



.... is a new music and video project through which we are developing a performance model that will bring together as many diverse participants as possible. We are projecting this as culminating in a large-scale multi-art form event. The scale of this event could be local, national or even international, with multiple venues being synchronized via web or satellite link-ups.

Beginning in established groupings of people (a class, a choir, a club, a group of like-minded friends), we work with the original material. These works have been specially created to be both easy-to-learn and suitably challenging on a number of levels of ability.

Then, from the original songs and the videos filmed with the groups, we begin our process of creating the "hyper-group". Each group expands itself to bring in peripheral people. School groups can include dinner ladies, teaching staff and parents. Choirs and other groups can bring in partners, friends, aunties, neighbours and kids. And so we expand to the wider vocal community and finally beyond the voice to other forms of artists and contributors. Then we bring in the dance group, the samba band, the steel band, the band rehearsing in the garage next door ... and so on. We design our "look" and make the costumes, we use the text as a springboard for creative writing, we choreograph the routine, we explore the techniques of film-making .... and so on!

Our first piece of original music is called ***The Whole Year Round***. It comprises four songs, each one about a different season of the year. Each song involves learning one minute of material which then works not only in unison, but also as a two, three or four-part canon. We begin with the ***Spring Song***.

## The Spring Song

*Spring sings softly,  
Spring hums close to the earth,  
a quiet quivering, a sweet breath in the air,  
until a sharp green uncurling,  
until a sudden yellow trumpeting  
until a gentle melody of hopeful pink,  
and the new sun  
and the wind  
and the dancing.*

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**The Spring Song** begins in January 2010

We visit the participating schools and/or groups on two occasions (ideally about a week apart). We film a performance from each group and then edit the various performances together to create a version of the full 4-part canon. Each group will then have a record of their own performance that can be shown to their wider community, used as a clip on their own websites, burned to DVD as showreel or even mounted on networking internet sites.

Then, having interested everyone around in what we have been doing, we get them involved. We start expanding into the new “hyper-groups”.

Then we start on **The Summer Song** ...

# Workshop Breakdown

## Workshop 1. (2-2½hours)

This session will begin with physical and vocal warm-up exercises. These will then be extended into exercises in group cohesion, listening and autonomy in part-singing. After a break, we will look at the text of *The Spring Song*, discussing various aspects of it and exploring ideas that arise from this. Then we get down to the nitty-gritty of learning the song. This will then be followed by group discussion of presentation and performance ideas. The workshop finishes with a final sing-through and an introduction to the next session.

## Workshop 2. (2-2½hours)

This session begins once more with warm-up games and exercises. Then we will move on to brushing up the song. This will be followed by discussion with the technical manager (Simon) of the performance ideas decided upon by the group. We then begin rehearsing the performance, firstly with a full playback track and then learning how to sing with only a guide track for the recording. Then we start filming and recording all at once, firstly with the wide shots and then working on cut-aways and infill shots as well as still shots. Then at the end we give ourselves a big finish by having a final sing-through to the fully mastered backing track.

This is the work that comprises the currently projected workshops. If you have any particular needs in your group or wish to incorporate particular ideas or a curriculum focus, we are happy to be flexible about this structure.

It is also possible to condense these two workshops into a single 3 hour session.

## Budget and Costing

The overall fee for the project is inclusive of technical and equipment charges and the location expenses for these, final editing and provision of DVDs and personnel fees per session for the team members.

We have endeavoured to put the project together with a knowledge of the realities of school and community group budgets as well as the time constrictions of conference timetables and corporate delivery. Please get in contact to discuss your group's particular requirements and projections.

We are happy to discuss varying the project for your own needs and interests.

# The Unity Project are:

**Adey Grummet** – vocalist, lyricist, conductor, animateur and workshop leader. Adey is a soprano who specialises in contemporary classical music but has a dark past in all sorts of music performance. Her versatility has kept her in demand all over the world, singing for The Shout, numerous opera companies and facilitating projects for major arts organisations including the BBC, ENO Baylis and Artangel.

**Michael Henry** – composer, vocalist, workshop assistant. Michael has recently composed for 500 singers with fireworks, devised an operatic flash mob, musically directed at the National Theatre and sung for Robbie Williams, Chaka Khan, Scott Walker plus many others. Cool is hardly adequate to describe him.

**Simon Foster** – production manager, film director, vocalist and techno-wiz. Simon runs How Now Productions and has managed events for Vodafone, George Michael and several movie premieres. He has designed for Sky Arts, directed international theatre shows and sung all over the world. Currently he is also teaching at University level in Canterbury.

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