



**Calderdale
Music**

VOICEStogether

Voices Together 2025 – Information For Schools

Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July 2025

Victoria Theatre, Halifax



A dazzling show! Sing together with our live band

Plus, each singing group can perform a song of their choice on the stage!

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What Is Voices Together?

In 2024, Voice Together brought over 1200 children from 42 Calderdale schools over 3 nights to sing. We are excited to bring Voices Together back in 2025!

A few “Big Songs” will be performed by all those involved, accompanied by our live band. In addition, each choir/singing group has the opportunity to sing a song of their own choice on the stage.

The evening performance will be watched by family and friends from the circle and balcony (stalls and stage area are restricted to performers and their chaperones).

You will be guided in learning the Big Songs through rehearsal tracks, lyrics, performance guidance and teaching suggestions. We are always on hand to support schools if needed.

Be sure to join us for the Voices Together Schools Meeting online in March to find out what Big Songs have been chosen for this year, and to ask any questions you may have.

On the day of the event there will be rehearsals in the afternoon including sound check and performance places. Schools will be split in two groups to stagger arrival times and avoid a long rehearsal with lots of waiting. If there's a reason why you can't make the rehearsal times below, please indicate this on your application form and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Further details will be confirmed at a later date, but a guide is given below:

Estimated Timings

12:45pm – 1:15pm	Group 1 Schools arrive/Registration
1:15pm – 2:30pm	Individual school rehearsals - group 1
1:45pm – 2:15pm	Group 2 Schools arrive/Registration
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Big Songs rehearsal
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Individual school rehearsals – group 2. Group 1 break, you are welcome to ask parents to collect pupils and return later, or leave as a group and visit somewhere in the town centre)
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Break/Tea for all groups and staff
6:00pm – 6:15pm	Children to take their seats
6:30pm – 8:30pm	Concert with interval
8:30pm – 8:45pm	Concert Finishes, pupils collected by parents/carers

Frequently Asked Questions

How many pupils can I bring?	We don't want to cap choir numbers and we know that some Calderdale school choirs have an abundance of members: we really want to showcase these successes. We also want to make sure lots of schools get to participate. If we see any challenges in balancing the programme we will work with individual schools where necessary to ensure we have an equitable line up. Schools can cap their own numbers if they wish to.
What age group is the event aimed at?	This event is for ALL schools and is aimed at KS2 and up. Schools can decide if the event is suitable for their KS1 choir members.
How many adults do we need?	Please follow your school's external visits policy for staff/pupil ratio. At least one member of staff should be a qualified first aider.
How do I choose our own choice song?	You may already have some ideas, but we can support you with this and offer suggestions too. A forum will be set up for all participating schools as a supportive platform to share additional ideas.
How much will it cost?	There is no cost to the schools to attend the event, however, please factor in your own transport costs to the Victoria Theatre.
What if I don't have a choir?	This is a great way to kick start a choir! Share the details and use the packs to guide your rehearsals. Alternatively, you can bring a class of children.
What if our choir numbers change?	We require confirmed numbers on your application form. We'll ask you to reconfirm these numbers by Friday 4 th April. Confirming your choir numbers is important for our seating plan, helps with our budget as we use this to predict the number of ticket sales.
How accessible is the venue?	Victoria Theatre has level access to the stalls area, with adapted toilets at this level also. Ramps will be provided for stage access.
When will we get the BIG SONG rehearsal tracks?	School staff can join our online session in March where we will introduce you to the Big Songs, and resources will be sent to you soon after. We will provide Big Song tracks with teaching suggestions, backing tracks and vocal scores.
Do we have to sing our own song?	We'd love each school to sing their own song. If you need support, please let us know during the booking process, as we can look at combining school groups for a "mini big song"
How long do we have on stage for our song?	One song, no longer than 3 – 4 minutes.
What equipment will be available on stage?	There will be a piano if you would like to bring an accompanist. The live band will not be accompanying songs sung by individual choirs. There will be facilities to play a backing track. We will contact you to ask for a stage plan and a list of equipment you require.
When will tickets go on sale?	Tickets will be available from the Victoria Theatre on a first come first serve basis from Wednesday 30 th April. Calderdale Music will send through a link via email to each school. Tickets will not be on general sale to the public.

What Do I/Does My Choir Need To Do To Prepare?

Letters To Parents, Including Photo/Video Consent

On our website link you will find an initial letter template for parents to tell them about the event. Download this, edit it accordingly and send this to parents of children in your choir or class. Use the responses to complete your application form. We will provide further letter templates nearer to the event to inform parents about timings and tickets.

As part of the first letter to parents, they will be asked to give media consent for their children. This is necessary for them to take part in the event. There will be cameras projecting live images to a big screen on stage, so if ticketholders take photos your choir may be captured in these, either by being in the background or by being shown on the big screen (just like the picture here)

A link to some footage from previous years will be included on the letter so parents know what to expect.



Attend An Online Meeting

We will host an online meeting for staff and choir leaders from schools taking part, where we will introduce the Big Songs and answer any questions you may have.



Learn The Big Songs With Actions

You can do this in your choir rehearsals alongside any other songs you are learning. We will provide all the teaching resources for this – this is why Voices Together is a great opportunity to launch a new choir in school!

Please do use these resources regularly in the run up to the event to make sure everyone is confident with the words and actions.

Choose A Song To Sing, And Practice!

If you'd like to sing your own song on stage at the theatre, you will need to choose and rehearse your own song. We will send you a link to upload your song choice at a later date. If you need a backing track, make sure you have an MP3 version with no vocals for us to use at the theatre.



Take A Choir Photo

Use one of your choir rehearsals to take a photo of your choir. This will be used in the programme, which will be a great souvenir for parents and family!

Please make sure your image is in JPEG or PNG format. It's a good idea to take a few different ones so that you can choose your favourite.

Take Some Video Footage

This year we are asking schools to film their own "X Factor" style introduction! This will be played on the screen whilst you are setting up on stage.

We will provide loads of support and tips for this in due course. It is really easy and lots of fun!

Create A Banner

We're bringing back the banner parade! This takes place at the start of the concert and gives each school chance to get a big cheer from the crowd! This could be an official school banner, or you can use a choir session to get creative and make your own just for this event!



Timeline

Date	Information/Action Required	Description	Person Responsible
Friday 14 th February	Application Deadline Date	Schools must return their application packs to Calderdale Music.	School
Monday 24 th February	Confirmation Of Place And Date	Calderdale Music will confirm your place and your allocated performance date, and send you further documentation to complete.	Calderdale Music
	School Song Choice Submission Opens	If your choir would like to sing their own song on stage, we will provide a link to upload your school's song choice. Please note its first come first served on song choices.	School
Tuesday 4 th March 3:45pm	Voices Together Online Meeting	We will introduce the Big Songs to school staff and explain more about the event. We'll be available to answer any questions you may have.	Calderdale Music/ School
March	Big Song Tracks and Resources Provided	Calderdale Music will send Big Song tracks and teaching resources to the named contacts on your application form.	Calderdale Music
Monday 10 th March	Risk Assessment Completed	Calderdale Music will prepare a risk assessment for the event and send this out to schools.	Calderdale Music
Friday 4 th April	Choir Photo Submitted	We will require a photo of your choir or singing group for the programme.	School
	Deadline For School Song Choice Submitted	Schools to confirm the name and length of the song that their own choir will be performing, if they choose to sing on stage.	School
	Final Confirmation Of Numbers	Submit confirmed numbers to Calderdale Music.	School
	Media Consent Form Completed	Confirmation that all children can be photographed and filmed during the event.	School
Friday 25 th April	School Allocated Group 1 or Group 2	Calderdale Music will confirm if you're in Group 1 or Group 2.	Calderdale Music
	Letter Template Provided For Parents	Calderdale Music will provide you with a letter template to send on to parents with further details including purchasing tickets.	Calderdale Music
Wednesday 30 th April	Ticket Sales Go Live	Tickets will be available on a first come first serve basis. Calderdale Music will send through a link via email to each school.	Calderdale Music
Friday 23 rd May	School Video Footage Due	This year we are asking schools to film their own "X Factor" style introduction! We will provide loads of support and tips for this in due course.	Calderdale Music
	Stage Plan Details Provided	If you are performing a song on stage we will need your stage plan and backing tracks as mp3s.	School
Friday 6 th June	Final Details Confirmed For Schools	Calderdale Music will get in touch to confirm final details for the day which can be shared with parents.	Calderdale Music

How To Apply

Applications for the 2025 event will be submitted online, rather than through a paper form.

Please visit the following link: <https://www.calderdalemusic.co.uk/events/voices-together-applications-2025/>

This link is for school staff only and **we ask that you do not share it with pupils or parents.**

On this link you will find a letter template to send to parents, to start collecting the information you need when you fill in the online application. You can edit the letter as you wish.

You will also find a helpful document called Voices Together Application Guidance. This lists all the questions you will be asked on the application form and provides more details. Unfortunately there is no option to save your application and return to it later.

The deadline to submit your application is Friday 14th February 2025.

We will contact schools who have been allocated a place by Monday 24th February 2025.

In the event that we are oversubscribed we will allocate places on a first come first served basis and create a waiting list.

Supported using public funding by



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