie Person

Rachel Saady-Saxe

Rachel Schotz

Annette S. Singletary

†Briana Thibeau

Rosalie Toupin

Paden Tranter

Tenor

Marjorie Atya
†Steven Boyd
Walt Cooper
†Christopher Daniels
*†Kelly Griffin
Jonathan Lain
John Lemen
Will McLearn
†Ely Merenstein
†Teddy Willard
Jon Wonder

Bass

*†Russell Ames
David Breen
David Cape
Michael Kopalek
Michael Krause
Greg Michaels
John Newman
†Michael Steelman
*†Daniel Wanke

* Section Leader
† Chamber Ensemble

NorthEast Senior Singers

George Stewart, Music Director
Deloris Agee, Program Director

Greg Anderson
Phillis Anderson
Melissa Dunlap
June Everhart
Jean Jamieson
Steve Jefferson
Queen Jones-Dickey
Judy Lucas

Greg Michaels
Greg Miller
Deborah Neesmith
Kathy Richburg
Ramona Service
Kenneth Springfield
Alice Yeager

Board of Directors

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Allan Laiño, Artistic Director, ex officio

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Kristina Caggiano Kelly, Secretary

Daniel Gordon, member

LeighAnne Markaity, member

Dawna Steelman, member

Jahnissi Tirado, member



Production

Rachel Bowe, Artistic Administrator

Max Kuzmyak, Audio/Video Recording Engineer

Charlie Ross, Audio/Video Technician

Craig Teer, Choral Risers

Shannon Pallata, Homesong Graphic Designer

Allan Laiño, Program Editor



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The Menezes Family Foundation

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Texas Instruments

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Congressional Chorus is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit

Congressional Chorus

SING, SING, SWING

4pm on March 25th and 26th, 2023
THEARC Black Box Theater



congressionalchorus.org

A Vintage Jazz Cabaret with Live Band

CAPITAL CITY SYMPHONY AND CONGRESSIONAL CHORUS

OF SIGHT & SOUND

SATURDAY,
MAY 13, 2023
7PM

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

PROGRAM:
BROKEN INK BY ZHOU TIAN
THE NOTEBOOKS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI
BY JOCELYN HAGEN

Save the Dates

NorthEast Senior Singers

Dec 21 – Christmas at Fortitude

Apr 16 – Jazz Concert at The Atlas

Congressional Chorus

Dec 23 – Messiah Sing-Along at Kennedy Center

Mar 25-26 – Sing, Sing, Swing at THEARC

May 13 – Of Sight & Sound at Epiphany DC

American Youth Chorus, NorthEast Senior Singers, and Chamber Ensemble

June 3

JOIN AMERICAN YOUTH CHORUS

PRESENTED BY



American Youth Chorus (AYC) provides music education, performance experience, and community for Washington, DC-area children in grades four to eight. Artistic Director Jonathon Hampton teaches diverse, United States music of all genres. AYC was founded in 2008 as part of a multigenerational family of choruses, alongside NorthEast Senior Singers and parent organization Congressional Chorus. Performance highlights include The White House, The Kennedy Center, The National Archives Museum, Library of Congress, and the U.S. Department of State. congressionalchorus.org/ayc

VOICE PLACEMENTS

November 9, 16, 30 or December 7

Come for a fun, simple, individual singing session. Get to know the conductor, and ask any questions. Together we'll sing one or two well-known tunes and play musical games, learning some music basics and how the voice works.

Discover how high and low the voice can go, how to listen to a few notes then sing them back, and how to breathe well and use the body as an instrument. Coming with a song to sing is welcome but not at all required. No preparation or experience needed. It's a short, easy, mini singing lesson.