

The nature and significance of the singing behaviour and development of children and young people

Keynote lecture for PEVoC14 in Tallinn

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The keynote presentation will review empirical evidence of children's and adolescents' singing behaviours and development through a social ecology lens. Data will be drawn from major research studies in the UK and elsewhere in the world over the past two decades. The focus will be on mapping a developmental continuum of singing and how this trajectory can be impacted, both positively and negatively, by various socio-cultural factors, such as family background, pedagogy, opportunity, musical culture(s), as well as maturation and experience. The realisation of our species genetic musicality, including our potential for singing competency, is highly influenced by an interaction between internal and external factors in our development.

Opportunity will also be taken to review empirical evidence concerning the potential wider benefits of positive singing experiences for children and young people, such as in the home, school and wider community. A final strand of the presentation will explore research evidence concerning the nature of effective mentoring by singing specialists of generalist teachers in Primary schools in order to promote singing in their children's daily schedules.