

SIGLO de ORO

NEW FOR 2026: VOCAL ENSEMBLE SUMMER SCHOOL at BENSLOW

For the first time, Patrick Allies and Siglo de Oro will be leading a residential summer school aimed at amateur vocal ensembles. The course will run from lunchtime on Monday July 13th to late afternoon on Friday July 17th 2026 at Benslow Music in Hitchin.

Benslow is a complex of excellent rehearsal spaces set in a small country house, with catering and accommodation on-site.

Vocal ensembles (between 3 and 14 singers, with or without director) are encouraged to apply. Applications will also be considered from individual singers, who will be put into newly formed ensembles for the purpose of the course.



Typical Daily Schedule

7.45am Breakfast
9.15am Morning Session
1.00pm Lunch
2.00pm Afternoon Break
3.30pm Afternoon Session
6.30pm Dinner
8pm Evening Session
9pm Bar Opens

Siglo de Oro

Siglo de Oro is one of the leading British vocal ensembles of its generation. In the 10 years since its professional debut, the group has performed across the UK, Europe and North America, broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3, and recorded six acclaimed albums for Delphian Records.

Repertoire

Vocal ensembles will be encouraged to bring up to 1 hour of music. This can be in various stages of preparation, but all groups will be advised to bring two or three pieces that are performance level, and a similar number of pieces that they have yet to sing in public

Staff and Teaching

Patrick Allies will be joined by five members of Siglo de Oro, who all sing regularly with the group, and with other leading vocal ensembles in the UK. Each day will begin with a whole-course warm-up session, but most of each day will be spent with each ensemble in their own room. The Siglo de Oro will each spend whole sessions (2-3 hours) with individual ensembles, but will rotate between groups. Singers will have the option of a one-on-one vocal check-up with a Siglo de Oro singer, and each ensemble will be encouraged to work towards filming themselves singing, either for internal study or to share with their digital audience after the course.

Costs

-The cost for one person with tuition, single accommodation with shared bathroom, and all meals included will be £1150. A limited number of ensuite single rooms, and shared rooms, with associated reductions or increases in cost.

-Reductions for non-resident singers available

-Participants will need to organise and pay for their own travel

Expressions of interest welcome - please email patrick@siglodeoro.co.uk