



Institute of Education

BREAKING VOICES: A study of vocal health in choral settings

I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

My name is Karl Westwood, and I am currently nearing completion of my MA in Music Education studies at the UCL Institute of Education. I am carrying out a study focusing on vocal health in choral settings. I intend on exploring the relationships between the chorister, the conductor and literature on vocal health.

Taking part in this project involves either completing a questionnaire with questions surround the above or taking part in an interview. If you are completing the questionnaire, this will only be available online and will take no longer the 15 minutes. If you are an interview participant, a time and location will be agreed upon. The interview will last no longer than 45 minutes. There will be an audio recorder recording the interviews. Topics discussed in the research activities will include vocal health, self-care and routines prior to and during rehearsals.

You have been invited to take part because you have shown interest in choral singing. To complete the questionnaire, it is not necessary for you to have suffered from any vocal health issues. However, if you are participating in an interview, it is likely because you have suffered from some kind of vocal health issues at some point. Participation in this study is completely voluntary, and you have the right to refuse to take part at any point, without resulting in any kind of consequence.

It is hoped that with this study, ways of encouraging healthy singing within a choir are discovered and explored. Participants will face no physical demands in order to take part in this research. Issues surrounding wellbeing may surface from the questions. If this is the case, it is recommended that you make contact with a dedicated organisation such as 'Music Minds Matter' or 'BAPAM'.

In the data analysis, pseudonyms will be used rather than real names in order to ensure anonymity. Those participating in the questionnaire will not, at any point, be asked for any personal and sensitive information. For those taking part in interviews, a non-anonymised consent form will be required to be signed. However, as mentioned, pseudonyms will be used in the final analysis. Signed consent forms and original audio recordings will be retained on an encrypted external memory device, only accessed by myself, until after my degree has been conferred. A transcript of interviews in which all identifying information has been removed will be retained for a further two years after this. Under freedom of information legislation you are entitled to access the information you have provided at any time.

Any research conducted related to this study is for the sole purpose of this dissertation. It will not be shared with any 3rd parties.

If you have any further questions, you can find my contact details below.
Many thanks for your participation in this research.

Karl Westwood, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H,
karl.westwood.18@ucl.ac.uk

This MA research is supervised by Dr Evangelos Himonides (e.himonides@ucl.ac.uk) at the
Department of Culture, Communication and Media, UCL Institute of Education.