

About Simon Toyne

Simon Toyne is Executive Director of Music of the David Ross Education Trust, one of the country's leading multi-academy trusts, where he is responsible for the development of a music programme for over 14,500 children across 35 state primary and secondary schools in the East Midlands. His work at DRET has included the award-winning Singing Schools programme for primary schools, developing a trust-wide primary and secondary music curriculum, fostering a network of partner



organisations including Gabrieli Roar, Nevill Holt Opera, Sing Up, the Royal Opera House and the Voices Foundation, creating a team of professional musicians in residence, and devising The DRET Music Way, a guide for music teachers and senior leaders to develop meaningful music provision in schools.

Simon is a member of the Government's monitoring board for the National Plan for Music Education, having previously served on the Department for Education's Expert Panels for developing the National Plan for Music Education and the Model Music Curriculum, and is the Founder President of the Music Teachers Association. He has recently been appointed to the Learning and Participation Committee of the Royal Opera House.

Choral music is in Simon's veins, having received his early musical training as a chorister in Exeter Cathedral Choir under Lucian Nethsingha, later becoming Organ Scholar of University College, Oxford. For 24 years, he was Director of Tiffin Boys' Choir, where he prepared the choir for over 270 performances of operas at the Royal Opera House and for projects with the major conductors in the world, including Pappano, Rattle, Gergiev, Maazel, Elder, Masur and Salonen, leading the choir on over twenty foreign tours, including to Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Russia, and conducting the choir in concert with the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Sinfonia Britannica and Philharmonia Orchestra. As Director of Music at All Saints' Church, Kingston, a post he held consecutively with that of Assistant Head & Director of Music at Tiffin School, the choir broadcast on BBC1, Radio 4 and World Service Radio, and over 20 choristers gained choral scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge.

Since 2012, Simon has been a Director of the Rodolfus Choral Courses, leading courses for singers aged 16-21 across the UK every summer – the Cambridge Course's broadcast of Choral Evensong from St John's Cambridge (including Arnold's Laudate Dominum) can be heard on BBC Radio 3 on 23rd October. He is Music Director of the Northampton Bach Choir – his second season with the choir includes Mozart Requiem, O'Regan Triptych, Bach St Matthew Passion and Todd Mass in Blue. Simon is a trustee of the Cathedral Music Trust.