

# URSZULA WEBER

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# CURRICULUM VITAE

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## CHORAL CONDUCTING POSTS

- National Teachers' Choir (2015 – present)
- CBSO Young Voices (2015 – present)
- Birmingham City Council Choir (2014 – present)
- CBSO SO Vocal - 200-strong community choir, Birmingham (2011 – present)
- *Echo Doliny* - The National Polish Folk Choir of Great Britain and *Dolinki*, the solo girls' ensemble (2009 – present)
- Kent Teacher's Choir (2009 - 2010)
- Walsall Forest Arts Ladies' Choir (2007 – 2009)
- Doncaster Wheatsheaf Singers (formally Doncaster Wheatsheaf Girls' Choir) and DWS Junior Girls' Choir (1994 – 2002)

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

### Vocal.Point: Co-Director (2012 – present)

- Lead Consultants for the Dudley Arts Education Hub (2012 – 2015). The job involved creating and implementing a singing strategy, managing and running vocal projects and delivering training for teachers.
- Planning and leading choral and corporate singing workshops across the UK.
- Co-composed and published a book of classroom songs (*Sing Up, Sing Out!* 2016).

### Sing for Pleasure: Head of Events (2010 – present)

- Creating, organising and running choral conducting courses and singing events across the UK and abroad. Devised the Vocal Leadership Training Course, training teachers, nationally, to lead singing in school.
- Course Director the Sing for Pleasure Summer School, at Keele University (2013 - 2015).
- Regularly tutoring on conducting courses in London, Bolton, Birmingham and Keele University.
- Devising and setting up new events such as the May Weekend for Conductors and the Gifted and Talented Children's Singing Week.
- Published book of Polish singing games (*Ziggy da Dumba*, 2008).

### Sandwell Youth Music and Arts Service: Vocal Projects Leader (2005 – present)

Raising the standard of singing in schools across Sandwell Borough through:

- Creating and developing a borough wide singing strategy;
- Organising and leading teacher training events and singing projects in schools;
- Directing large-scale 'Big Sing' projects;
- Teaching singing to groups ranging from whole-class to individual pupils;
- Delivering Sing Up (government funded singing initiative) activities in schools;
- Developing choral singing in the region.

Part of a team (invited by the British Council) that went to study music education delivery in Odessa, Ukraine.

### Freelance Choral Animator and Singer (2004 – present)

- Part of the Sing Up Provider's Network, leading over 20 Sing Up teacher training events and workshops across the Midlands, Norfolk, London and Kent.
- Creating and delivering a Young Singing Leaders programme for Glyndebourne Education.
- Guest conducting at local and national choral events for adult, youth, children's and massed choirs, including Milton Keynes, Staffordshire and Worcestershire Music Hubs.
- Leading choral and education workshops for organisations including CBSO, NYCOS, JAM, Black Voices, NAME, ABCD, Making Music UK and Music Leader West Midlands.
- Alto and mezzo-soprano soloist. Concerts include Mozart's *Requiem* (Notorious Choir, 2011) *Manchester Carols* (Cranleigh Choral Society, 2012), Haydn's *Missa Celensis* (Sing for Pleasure, 2013) and the world première of Oliver Tarney's *Magnificat* (Sing for Pleasure, 2014).

## Key Projects and Events:

- Artistic director and workshop leader of biennial Music Mark West Midlands *Sing!* event at Symphony Hall, with 3000 children from KS1 to KS5. Guest conductor for the evening showcase in Feb 2016.
- Workshop leader for Worcestershire Music Hub's 'Big Sing' with 2000 children at Worcester University Arena. Including teacher CPD (2015 and 2016).
- Chorus Master for WNO project *I Had an Angel* (2013).
- Conducted a large-scale commission of Bob Chilcott's *A Sporting Chance* (2011 and 2013) and Tim Jackson's *Opening Night* (2015) with Onyx Brass and 250 school children in New Romney, Kent.

*I have yet to see anyone mesmerise 250 children at a time more than Ula. From first meeting she has the children completely under her spell, inspiring confidence & belief that they can do something extraordinary together.*

Edward Armitage, JAM Chairman

- Conductor and Artistic Director of the annual Summer School for Gifted and Talented Young Singers in Derby (2006 – 2011).
- Musical Director of the Polish Folklore Festival at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (2009).
- Guest conducting Fauré's *Requiem* with Notorious choir and orchestra (2008).

## **Ex Cathedra: Singer, Singing Playgrounds Project Leader and Principal Vocal Tutor (1998 – present)**

- Co-creator of Singing Playgrounds – an internationally acclaimed education project, set up in 2004.
- Leading on the planning, delivery and timetabling of Singing Playgrounds work around the UK and abroad (including China, Thailand and New Zealand) and co-writing a comprehensive project resource file.
- Delivering high quality education and vocal projects across the country.
- Consultancy work in New Zealand (2015) supporting the development of a national singing strategy.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

### **Uplands Manor Primary School: Class Teacher & Music Coordinator (2001 – 2004)**

- Implemented a successful new music scheme, developed the school choir, planned and carried out departmental audits and development plans, managed the departmental budget and designed and helped create a new music/performing arts room.
- Organised and took part in various INSET days and courses dealing with music, curriculum and classroom management issues.
- Awarded 'outstanding' in an OFSTED inspection (February 2004). Music was praised as being excellent, particularly the high standard of singing throughout both key stages.

### **Birmingham Grand Moat House Hotel (1998 – 1999)**

- Busy conference and business hotel in the business centre of Birmingham. Jobs included: Receptionist and switchboard operator, reservations co-ordinator, Christmas events co-ordinator.
- Awarded several prizes for consistent service.

## **EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS**

- **PGCE (Primary):** University of Central England (2000 – 2001).
- **BMus(Hons) (II:i):** The University of Hull (1993 – 1998) - Received award for "outstanding contribution to the department".
- **13 G.C.S.E's** (including Polish, Maths, English and Music), **5 A-Levels** (Polish, English Language, French, Music & General Studies), **1 AS-Level** (R.E.): The McAuley School, Doncaster (1986 – 1993).
- Grade 8 Singing, grade 7 Violin, grade 5 Piano and Theory.
- Completed a five-day training course with the Voices Foundation in delivering curriculum music through singing.
- Accredited national trainer for Sing Up.

## **PERSONAL QUALITIES**

- Committed to achieving the highest standards of singing and inspiring this in others.
- Excellent organisational, leadership, communication and time management skills.
- Highly creative and practical and able to work well as a part of a team.
- Bilingual in Polish and English with a knowledge of French.

## **INTERESTS**

Include: Polish folk dancing; crafting and card making; reading.