

Susan Digby (Lady Eatwell) OBE **Founder and Principal, The Voices Foundation**

Susan Digby (Lady Eatwell OBE) read music at King's College London where she studied piano and singing. She lived in Mexico and the Philippines, and then spent 12 years in Hong Kong where she had a television series as well as radio broadcasting, teaching and performing.

In 1990 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship, which she used to travel and study in Finland, Hungary, Canada and the USA, focusing on methods of choral training and music education. She also trained with Péter Erdei, Head of Choral Studies at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest.

Inspired by her Fellowship travels, in 1993 she established The Voices Foundation, whose methodology is based on that of Hungarian music educator Zoltán Kodály. The same year, Yehudi Menuhin appointed her to spearhead the UK branch of his MUS-E project. The Voices Foundation Children's Choir, a multi-ethnic choir comprising children from throughout the UK, has performed at State occasions including the VE Day Head of State ceremony and the first National Holocaust Memorial Day and has toured in Europe.

Susan currently serves as one of the Foundation's 35 advisory teachers and is in charge of its education project in primary schools. She was awarded her OBE in January 2007, in recognition of her outstanding services to music education.

From 1996 to 1998, she was musical director of Rosslyn Hill Chapel Choir, and from 1998-2000 director of the Middlesex Bach Choir. In 1998 she launched 'Singing Schools', a 5-year programme in South Africa involving 70 schools in Soweto and Johannesburg. More than 200 African children's songs have been collected and integrated into the UK programme.



In 2000 Susan was invited to become a council member of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust where she serves as Chairman of the arts category. That same year she was shortlisted for a Creative Britain Award. She also founded and directed the award-winning London-based adult chamber choir, Coro.

In 2003 she founded Voce, a young adult chamber choir based in London. She was founding musical director of the infant programme of The Finchley Children's Music Group and co-founded Music Box, the Bristol based children's opera group.

Susan is also a conductor and has performed in some of London's most prestigious concert venues including the Royal Albert Hall, St John's Smith Square, St James's Piccadilly and the Royal College of Music. Abroad, she is guest conductor of St. Stephen's Oratorio Choir, Budapest. She regularly commissions work by leading composers. Her expertise is in great demand as a judge at choral festivals and competitions, including the Coleraine Music Festival in Northern Ireland and the Choir of the Year competition.

Susan is CEO of arts.works (www.artsworks.uk.com), a company that delivers corporate workshops for clients ranging from Sainsbury's to HSBC, with an emphasis on team building, active listening, and confident communication. She is a judge on the new BBC TV series Last Choir Standing – a competition for Britain's favourite choir – and has presented The Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, as well as contributing regularly on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Susan is a Trustee of Music in Country Churches and Between the Notes; a board member of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain; a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians' governing Council; President of Sing A Capella; and choral advisor to Novello, the renowned music publisher. In 2007 she was appointed to act as overall Music Co-ordinator for the global charity ARK (Absolute Return for Kids) in the UK. ARK Education was created in 2004 to help break the cycle of underachievement by providing high quality education to children in economically and socially disadvantaged communities throughout the country.