

ASHLEY FULTON

Vocal Coach,
Musical Director
and Performer.



1. What do you love most about your job?

That's a tough question. I love the variety and experiences that being a Vocal Coach and Musical Director brings. I love mentoring young people and, as their singing teacher, being the catalyst to ensure they realise their full vocal and performance potential. I love the experiences and artistic creativity that comes with being a Musical Director. Hearing something in my head and making that a reality is wonderful. I love music and theatre, what I do isn't work. It's my life and my passion.

2. What has been your career highlight to date?

There have been so many, but I'll highlight this, as a Vocal Coach I'm so proud that 80 of my students have gone on to study Music Theatre at many of the leading UK Drama Schools. 420 of my students have achieved their London College of Music Diploma in Music Theatre or Classical Singing and over 2500 have achieved a graded 1 - 8 exam. That's 3000 in total to date. I'm very proud of that.

As a Musical Director my highlights would include directing my incredible vocal group Adoro in performances for HM Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee and 90th Birthday Services as well as Lady Mary Peters 80th Birthday Gala. Over the past 12 years, since founding Adoro, we have raised nearly £50k for various charities including £25k for The Mary Peters Trust.

3. What are your favourite hobbies/activities outside of work?

I am a bit of a workaholic but when I find

the time I enjoy reading, especially thrillers, it's hard to beat a classic Agatha Christie whodunnit. Eating out and shopping are definitely at both the top of my 'favourite things to do' list and I will very much enjoy those again when it's safe to do so.

4. What is your daily routine?

Every day starts with coffee! I'll have to confess that my usual routine has had to alter to fit in with lockdown but after coffee I'll shower and do usual skincare regime. I've been doing all my teaching online from home during the pandemic but still like to get properly dressed for online work and continue to be completely professional in my appearance and attitude. I still wear fragrance everyday even though no one smell it except me! Generally speaking my working day ends late so it's usually a light supper, some TV to relax and a phone call to my parents ends each day.

5. Do you have a fitness regime?

I do like to walk and try to get out for a walk every day. I've found it much harder in the winter to motivate myself but have been trying to do appropriately 5km most days.

Singing can be considered as part of my daily wellbeing activities. When you sing you inhale quickly with a slow exhilaration as you are singing. This helps to slow the heart rate and promotes calmness.

6. Do you have any tips for staying positive during this time?

I try to always appreciate what I have and be thankful for the many wonderful opportunities life has afforded me. My parents are my world so I speak to them several times a day and this really helps my positivity. I have my house full

of photos of family and friends, a constant reminder of all the love and wonderful people in my life.

Getting out in the fresh air is great, and it has been proven that long country walks increases your receptiveness for learning.

I also keep a journal where I record things I'm thankful for or reasons to celebrate.

7. What do you think is the best thing about living in Northern Ireland?

Northern Ireland is such a beautiful country with breath-taking scenery. I appreciate this more and more as I get older. I was brought up in the country and couldn't wait to experience city life. Now I'm contemplating eventually retiring to the country!! The thing I like most about this wonderful place are the people, they are warm, caring and friendly. People are the essential ingredient that make any place unique and special.

8. What is your mantra or favourite quote that you live by?

'Life isn't a dress rehearsal', I tell all my pupils to be the best version of themselves and to make the very most of every opportunity that presents itself.

9. Who has been your biggest influence?

My biggest influences were three wonderful women from very different periods of my life. The first was a lady called Ethel Benson who discovered my musical ability when I was 5 or 6 and she nurtured and encouraged it. The second my inspirational music teacher from school Sylvia McMenemy who was so encouraging.

When I went to Queens University in 1992 to study a Bachelors Degree in Music the wonderful soprano Irene Sandford who became my singing teacher and mentor.

I should also mention the very positive and supportive influence my parents and family have been throughout my career.

10. FAVOURITE

Movie: Original Stars Wars trilogy

Band/Musician: Bucks Fizz when I was younger but have always loved Abba

Book: The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins

Restaurant: Deane & Decano

Holiday Destination: Italy or South of France

Drink: White Wine especially an Italian Pinot Grigio

Meal: Christmas Dinner