

FIDELITY · CLARITY · INDIVIDUALITY



InSPIRE: InTUNE

FIVE DAYS OF SINGING
WITH PROFESSIONAL
MUSICIANS

OCTOBER HALF-TERM 2026

AGES 8-14 — NEAR MADINGLEY, CAMBRIDGE

A DIFFERENT SORT OF HALF-TERM

Cambridge is not short of holiday camps. There is football, gymnastics, coding, drama and multi-activity childcare in every corner of the city. What there is almost nowhere in the country is a place where a child of eight to fourteen can spend five days singing with professional musicians.

That gap is not an accident. Music provision varies enormously from one school to the next, and whether a child ever meets a professional classical musician is largely a matter of luck. Most decide they are "not musical" long before anyone has properly put the idea to the test.

| *"A very special degree of quality... one moment in time."*

InSPIRE: InTUNE puts it to the test. Five days, one voice to a part, singing music written five hundred years ago from the sources it was written in. There is no audition, no grade requirement and no assumption of previous experience — only that a child is willing to open their mouth and try.

It is run by the singers of Ensemble L'Isola, a professional consort based in Cambridge and the specialist performance arm of the Cambridge Early Music Consort. The people teaching your child are the people who do this for a living.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT

Most singing for children is done in large groups, in unison, with everyone leaning on everyone else. Consort singing is the opposite. Each child holds a line of their own. It is harder, and it is the reason children leave having heard themselves properly for the first time.

TREBLES & CONSORT

Eight to fourteen is a wide span, so children work in two groups for most of the day and come together for the closing concert. Both groups are led by professional singers throughout.

TREBLES — AGES 8 TO 11

Singing by ear and from notation, in two and three parts. Games, listening, and a first proper look at how written music works. The emphasis is on confidence and accuracy in equal measure: singing the right note, at the right time, on purpose.

CONSORT — AGES 11 TO 14

Four and five parts, one voice to a line, working from sixteenth-century sources. This is the real thing, at the standard the ensemble itself works to, and children who take to it find it the most demanding and most satisfying music they have done.

A NOTE ON CHANGING VOICES

Some boys in the older group will be partway through their voices changing. This is entirely normal, it is not a problem, and it is never a reason to stop singing. Every child is given a line that suits the voice they have on the day. Our director has spent twenty years working with adult voices of every type and this is handled as a matter of course.

THE MANUSCRIPT SESSION

Once during the week, each group works from a facsimile of a sixteenth-century partbook: no bar lines, unfamiliar clefs, and only your own part on the page. It is the way this music was originally read, it is what the ensemble does professionally, and as far as we know no other holiday course in the country offers it.

THE FIVE DAYS

Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2026, with a concert for families at four o'clock on the Friday. Days run from 10:00 to 16:00, with breaks morning and afternoon, and early drop-off and late stay available.

10:00	Arrival and registration
10:15	Warm-up and games — both groups together. Breathing, posture, tuning, and a great deal of noise.
10:45	Sectionals — Trebles and Consort separately, working on their own lines with a professional singer on each part.
11:45	Morning break, with a snack provided
12:00	Manuscript or listening session — original sources, or a guided listen to how the same piece sounds in different hands.
12:45	Lunch (children bring their own) and free time
13:45	Full rehearsal — both groups, one voice to a part, building the concert programme.
15:00	Afternoon break
15:15	Sing-through and games
16:00	Collection

Friday runs a little longer. Families are welcome from 15:45 for a concert at 16:00 — a short programme in the hall, sung by both groups together, finishing by about 16:45. It is free, it is not long, and every child sings.

WHO YOUR CHILD WILL BE WITH

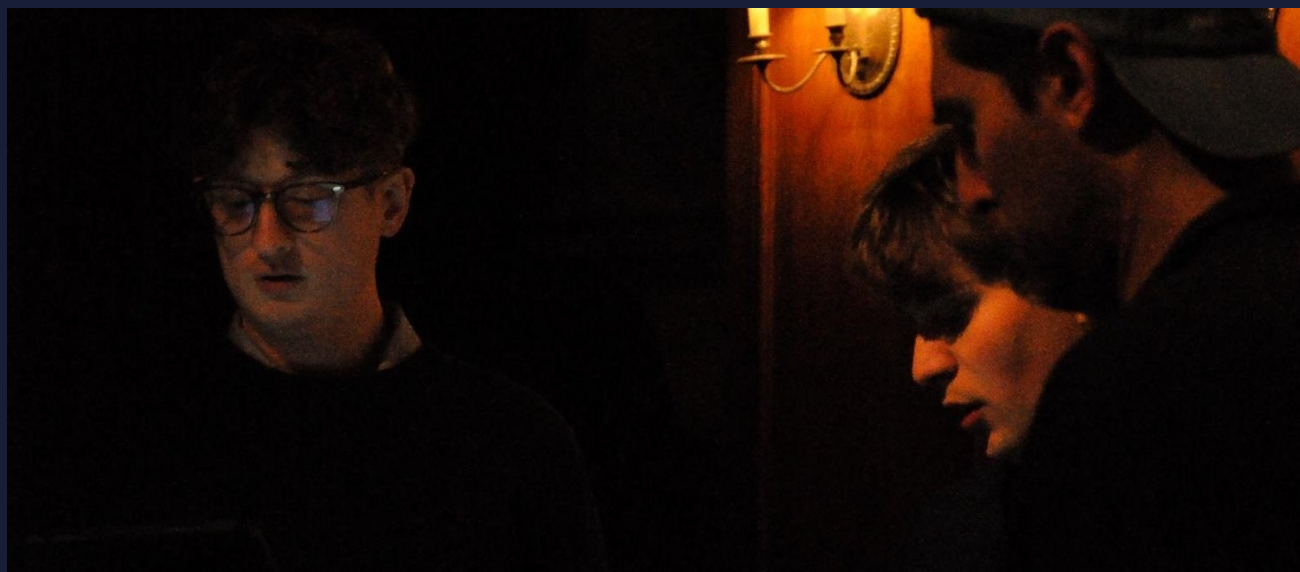
Four professional singers, and no more than thirty children. That ratio is the whole point of InTUNE, and it is why places are limited.

MATTHEW GOULDSTONE — CREATIVE DIRECTOR

A singer, director and consultant on early music performance, specialising in polyphony from Europe before 1650. He has held a visiting fellowship at **Harvard University**, has directed historical musical events at All Souls College, **Oxford**, and is a Senior Research Associate at Peterhouse, **Cambridge**. He has sung professionally across Europe since 2005, including several years as permanent bass with Capilla Flamenca.

THE ENSEMBLE

Ensemble L'Isola is a consort of four to six soloists who perform one voice to a part in chapels and concert halls across the UK and abroad. All of our singers have extensive experience working with children, and every member of the team holds a current enhanced DBS check.



THE ENSEMBLE IN PERFORMANCE

SAFEGUARDING & PRACTICALITIES

THE ESSENTIALS	
DATES	Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2026
VENUE	Near Madingley, Cambridge (full address sent on booking)
AGES	8–14 (Trebles 8–11, Consort 11–14)
HOURS	10:00 – 16:00, with breaks; Friday concert at 16:00
STAFFING	4 professional singers, maximum 30 children
LUNCH	Children bring their own; a mid-morning snack is provided

SAFEGUARDING

Every member of the team holds a current enhanced DBS certificate, and two of the four are first-aid trained. All of us have extensive experience working with children. Our safeguarding and child protection policy is available on request and will be sent to every family on booking.

DROP-OFF AND COLLECTION

Children are signed in on arrival and signed out at collection by a named adult. Early drop-off from 9:00 and late stay until 17:00 are available at £6 per session, bookable in advance or on the day.

ACCESS AND SPECIFIC NEEDS

The venue is fully accessible. We would rather hear about a child's needs early than discover them on the Monday, so please tell us anything that would help — medical, dietary, sensory, or simply that your child would find the first morning difficult.

Half-term dates given are those set by Cambridgeshire County Council. Some academies and independent schools differ by a week, so please check your own school's calendar before booking.

FEES & BOOKING

FEES	
FULL COURSE	£300 — five days, including the concert
SINGLE DAY	£90
SIBLINGS	36% off for each additional child — £192 for the full course
EARLY / LATE	£6 per session (9:00 drop-off, 17:00 collection)
DEPOSIT	£50 to reserve a place, deducted from the balance

We would encourage you to book the full five days. The music is built across the week and a child who comes for one day will hear the beginning of something rather than the whole of it.

HOW TO BOOK

- 01 Email us with your child's name, age and school year
- 02 We confirm a place and send the booking form and safeguarding policy
- 03 £50 deposit secures the place; balance due two weeks before
- 04 Joining instructions sent the week before half-term

CONTACT	
EMAIL	inspire@ensemblelisola.co.uk
TELEPHONE	+44 (0)7444 619591
WEBSITE	ensemblelisola.co.uk

