

Sing for Your Soul dlr –

Invitation to companies to get involved in a new free Workplace Choir



Workplaces in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County (dlr) are invited to apply to take part in a pilot project run by dlr Arts Office.

We're inviting companies to become involved in a workplace choir. There needs to be a minimum of 15 staff who would like to participate, and a maximum of 50. Two companies will be selected to take part, one from the east of the County and one from the West. There will be no cost to the company or the participants.

No previous experience of singing in a choir is needed – this will be informal and fun! The idea is that short sessions will take place one day a week for 10 weeks, timed to coincide with lunchtime.

dlr Arts Office is co-ordinating and funding this initiative. **Alan Leech** has been engaged as the principal Choral Conductor; he is one of Ireland's leading tenors and choral practitioners (see more details below). He'll work with participants over a 10 week period from the end of September, in the workplace for one session each week and then bring the two groups together for a public performance in early December.

Alan will hold a special taster session in each workplace during the last week of May. Interested companies must be able to accommodate this session. The session will take place on either 29th, 30th or 31st May.

What will it involve for the participants?

- A taster session at the end of May.
- 1 session per week for 10 weeks. These will be 45 minute sessions, at lunchtime, taking place in the workplace. This will start at the end of September.
- 1 longer rehearsal at the end of November, taking place early evening
- An early evening performance in the Studio, dlr LexIcon, Dún Laoghaire in early December.

How to get involved

Interested companies are asked to send in an expression of interest to dlr Arts Office by **Tuesday 22nd May 2018**. This should include the following details:

- Name and address of the company, with contact person
- Number of employees who will participate in the Choir
- Details about how the company will support the project – see list below for more details on what needs to be provided. The application needs to have proof of support from a senior manager/director.

Please note that this initiative is only open to staff of the company (not clients or service users).

For the company: what support will the Workplace Choir need?

- A room with chairs and a window which opens, large enough to comfortably accommodate the numbers involved, and where people may eat their lunch
- A place to store a keyboard & music stand safely for the 10 week period
- Access to a photocopier (for music scores)
- A coordinator in the company who will act as the sole point of contact for the Choral Director(s)/ Project Manager
- Public Liability insurance cover extended to cover the Choral Director(s)/dlr Project Manager for the project duration.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will provide full financial support for the project. This will include all fees to Choral Director(s), dlr LexIcon performance costs, the use of a keyboard and music stand for the direction of the project. This equipment needs to be returned to the Arts Office after the workplace sessions are completed.

How will the workplace be selected?

dlr Arts Office will select two companies to take part in the 2018 project. The selection criteria will be:

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| 1) The expression of interest submitted by the Company | 80/100 |
| 2) Geographic location* | 20/100 |

Deadline for applications: 22 May 2018

Applications should be sent by email only to arts@dlrcoco.ie

with the subject line: Workplace Choirs

*One company will be selected from the east of the County and one from the west. The east includes the areas of Booterstown, Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire, Dalkey, Sallynoggin, Foxrock, Shankill, Killiney, Ballybrack. The west includes Dundrum, Stillorgan, Glencullen, Sandyford, Churchtown, Ballinteer, Stepside, Cabinteely.

Alan Leech - biography

Alan has performed with most of Ireland's leading orchestras and choirs in oratorio and concert performances. He is a voice teacher, and has been teaching singing at the Leinster School of Music & Drama since 2003 where he also lectures in Aural Skills, Repertoire in Context and Choral Conducting for Griffith College's H Dip in Music. Alan teaches Voice at undergraduate level in Mater Dei Institute, a college of University College Dublin. Alan is also an education facilitator for Chamber Choir Ireland's Educational Outreach programme. A highlight of this role has been working on the 'Sing' project since 2007 in conjunction with the Axis, Ballymun, which brings together groups of older people to develop choral skills.