

# LAYSTON MUSIC

## AND THE SINGING CIRCLE

Talena Cuthbert - Music Professional & Vocal Coach



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE

## Newsletter - March 2026



Hello everyone,

March has arrived and it finally feels as though spring is on its way. It's always a lovely time of year in the studio — students settling into their pieces, new songs appearing in lessons, and a bit more daylight for practising after school.

This month is particularly exciting because we've launched a brand-new community event, "**Sing For Your Supper**", and **The Singing Circle** is beginning to grow into something really special.

In this month's newsletter you'll find:

- Upcoming **Easter holiday lesson dates**
- News about our **new singing event**
- Details of the return of our **student performance Shindigs**
- Our **latest blog post**
- A quick favour about **Google reviews**
- A few small lesson reminders

## Easter Holidays

A quick note for your diaries:

**Easter Holidays:  
30th March – 12th April**

There will be **no lessons during this period.**

Lessons will resume the week beginning **Monday 13th April.**

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## “Sing For Your Supper” – Our New Singing Event

Earlier this month we launched the very first **Sing For Your Supper** evening, and it was such a fun night. A room full of people singing together, a great atmosphere at the pub, and a reminder of just how powerful music can be when it brings people together.

For those who haven't heard about it yet:

**Sing For Your Supper** is a relaxed singing event where participants choose a song and perform it live with backing tracks. It's supportive, social, and a great way to experience singing in front of an audience without the pressure of a formal performance.

The **next event** is already on the way:

🎵 **Theme:** *Guilty Pleasures*

📍 **The Chequers, Barley**

👤 **Ages:** 11+ (under 18s with an adult)

Expect everything from power ballads to nostalgic pop classics.

If you (and your child [11+]) enjoy singing, this is a brilliant opportunity to try singing in a really welcoming environment.

🌐 Sing For Your Supper | Layston Music

# The Shindigs Are Back



These events are open to **all Layston Music students**, whether you've been learning for years or only just started.

Performing live is such a valuable life skill, so we'll begin gently preparing pieces in lessons over the coming months for everyone to take part.

One of the most important parts of learning music is **performing**.

Performing helps students:

- build confidence
- develop focus and preparation skills
- learn how to manage nerves
- experience the joy of sharing music with others



That's why I'm very pleased to say that **our Layston Music Shindigs are returning this year** — and we have a **new venue**.



The Chequers, Barley

☀ **Summer Shindig**  
- Saturday 20th June

A full day of performances from our students.

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## Latest Blog Post

A new article has just gone up on the website:

**“March 1994 and the Rise of Grunge: What Raw Music Can Teach Our Children Today.”**

It's a reflection on how music movements shape creativity, honesty in performance, and why imperfect music can sometimes be the most powerful.

<https://www.laystonmusic.co.uk/post/march-1994-and-the-rise-of-grunge-what-raw-music-can-teach-our-children-today>

# Reviews

## A Small Favour – Reviews Really Help



As a small local business, **reviews make a huge difference**. They help other families find us and give people confidence when choosing a teacher for their child.

If you've been happy with lessons at Layston Music, I would be incredibly grateful if you could leave a short Google review.

It only takes a minute and it genuinely helps support what we do.

**Leave a review here:** <https://g.page/r/Ca8PkSEiqacMEBM/review>

*Thank you so much to everyone who has already done this.*

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## About Talena

For those who may be newer to Layston Music, a little about me.

I'm **Talena Cuthbert (BA MCMA)** — a vocal coach, singer-songwriter, piano teacher and music practitioner with over **20 years of experience** working in music education and performance.

My work combines:

- vocal coaching for singers and performers
- piano and instrumental teaching
- music mentoring for young people
- music for wellbeing and confidence

My background includes a **BA (Hons) in Popular Music & Recording**, alongside further training in **sound therapy, music therapy approaches, ASD awareness, and children and young people's mental health**.

At the heart of everything I do is a belief that **music is not just a skill to learn, but a powerful tool for confidence, creativity and wellbeing**.



# Quick Reminders

## Student Packs

Please remember to bring your **student packs** to each lesson.

This is where we keep:

- sheet music
- tabs
- lyric sheets
- practice diaries

They help us keep track of progress and practice.

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## Zoom Lessons

If your lesson is online, please remember to **enable Original Audio** in Zoom. Without this setting we unfortunately can't hear your instrument properly.

This setting needs to be turned on **every time you join a lesson**.

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## Prime Time Lessons (4pm–9pm)

Our peak evening lessons have a **no cancellation policy**.

If you can't attend your lesson you are welcome to:

- switch to a **Zoom lesson**, or
- request a **video lesson** with guidance and exercises to work through.

If you know in advance that you will be away, please let me know before the month begins so that we can offer the slot to one of our **Ad-Hoc students** or arrange a **lesson swap**.

If we ever need to cancel for any reason, we will always offer either:

- a **make-up lesson**, or
- **account credit**.



## Join the Layston Music Community

If you haven't already, you're warmly invited to join our **Layston Music Community** and subscribe to our **information email list**.

Subscribers receive:

- **10% discount on events and masterclasses**
- early announcements for new workshops
- music tips and resources
- updates from our student community

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## Thank You

Thank you, as always, for being part of the **Layston Music family**.

It's a real privilege to work with such wonderful students and supportive parents, and I'm very much looking forward to everything we have planned this year.

Warm wishes,

**Talena Cuthbert**  
Layston Music 🎵

## Layston Music

For questions and clarifications, you may reach out to **Talena** at [talena@laystonmusic.co.uk](mailto:talena@laystonmusic.co.uk)

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