



Monday 30th July – Saturday 4th August 2018

Joining Instructions

Arrival

Participants are asked to arrive from 11:00 – 13:00 on Monday 30th July. Lunch will be provided from 13:00 in the Abbot's Hall. Registration will close strictly at 13:00. When you arrive, please leave your luggage in your vehicle before registering. Registration takes place in the Festival Office, which will be signposted from the front of the mansion building. After receiving your room keys, staff will direct you to your room. Once you have taken your luggage to your room please move your car to the designated parking area which will be signposted.

The main school reception phone number is 01258 880484 and this is manned during office hours. Out of hours calls are diverted to the duty caretaker.

Accommodation

You will be directed to your room after registration in the Festival Office. All bedding and towels are provided, although you may wish to **bring a towel if you intend to swim**. *There are no laundry facilities available*. Please note that you will be residing in school boarding accommodation so bear this in mind and consider bringing a bedside light if you will need one. The rooms are NOT ensuite. The showers and toilets may be a few steps from your room so you may wish to bring a dressing gown and slippers. Please also note that amenities such as shampoo/toothpaste, first aid, and other supplies, are not available for purchase at Milton Abbey and you will need to bring these with you.

Dress Code

The dress code throughout the day is casual. Dress for the chamber groups concert on Thursday 3 August is a smart casual shirt/top with black trousers/skirt. The dress for the Gala Concert on Saturday 4th August is **all black** – black shirt/top with black trousers/skirt.

Code of Conduct

The Summer School is truly international and we have people from all over the world attending, all with a shared passion for music making. You are therefore asked to be considerate to others at all times. We also have a wide range of ages participating in the Summer School so please be mindful that some participants will be going to bed earlier than others. We want everyone

to have fun and encourage social gatherings in the King's Room, Prince's Room, and Abbot's Hall. Please be aware that the boarding house common rooms are not sound-proofed so noise should be kept to a minimum in these areas after 22:30. There are a number of families who live on site at Milton Abbey and you are respectfully requested to bear in mind that Milton Abbey is their home and some of them have young families. Milton Abbey is a **no smoking** site so please do not smoke on the school grounds. The school support staff will be working during office hours, so please be aware of this as you move around the site.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals begin at the times published on the Summer School timetable. Most of the tutti rehearsals with Barney Smith take place in the New Barn Theatre (NBT) unless otherwise stated on the timetable. Rehearsals for chamber groups take place in other spaces around the school, and you will be directed to these by staff on the day. All music is provided and hired copies must be returned after use, but you are welcome to take the Festival Music Book home with you. Please bring a pencil to all rehearsals; you may wish to bring a refillable bottle of water too.

Chamber Groups

Each group will work with one or two members of VOCES8 on a capella repertoire and perform as part of the Chamber Groups & Scholars' Ensemble Recital on Thursday at 14:30. You will have been allocated to a chamber group based on your preference as given on your registration form. Every effort has been made to ensure participants are appropriately placed whilst maintaining a good balance of voices. Optional individual singing lessons with members of VOCES8 will be timetabled throughout the Summer School and you will be invited to sign up for these at the beginning of the week.

Young Musicians' Course

The Young Musicians' Course will be run by Paul Smith, CEO of the VCM Foundation, and Neil Valentine, a highly experienced music educator and workshop leader. Participants on this course will range in age from 7 to 13 years old approximately. The course will run as per the Young Musicians' Course timetable and the children will join in with one of the chamber groups for rehearsals and the concert on Thursday. The Young Musicians will give their concert during the Gala Concert on the Saturday. Everybody, including parents/guardians/friends, is invited to attend this performance in the Abbey. 24-hour pastoral care will be provided for under 18s by a team of dedicated and appropriately qualified staff. The team will also run activities for the children as per the timetable. It would be fantastic if participants could bring with them any instruments they play as these will be included in the workshops with Neil.

Pastoral Supervision

Participants on the Young Musicians' Course and those members of the Adult Course under the age of 18 will fall under the pastoral supervision of Summer School staff during the Summer School. Non-residents should be collected from the school after the activities scheduled on the timetable each day. Participants on the Adult Course who are 13-17, both residents and non-residents, will be under pastoral supervision.

Meals

Meals are provided as part of the Summer School and are taken in the 15th-century Abbot's Hall. Residents are entitled to breakfast, which is served from 08:00 each day. All course members are entitled to lunch and dinner. Breaks are indicated on the timetable and refreshments will be provided in the Abbot's Hall. During the day, the Tea Rooms will be open from 10:00-17:00 selling light snacks and refreshments; payment is by cash or debit/credit card. During the week the scheduled lunch times are split by voice part to help ease the numbers passing through the food servery. Participants are requested to refrain from creating large queues at meal times and instead enjoy the grounds. There is plenty of food for everyone!

You will be given a lanyard with your name badge on when you register. You are asked to wear this at all times during your stay at Milton Abbey to identify you as a member of the course, and you will not be admitted into the Abbot's Hall for meals unless you are wearing the lanyard. If you have a friend or family member visiting you during the course you are respectfully asked to let the Course Administrator know for security purposes. If they would like to join you for a meal, at a cost of £5.00, you are asked to inform and pay the Course Administrator at least 24 hours beforehand.

Concerts

Tickets for all concerts are included for participants. Attendance is optional unless you are singing in the concert of course! Admission to each concert is by showing your Summer School lanyard. Participants will be directed to their seats by staff for the VOCESS concert on Tuesday as we are expecting a very high attendance.

Tickets for visitors and non-participants can be purchased via our online box office at www.voces8.com/tour (please scroll through to the appropriate concert) or at the Milton Abbey page on the VCM website: www.vcm.foundation/miltonabbey

Evening Activities

The bar in the Prince's Room will be open in the evenings from 18:00. We operate a strict over-18 drinking policy. Soft drinks will also be available for purchase. Please bring cash with you to make purchases at the bar. The bar will close at the discretion of the bar staff depending on how many course participants wish to continue drinking, but due to licensing restrictions the latest it will remain open is midnight each evening. It is preferred that course participants use the bar environs for consumption of alcohol rather than the boarding house common rooms.

On the Thursday and Friday evenings following the concerts there will be informal cabarets and you are encouraged to sign up with your party piece! Please remember to bring enough copies of your music as the course staff are unable to photocopy music for this purpose.

Impromptu games of football and Ultimate Frisbee are likely to happen so bring appropriate clothing/footwear with you, as well as any other game you may wish to share. The golf course is available for use although clubs are not available for hire. Please note that this facility is shared with regular club members. The swimming pool will be available for use by participants; timings will be advised at the start of each day. Please note that no lone swimming is allowed in the pool.

Great British Afternoon

On Wednesday afternoon we have timetabled the Great British Afternoon. This time is set aside for participants to enjoy the facilities at Milton Abbey and explore the area. An English cream tea will be served on the Abbey Lawn, and a ticket for this can be purchased in the Festival Office from Monday until noon on Tuesday. If there is sufficient interest, a cricket game will be held on the cricket pitch.

Fire Procedure

In the event of a fire alarm (at whatever time of day or night) participants should leave the building by the nearest exit and assemble according to the houses in which they are accommodated (see below). Staff will have the fire register for that house and will register you. The assembly areas are marked on the map provided in your welcome pack and in your rooms. Please familiarise yourself with the nearest fire exit when you settle into your room. **If you intend to leave the site, please sign out at reception and in again on your return.**

Damer House (near school entrance): outside the house on the steps;

Tregonwell House (near school entrance): outside the house on the steps;

Athelstan House (Mansion House): front of school by the statue;

Hambro House (Mansion House): front of school by the Tea Rooms;

Hodgkinson House (Mansion House): in the back quad by the entrance to Hodgkinson House.

Non resident participants who may be on site should congregate beside the statue outside the main entrance of the school building.

You may not return to a school building until you are authorised to do so.

Parking

On arrival, please park at the front of school by the mansion building and attend the registration desk in the Festival Office without your luggage. If your car is staying for the duration of the week, you will be asked to move it to the designated parking area so that the front of school is available for visiting audience members and school staff.

Contact Details/Wifi

Due to Milton Abbey's rural setting, there is very patchy mobile phone reception. The school is undertaking significant work on the WiFi system across the school over the Summer and it is likely that the service will be restricted to certain parts of the site which will be identified to you on arrival. Please note that this service is provided for communication (e.g. email and messenger apps as well as Skype and other communication apps) and not for extended access to the internet. Appropriate limitations are in place to ensure this service is available for everyone.

The contact details for the Summer School and Festival are:

Tickets: www.voces8.com/tour

Festival Administrator anne.smith@voces8.co.uk

Festival website: www.vcm.foundation/miltonabbey

School reception: 01258 880484

Emergency contact details:

If your family wish to contact you by phone during the week they should call the main reception in office hours. In an emergency the out-of-hours contact is the same number: 01258 880484 (this is the school main reception number, and it diverts to the duty caretaker outside of office hours)

PLEASE NOTE

There are no banks or shops close by but there is a Post Office in the nearby village of Milton Abbas.

Directions to Milton Abbey

Located approximately 30 miles south-west of Salisbury, Milton Abbey can be found mid-way between the Georgian market town of Blandford Forum and Dorchester in Dorset. Our address is:

Milton Abbey School

Blandford Forum

Dorset DT11 0BZ

From Salisbury on the A354

Having passed through the village of Pimperne you will come to a roundabout at which you need to turn left onto the Blandford bypass. At the next two roundabouts go straight over and you will pass through Thornicombe before the road dips into Winterborne Whitechurch. On entering the village take the second right hand turn (next to the Milton Arms pub). Follow the road until you reach Milton Abbas, take the first left down through the village. At the bottom of the village take a right hand turn, following the signs for Milton Abbey church. Follow the road past the rear entrance to the school and you will approach the main gates on your left.

From Poole on the A350

Having passed through the village of Charlton Marshall, eventually you will come to a roundabout at which you need to turn left onto the Blandford bypass. At the next two roundabouts go straight over and you will pass through Thornicombe before the road dips into Winterborne Whitechurch. On entering the village take the second right hand turn (next to the Milton Arms pub). Follow the road until you reach Milton Abbas, take the first left down through the village. At the bottom of the village take a right hand turn, following the signs for Milton Abbey church. Follow the road past the rear entrance to the school and you will approach the main gates on your left.

From Dorchester on the A354

Having entered the village of Milborne St Andrew, you need to take the second left hand turn (just past the Royal Oak pub). Keep following the road which will eventually take a sharp right hand bend followed by a tight left hand bend after which you need to take the first left, signposted Milton Abbey. Follow the road past the rear entrance to the school and you will approach the main gates on your left.

From Shaftesbury on the A350

Following the A350, you will pass through the village of Iwerne Minster before eventually reaching Stourpaine and a roundabout marking the intersection with the A354. Take the A354 (Blandford bypass). At the next two roundabouts go straight over and you will pass through Thornicombe before the road dips into Winterborne Whitechurch. On entering the village take the second right hand turn (next to the Milton Arms pub). Follow the road until you reach Milton Abbas, take the first left down through the village. At the bottom of the village take a right hand turn, following the signs for Milton Abbey church. Follow the road past the rear entrance to the school and you will approach the main gates on your left.

Approximate journey times

Road	Rail	Airports
London: 3 hours	London to Poole: 2 hours	London Gatwick: 2 hours 45 minutes
Oxford: 2 hours	London to Salisbury: 1 hour 30 minutes	London Heathrow: 2 hours 30 minutes
Bristol: 1 hour 30 minutes	London to Dorchester: 3 hours	Bristol: 1 hour 45 minutes
Chichester: 1 hour 40 minutes		Southampton: 1 hour 10 minutes
Salisbury: 45 minutes		Bournemouth: 45 minutes
Poole: 30 minutes		