

FIRHOUSE SINGERS NEWSLETTER

November 2020



Choir Committee

Adrian Kennedy	Chair
Helen Mulholland	Secretary
Ted Ryan	Treasurer
Emma Higgins	Social Media & Publicity
Elizabeth Thom	
Geraldine Ballance	
Michelle Noble	
Nicola McLachlan	

1. New-Look Members Area

As mentioned in the recent email to all members, it has been decided to make more use of the Members Area for updates, news and for more social interaction due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that more members will interact through this area and we welcome photographs of occasions where we were together at events. In addition, we hope you will share stories related to the choir that may be of interest to members. We are sure there are lots of stories to be told going as far back to when we were formed in 1976. This page is for you to share with fellow members, so why not get out those photo albums and old diaries and share some of the good times we had. Indeed, other musical events that may be of interest to members can be added too. Please send items of interest to Adrian and he will arrange to have them placed on the Members Area.

2. Christmas party

The annual choir Christmas party was hosted again by Emma Higgins. Our thanks go out once again to Emma for organising and hosting this wonderful and festive event. This is a great opportunity for members and especially new members to socialise and "make merry" and is always a most enjoyable evening at this festive time.

3. Annual General Meeting

We were unable to hold our annual general meeting this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Members were informed by email of the inability to hold the meeting and were told that the present committee were prepared to remain in their positions until a physical AGM can take place. There were no objections from members to this decision. The present committee remains the same for 2020 - 2021, and until a new committee can be safely elected. Present Committee: Geraldine Balance, Emma Higgins, Adrian Kennedy, Nicola MacLachlan, Helen Mulholland, Michele Noble, Ted Ryan and Elizabeth Thom.

4. Concerts

As you know 2020 was an extremely quiet year due to Covid-19 restrictions . We were unable to give performances due to the pandemic. However, in 2019 we gave concerts in Donneybrook on 6th March, Rathgar on 10th April, another venue in Rathgar on 3rd December and the Christmas concert in the Farmleigh Ballroom on 15th December.

5. Music Director

Ray has kept busy supplying us with music to learn since the outbreak of the pandemic. Learning the lyrics 'off by heart' will add greatly to the quality of our performances, as it will allow us to watch his conducting more carefully without having to keep looking at our sheet music for the lyrics. In addition, practicing the songs he is sending to us at least once a week will help keep our vocal chords fit and in condition - provided we sing for at least one hour. Remember, where it is possible, it is best to be standing with knees relaxed and chin slightly dropped when practicing.

These are a reminder of the music Ray has asked us to learn:

A wink and a smile
Can't help falling in love
Softly as I leave you
Dreams
And All that Jazz
Grace
Tell Me it's Not True

6. Upcoming Events

A Message from An Anúna

None of us will ever forget Christmas 2020. This year, as with many other groups across the world, we will not be touring for the first time in three decades. While we do know that many of you love to come and see ANÚNA perform at Christmas, this year we realise how much we miss interacting with you.

We are privileged to have been invited to participate, along with some of the greatest vocal ensembles in the world, in "Live From London : Christmas", run by our friends at Voces8. "Live from London" was devised to support groups like ANÚNA and we will be presenting a unique concert, recorded from St. Bartholomews Church in Dublin, our traditional Christmas venue on December 20th.

You can purchase an individual ticket for our concert but we would encourage you to support the whole series with a season ticket. All of the funds go back to the performers involved.

Tickets are available from:

https://www.anuna.ie/live-from-london?mc_cid=9c1e023e3f

We hope that in 2021 we will be able to see some of you again. In the meantime, stay safe and take care of yourselves and each other.

Messages from Sing Ireland

For Christmas 2020, Sing Ireland is celebrating the group singing community in Ireland by bringing choirs and groups around the country together virtually in song, support, and friendship.

To celebrate the active and resilient group singing sector in Ireland, Sing Ireland would like to invite you to join together in a festive 'virtual choir' project. The piece we will record is 'Deck The Hall' arranged by Mark Armstrong. This project is a partnership between Sing Ireland and Cailíno Music Publishers. Sing Ireland is sponsoring participation for choirs and singing groups. A virtual choir performance of the piece will be compiled before Christmas.

You are asked to make a video of yourself performing the piece. The piece has been arranged for SAATB choir and voice parts for the piece may be downloaded after you register. Fantastic resources and recordings are available that will make taking part extremely easy. Everything you need is looked after and so there is no extra 'virtual' work involved for your conductor or musical director. You will need two devices - one to open the backing track which you will sing along to and one to record your performance.

You can register as a group or as an individual.

After registration, you will be emailed a link to download a pack that contains the score, line videos, and instructions. Videos must be submitted by 5pm on 11th December as per instructions you will receive.

Register at: <https://www.singireland.ie/news/tis-the-season-virtual-choir>

Join the Sing Ireland team at 'Jingle & Mingle' on 17th December 2020 at 7pm for a Christmas party, festive sing-along and more!

Attendance is free but must be registered in advance at:

<https://www.singireland.ie/news/jingle-and-mingle>

Sing Ireland hopes that you are all keeping well and staying safe. As choirs and singing groups all around the country have suspended rehearsals and we are heading into the festive season, we are sure that you are all missing group singing, meeting your friends and colleagues, and meeting new people at festivals and events. To celebrate the vibrancy and activity of the sector along with the resilience and comradery we have witnessed this year in the group singing community, we would like to invite you to join us online for a sector Christmas party, sing along and more!

We will enjoy a short festive sing-song and then we will break out into smaller groups to allow for conversations among friends and colleagues to take place. This event will have an extremely relaxed atmosphere and is a celebration with and of the community!

Festive clothing optional!