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**Website:** [www.bcchoralfed.com/choraldirectorship-course-2015](http://www.bcchoralfed.com/choraldirectorship-course-2015)

Comments from past participants:

- I felt that a positive, safe and comfortable learning environment was created all week, which allowed me to explore and grow.
- In just a week, this course has helped me to improve greatly as a conductor, and teacher – it has changed the way I think about conducting.
- It was truly transformative – musically and in body and spirit.
- The week has inspired me to go back to a place of study and reflection, transforming myself so that I can better serve my students, and come to them more centred and with more joy.
- I was surprised and grateful for the abundance of work on vocal technique
- By the end of the course my brain was bursting, my eyes were sleepy and my heart was FULL!
- I learned so much about myself, not only as a conductor but as a musician and a person. Enriching... enlightening... energizing...!



## **CHORAL DIRECTORSHIP COURSE 2015**

*with faculty members*

**Fiona Blackburn, Sandra Meister, Sarona Mynhardt**

*& vocal faculty*

Fabiana Katz & Catherine Laub

A course for teachers and choir directors  
of unchanged voice choirs

**Tuesday 18 August— Tuesday 25 August, 2015**

Venue: St Mary's Kerrisdale Church  
(2490 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver)

*(including Fri 21 August at the Long & McQuade Reading Clinic)*

## CHORAL DIRECTORSHIP COURSE 2015

The Choral Directorship Course has been offered since 2002. It alternates between a focus on mixed voice choirs and the more mature voice, and a specific focus on school music and teachers working with elementary age children. It is our pleasure to offer the latter program again in 2015. The course offers an introduction to the basics of conducting, vocal pedagogy, choral and personal skills. It will also be found to be a useful opportunity to review fundamentals for slightly more experienced conductors whose batteries need recharging.

The upcoming course is open to conductors of children's community choirs, but it is specifically focused on those offering music within the school system. We hope particularly to reach those specialists who have music training, but do not necessarily have specific knowledge of dealing with children's voices. Specific topics covered are likely to include:

- basic vocal physiology
- appropriate ranges for different age groups
- breath support and techniques for developing that support
- development of the head voice
- choosing appropriate repertoire
- what defines 'good/excellent' repertoire...what do I look for?
- singing in parts - canons, partner songs, two-part repertoire
- the role of the accompanist
- organizing for the choir (short-term and long-term)
- what to do in the first rehearsal
- making rehearsals "fun", productive and musically successful
- getting the whole body involved
- ideas for involving and engaging boys
- what to do when elementary aged boys' voices begin to change
- sitting or standing - when to do what
- useful (but simple) conducting gestures
- age appropriate exemplars of individual and group performance

Participants will be expected to take an assessment of their conducting skills with a faculty member; this takes place in two 20-minute sessions, and is included in registration.

Registrants will receive daily group voice instruction, specific topic sessions with a variety of experienced faculty members, and a day spent at a reading clinic (elementary music focus), as well as other sessions on repertoire.

## REGISTRATION

To register, please visit [www.bcchoralfed.com/choral-directorship-course-2015](http://www.bcchoralfed.com/choral-directorship-course-2015)  
FEES: Package, comprising course, plus 2 x 20min master-classes, plus coaching session:

\$700 (plus GST) if registered before May 15

\$780 (plus GST) after that (late fee of \$50 after July 15)

Extra master-class—\$60 plus GST

Extra coaching—\$50 plus GST

Registrants are expected to be individual members of the BCCF

Thanks to a very generous sponsor, scholarships and bursaries may be available to BC registrants needing travel and accommodation assistance, or other financial aid.

Please contact the BCCF Project Manager— [projectmanager@BCChoralFed.com](mailto:projectmanager@BCChoralFed.com) for information.

We also recommend that you apply SOON to your school, choir or other potential source of funding for help.

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

### Tuesday 18 August:

- 2–3 pm: Registration & reception
- 3 pm: Keynote address
- 3:30–5 pm: Repertoire session led by faculty
- 5–6 pm: Dinner break
- 6–8 pm: Introductory conducting session; small groups

### Wednesday 19 August:

- 9 am–10 am: Vocal technique
- 10:20–12 pm: Small group conducting
- 12–1:15 pm: Lunch break, *(during which time vocal and keyboard instruction will be available, as well as round-table interest sessions)*
- 1:15–1:45 pm: Physical & vocal warm-ups
- 1:45–2:30 pm: Interest specific seminars
- 2:45–3:30 pm: Interest specific seminars
- 3:45–7 pm: Masterclasses: *Individual vocal and keyboard coaching also takes place.*

### Thursday 20 August (as Wednesday)

### Friday 21 August

- Day spent at Long & McQuade Elementary Reading Clinic

### Saturday 22 August (as Wednesday)

### Sunday 23 August

- 12:30 pm: Physical & vocal warm-ups
- 1–2:30 pm: Small group conducting
- 2:45–3:30 pm: Interest specific seminars
- 3:45–7 pm: Masterclasses: Individual vocal and keyboard coaching also takes place.

**Monday 24 August** *(basically as Wednesday; but observing and interacting with a demo choir)*

**Tuesday 25 August** *(as Wednesday, course ends at 4pm)*