

TESSA SMITH-WHICKER

Singing Teacher and Vocalist

info@tessasmith.com

www.tessasmith.com



Originally hailing from Northumberland, Tessa is now settled in Yorkshire, where she is known as an accomplished vocalist, band leader, choir leader and sought-after educator.

Tessa graduated from Leeds College of Music (now Leeds Conservatoire) in 2007, where she gave many performances, including with the LCM Big Band, featuring Johnny Dankworth. She also had the privilege to learn from many world-class musicians, including Norma Winstone, Louise Gibbs, Kari Bleivik, Anita Wardell and Omar Puente.

Tessa's music has been played on BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Leeds, where she has also performed live with 'The Honeybirds' on a number of occasions. Clients include English Heritage and National Trust. Tessa has also performed with 'Down for The Count', 'The Shirrtail Stompers' and Gordon Webster.

As a choir leader, Tessa has worked with thousands of singers across all ages and abilities. She is reliable, talented and enthusiastic, making her a popular 'dep' choice for a number of local choirs.

In 2020, Tessa began a MA in Voice Pedagogy with UWTSD and Voice Study Centre, researching vocal warm-ups, practice strategies and obstacle mitigation, and HE assessment processes, with a special interest in the needs of neurodivergent singing students.

Employed as a lecturer in Popular Music Vocals at The University of Huddersfield, Tessa continues her teaching practice alongside research. She also teaches privately online and in person, often receiving requests for online workshops and courses.

Tessa is also a keen lindy hop dancer, and has run a number of successful dance events in the past.

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PROFILE

- 16 years experience of singing teaching to all ages, specialising in Popular Music styles.
- Highly-regarded performer and choir leader in Popular and Jazz styles.
- Extremely organised and efficient, capable of adapting to new circumstances and challenges.
- Reliable and enthusiastic team member.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID AND

VOICE STUDY CENTRE

MA Professional Practice (Voice Pedagogy)
2020 - 2023

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

(FORMERLY LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC)

BA(hons) Jazz Studies
2004 - 2007

QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL, HEXHAM

3 A-levels, including Music (A)
2 AS-levels
9 GCSEs
1999 - 2004

RELEVANT TRAINING/SKILLS

- 2022 - Supporting Trans and Gender-Expansive Voices in the Music Classroom' (Voice Study Centre)
- 2021 - Race and Decolonisation in Our Sector with Nate Holder (AOTOS)
- 2021 - Training the Vocal Athlete: Strategies for Efficient Belting with Marci Daniels Rosenberg and Wendy LeBorge (Voice Study Centre)
- 2020 - CCM Pedagogy Lecture series with Trish Rooney (Voice Study Centre)
- 2018 - 3 day Singing Teacher Training Intensive with Dane Chalfin and Kim Chandler
- 2003 ABRSM: grade 8 Classical Singing, grade 6 Piano, grade 5 Music Theory

EXPERIENCE

POPULAR MUSIC SINGING TUTOR

University of Huddersfield
2014 - present

- One-to-one lessons for BA, BMus and MMus
- Director of 'Pop Choir' and 'A Capella Choir'
- Lead singing and performance workshops and masterclasses
- Internal examiner for assessments
- Conduct applicant auditions
- Participate in student recruitment days

VOCAL CONSULTANT

Leeds Arts University
2018 - 2020

- Auditions for applicants to the Popular Music degree course

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

University of Huddersfield
2015

- BA and BMus recitals

SELF-EMPLOYED SINGING TEACHER

Various schools, music services and private practice
2008 - present

OTHER

As well as a successful career as a singing teacher and choir leader, Tessa enjoys a parallel career in performance and leads a number of bands. Her 1940s close harmony trio, 'The Honeybirds,' has performed for a number of large organisations, including the National Trust, English Heritage and The Ryder Cup as well as creating and touring a stage show: 'The Ladies of Swing.' Tessa and her projects have received local and national radio play. She has recorded or contributed to a number of recordings, including self-released albums and eps of original music. Tessa is a member of the International Transformational Methodologies Research group and will be presenting at VASTA annual conference in 2023.