

MICHAEL HENRY

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A highly adaptive vocal music director, specialising in theatre since 2007. An engaging practitioner who communicates well with performers of all ages and abilities. Brings an innovative and resourceful approach to suit each project, informed by over 30 years of performance experience in a wide variety of musical genres. Demonstrates resilience and responsibility towards achieving consistently accurate, high-quality results. Now seeking to cultivate an ongoing working relationship with one or more community choirs.

KEY SKILLS:

- **Aural + Theory:** Perfect pitch | Excellent sight-reader in all clefs (including C clef) | Highly skilled in processing / transcribing complex harmonic language | Has experience as sight-singing tutor
- **Vocalist:** Baritone ('cello bottom D to tenor high Ab; falsetto to soprano high F#) | Classical; pop; soul; rock; RnB; jazz; a cappella; EDM; world | Live & studio; lead; backing; multi-tracked; pop band; chamber ensemble; full choir
- **Coaching:** Has developed and implemented exercises that focus on vocal extension, pitching, breath support, blending, articulation; rhythm, dynamics and counterpoint
- **Composer / Arranger:** Genres as listed above + educational, aleatoric and some sound design
- **Instrumentalist:** Clarinet (Dip RCM) | Piano (rehearsal level) | Bass Guitar (basic performance level) | Guitar (rehearsal level) | Some percussion
- **Technical:** Running Sibelius 6.2 and Logic X

WORK EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- **Composer | Choir Leader | Conductor: (*Bloomsbury Festival* 2016-18)**
 - 8 school and community choirs aged from 7 to 70+ (over 100 participants) | Composed 5 songs with quartet accompaniment (violin, accordion, tuba, cajon) | Provided full score, piano score, audio learning files and lead sheets | Ran warm-ups and rehearsals with each choir and collectively | Conducted performances
- **Composer | Arranger | Choir Leader | Soloist | Presenter | Conductor: (*ALL SING community choir* 2018-19)**
 - Approximately forty participants aged 50+ | Devised two thematic programmes, *Songs of Ice* (winter 2018) and *Songs Of Fire* (spring 2019) | Sourced and customised all material, including songs in inuit and icelandic | Engaged and rehearsed guest performers for the winter event | Devised and led thematically-linked workshop element for the spring event, incorporating the audience as participants | Provided full score, piano score, audio learning files and lead sheets | Ran weekly warm-ups and rehearsals | Presented and conducted performances
- **Vocal Music Director | Composer | Arranger: (Barber Shop Chronicles_ *National Theatre* 2017-19)**
 - 12 adult male voices | Researched African music genres (Afrobeat, Ghanaian High-Life, Chimurenga, Baganda, South African Choral) | Created easy skeletal arrangements for early-stage R&D workshop rehearsals | Developed arrangements to fit available vocal ranges (4-6 part harmonies) | Ran warm-ups and production

rehearsals | Provided full score, full demo and audio learning files | Occasional maintenance visits during run | Customised arrangements for changing touring casts | Chosen for National Theatre mini-documentary

- **Workshop Leader:** (Shakespeare Sonnets_ *ArtsEd* 2016-17)
 - 3-hour sessions with approx 20 students aged 17-19 per session | Researched participants' sonnets | Devised module for combining spoken text with vocal soundscaping | Led introductory exercises into soundscaping techniques | Facilitated exploration and discussion | Facilitated devising, showing and analysis of subsequent collaborative creations
- **Composer | Choir Leader | Conductor:** (Deanery Song Project 2016)
 - 180 KS2 students across 10 Tower Hamlet schools | Composed "school values" song with lyric input from participants | Produced fully orchestrated performance backing track (+ learning package as above) | Ran warm-ups and rehearsals from school to school | Conducted performance for combined year 6 participants as part of their leavers ceremony
- **Music Director | Composer | Arranger | Vocalist | Instrumentalist:** (Mr. Burns_ *Almeida Theatre* 2014)
 - 9 voices (SSAAATTBB) + 2 multi-instrumentalists | Co-composed 40-minute composition as the play's 3rd act | Ran warm-ups and production rehearsals | Led organic development of instrumentation and arrangements during rehearsal process (marimba, acoustic bass guitar, 2 percussion arrays, thunder sheet) | Onstage MD during the run
- **Music Director | Vocalist | Choir Leader:** (A Short Shout_The Shout_ *Tete a Tete* Opera Festival 2014)
 - A capella ensemble (up to 16 voices) | Devised programme to showcase each performer equally, including innovative song links | Customised 16-part arrangements to fit available 9 voices | Furnished learning materials | Ran rehearsals | Led performance
- **Choir Leader | Conductor:** (*BBC Horrible Histories Prom* 2011)
 - 200 children (KS1&2) across 12 schools | Ran warm-ups and rehearsals from school to school and collectively | Acted as 1 of 2 relay conductors in the Royal Albert Hall performance

EDUCATION:

- **Royal College of Music 1981-85:** Dip RCM ARCM (clarinet and composition joint 1st study)
- **Battersea Grammar School 1974-81:**
 - 3 A Levels (Music; French; Art)
 - 9 O Levels (English Language and Maths taken a year early)
- **ILEA Centre For Young Musicians 1977-82:** Extra-curricular music training for secondary school pupils, including rehearsals and performances as a member of the London Schools Symphonic Band, London Schools Training Orchestra, London Youth Wind Ensemble and London Schools Symphony Orchestra.

References available upon request