

WELCOME TO OUR ADJUDICATOR: SUZI DIGBY OBE



Suzi Digby OBE is an internationally renowned choral conductor, choir master and music educator - with a passion to get the nation singing. She has trail blazed the revival of singing in schools and the community in the UK for over 2½ decades.

She was a judge on the BBC TV series “Last Choir Standing” – a competition for Britain’s favourite choir, which attracted 10 million UK fans and many more worldwide. She has judged the BBC School Choir of the Year Competition, the BBC Chorister of the Year and has contributed to many other programmes.

Suzi graduated with honours in Musicology from King’s College London where she studied piano, singing, conducting, arts administration and music education pedagogy. Born in Japan, she has lived in Mexico, the Philippines and Hong Kong, where she presented her own TV arts series and was a prolific radio broadcaster, teacher and performer. In 1990 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship, which enabled her to travel to Finland, Hungary, Canada and the USA to study methods of choral training and music pedagogy as practised by their leading exponents.

She is now a Council Member of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, Trustee of Music in Country Churches and several other music and education charities. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Past President of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and choral advisor for Novello music publishers. She was the Acting Music Director of Queens’ College, University of Cambridge and she is now a visiting Professor at the University of Southern California, where she has created a Masters in Arts Leadership and Choral Conducting.

Suzi is the Founder and Principal of The Voices Foundation, the UK's leading music education charity she established in 1993, which works with schools to deliver sustainable solutions to teaching music at a Primary level. Over one million children and 60,000 teachers have benefited from the scheme. www.voices.org.uk

She has worked internationally with children’s and adult choirs for many years and founded Voce in 2003, widely acknowledged as London's finest young and vibrant Chamber Choir www.vocechamberchoir.org.uk

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Her conducting work has seen her perform in some of London's most prestigious concert venues including the Royal Albert Hall (for Yehudi Menuhin's 80th birthday concert), St John's Smith Square, St James's Piccadilly and the Royal College of Music. She has conducted prestigious orchestras, including the Brandenburg Choral Festival, Academy of Ancient Music and she works regularly with members of BBC Symphony Orchestra. She adjudicates choir competitions and gives lectures/workshops internationally. Her choirs have performed with The Rolling Stones and recorded with Duran Duran. She also works with The London Mozart Players and Britten Sinfonia and annually conducts 2,000 voices in the Royal Albert Hall in a scratch Youth Messiah. In 2015 it was awarded first prize for Best Classical Music Education Initiative Nationwide by Classic FM.



Suzi founded Singing4Success www.singing4success.com – and with her top team of experts to offer inspirational and motivational singing based workshops for team building and leadership exercises both in the UK and internationally with an emphasis on active listening, and confident communication.

Another project is Vocal Futures which aims to build the next generation's classical music audiences (16-22s). It will identify, involve and inspire young people to engage with classical music. www.vocalfutures.org

She also founded the London Youth Choirs – an exciting initiative to provide London's young singers with a world class choral education and to create a flagship ensemble with a pyramid of 5 choirs from all 33 Boroughs to represent the city of London on a world stage. www.londonyouthchoir.com

Suzi has also launched the professional vocal consort, ORA - commissioning new choral works as 'reflections' of old masterworks. www.orasingers.com Within a week of release their CD "Upheld by Stillness" was the highest new entry in the Classical Specialist Chart.

Suzi was awarded an OBE in 2007 in recognition of outstanding services to music education.