



1st December 2020

Invitation to Participate in the International Choirs for Cancer 2021 Event

Dear Choir,

On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to invite you to contribute to the virtual **Choirs for Cancer 2021 event** which will take place on **Thursday 4th February 2021** (World Cancer Day). Choirs for Cancer is a yearly community tribute to those whose lives have been touched by cancer. This emotional event, now entering its 3rd year, will bring together a virtual community of choirs, including cancer patients & advocates, family members, medical professionals, and cancer researchers, to sing a song and/or share a story of their cancer journey.

In February 2020, the second Choirs for Cancer event was held in O'Reilly Hall in University College Dublin, Ireland to mark World Cancer Day. This event brought together 10 choirs, collectively more than 300 singers, from around Ireland and Northern Ireland in an outpouring of celebration and solidarity and was attended by more than 700 people. Patient advocates, including Stephen Teap and John Wall, shared their personal cancer stories, and cancer researchers spoke of their motivation and progress towards finding new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat this devastating disease. On the musical side, there were uplifting songs and performances from ten choirs from around the island of Ireland, each of which sang a song on the themes of care, hope, strength, love, loss and community, followed by a powerful group performance of the song '*Something Inside So Strong*'.

The event gained significant traction on social media and featured on a number of media outlets. You can watch performances from this event on the Choirs for Cancer YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVx9uCOyzOlzUgVK1DWWNQA>) and feel inspired to participate again this year, or for the very first time! A 5min summary of the event itself can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUxRSV7czrs>. [Twitter: #ChoirsforCancer2020 #ChoirsforCancer2021]

In 2021, we are going global and virtual! We plan to create a 1-2 hour online show featuring footage of choirs from across the world that will be released on the 4th February 2021. If you wish to be involved, please send us high-quality video footage of your choir performing a chosen song, along with details of your choir, including where in the world you are based. Given the times we are in, we have decided upon the main theme of *Togetherness* this year. The video content can be pre-recorded from a past performance or especially made for the 2021 event, whichever suits you. Any footage not used for the main event on 4th February 2021 will be used in the build-up to the show and released on social media platforms.

By submitting this content, you will consent to it being used as part of the main event and/or used for promoting the event which would include it being featured on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Please ensure to provide your twitter handles and social media names to allow us to tag your choir or organisation. All content should be sent to the email address poiadmin@ucd.ie with the subject 'Choirs for

Cancer 2021' and the name of your choir by Friday 8th January 2021. [Contact name: Shauna Byrne]. This allows us sufficient time to edit the piece together for display on 4th February 2021.

For the final piece in the show, we are also planning an integrated version of 'From Now On' from *The Greatest Showman*, which will most likely be a combination of individual soloists and group of singers. If you are keen to also participate in this also, please indicate the singer(s) and provide their contact details.

2021 is the ultimate year of the 3-year 'I Am and I Will' campaign for World Cancer Day which is a campaign built to resonate, inspire change and mobilise action long after the day has passed. When we choose to come together, we can achieve what we all wish for: a healthier, brighter world without cancer. Together, all of our actions matter. This World Cancer Day, who are you and what will you do?

We would be delighted if you would participate in Choirs for Cancer 2021 and look forward to hearing from you in due course. Please contact me at william.gallagher@ucd.ie (+353-85-7302360) if you have any queries.

Kind regards,



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Choirs for Cancer 2021 Organising Committee

- Prof. William Gallagher, Director, UCD Conway Institute, Dublin
- Colette Kearney, Teacher at Mount Sion C.B.S. & Director, Mount Sion Choir, Waterford
- Robert Browne, Deputy Principal, Oatlands College, Dublin
- Joyce O'Carroll, Wigworld, Waterford
- John Wall, Patient Advocate
- Dr. Rosemarie Gannon, Research Project Manager, UCD Conway Institute
- Dr. Fiona Lanigan, Precision Oncology Ireland Comms & Public Engagement Manager
- Shauna Byrne, Precision Oncology Ireland Senior Research Administrator
- Elaine Quinn, Institute Manager (Communications & Engagement), UCD Conway Institute
- Caoimhe O'Neill, Choirmaster for UCD Community Choir

Photos from the 2020 Choirs for Cancer event

