

# Workshop: The Musical

Musicals are both incredibly terrifying and immensely satisfying. For an audience, the wow factor is *off the scale* (pun intended).

## Description

This workshop builds up to performable musical skills for even the most nervous of singers, and provides valuable techniques to help experienced singers integrate their existing skill-set into the improvised musical format.

I love to sing. Always have. Not everyone feels the same way though, so no matter where you are starting from, I will gently guide you to a level where you can confidently improvise a song on stage.

## What You Will Learn

### Finding your voice

Most groups have at least a few members who will be terrified by the thought of singing on stage. This initial step will help them to find their own unique voice and the confidence to use it.

### Song structure, simplified

It is no mean feat to improvise an entire song. We will look at some basic structures and methods to help you build a song on your own or in collaboration with others.

### Singing the mundane

The “mundane” refers to the things of this world. It is *not* boring, just everyday. We will learn how to start with these obvious elements that are before us, to create both humour and beauty.

### Singing from the heart

It's a common element of musicals that characters sing how they *feel*. We'll explore taking emotion as a starting point for our songs.

## Singing together and against

We'll experiment with ways that we can sing together, either with a shared point of view or a contrasting one.

## Experience Level

Any - *with caveats*.

This workshop can be fun and rewarding for improvisers at any level. If you are intending to work towards creating a musical for your audience, I would recommend an intermediate level at least. Even with these techniques, going from beginner to singing on stage, can be a bridge too far for newer improvisers.

## Participants

Number of participants: 6 to 16

## Workshop Length

3 hours to a full day.

## Workshop Requirements

A musician! An experienced keyboardist/pianist is preferred, because of the versatility, but this can also work well with a guitarist. Oh, and if you have *both*, that's an added bonus!

## Performance

This workshop can be used as preparation for a performance, for an intermediate to experienced group, that preferably includes at least a couple of confident singers.

I have a couple of different formats — “Off Book: The Musical” and “Community Noticeboard”. Both work well to provide a strong base to work from. Also happy to work with you to find one that suits your troupe.