



Arne Richards and

The Oxford Concert Party

Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra

SINGING WORKSHOPS



“Even if you think you can't sing, the very act of coming together with others, making vocal sounds, laughing together, learning music from different cultures, breathing and physically moving all have a remarkably powerful cathartic and therapeutic effect.”

Arne Richards

WHAT IS AN OXFORD CONCERT PARTY SINGING WORKSHOP?

Singing workshops take place in beautiful venues in different parts of the country. People come together to share in the pleasure of singing music from different centuries and different lands. Very often they have never sung before (or not after they have been told at school that they're unable to!). At the end of the day, people leave having often discovered latent talents as well as a highly enjoyable day.

WHAT WILL WE BE SINGING?

We begin with some easy call and response songs, rounds and warm ups and in a gentle and humorous way Arne starts to build everyone's confidence. We follow this with, for example, chants from Bulgaria and Africa, original songs by Arne, music from Russia, Spain, Gregorian chants, Taize and the West Gallery repertoire to name but a few.

WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THE WORKSHOP?

Anyone over the age of 14 can take part. They don't need to be able to sing, play an instrument or have any sort of musical experience. They just need to come with a desire to participate, as it is a very interactive day. (We have an age limit of 14 simply because the workshops are very full and need a lot of concentration.)

We can run the workshop for up to 60 people.

WHAT ARE THE TIMINGS FOR THE DAY?

The day starts promptly at 10am and ends at 4pm. Lunch is at 12:30pm for 1 hour and there will be a short tea break in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

WHO WILL BE LEADING THE WORKSHOP?

The Singing workshops are devised and delivered by Arne Richards of the Oxford Concert Party.

Arne Richards, Artistic Director of the Oxford Concert Party, made his highly acclaimed debut at the Wigmore Hall in London, and has since developed a colourful and varied performing profile in many parts of the world both as a harpsichordist and an accordionist. Well known for his exciting and stylish playing, he has recorded regularly for BBC Radio and Television, Channel 4 Television, and has appeared on Italian, German, Mexican, Australian and US networks. Arne's unique compositions and arrangements for the Oxford Concert Party reflect his great love of world music, particularly Celtic music and the

tango. An authority on music for healing, his work as a consultant music therapist has taken him to Scandinavia, the Far East, Australia and the USA. He also has a busy practise as a hypnoanalyst in which he incorporates the little known technique of Guided Imagery through Music.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE SINGING DAY?

The cost of the Singing Day is £300 plus travel expenses.

WHAT IS THE OXFORD CONCERT PARTY?

Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra

Take three hundred years of music from around the world, turn it upside down, infuse it with humour, energy, passion and pathos – and you have the recipe with which the Oxford Concert Party, described as **'one of the most entertaining, ground-breaking groups around'** (Oxford Times) delights their audience wherever they go. Be it Vivaldi or Piazzolla, French café music or Argentinean tango, Irish laments or Finnish polkas, this **'bunch of superb musicians'** (Daily Telegraph) create a rich, colourful, expressive sound, and their vibrant virtuosity, zany and off-beat humour make for an unforgettable performance. The Oxford Concert Party has made CDs, performed in festivals throughout Britain, on radio and TV, and been 'Pick of the Fringe' at the Edinburgh Festival.

"A decidedly unstuffy bunch of superb musicians Look out for them whenever your spirits need a lift."

Daily Telegraph

"The Oxford Concert Party create a link between Vivaldi, the Irish dances of O'Carolan and the South American Tango, and in the process release rhythms of Latin lasciviousness and relaxed rusticity. ...Thanks to Arne Richards' engaging compering and the wit and energy of the players, this concert created a palatable, and welcome, sensation of warmer climes."

****** The Scotsman (1998 Edinburgh Fringe Review)**

"It's totally different, crazy and triumphant with a peculiar vitality."

BBC Radio

WHO DO WE CONTACT IF WE HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

You can check our website at www.oxfordconcertparty.org and send us an email, or contact our General Manager, Deborah Henry-Pollard on debspollard88@yahoo.co.uk or call 07946 044936.

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