

COMHRÁ 1 REPORT

JUNE 2020 (1.1)

METHODOLOGY

Nineteen participants took part in one-to-one discussion sessions via Zoom.

Each session lasted approximately one hour and took place between 18 and 28 May 2020.

Participants were asked to discuss the impact of Covid-19 (C19) on their current and future work practice.

Participants are singers and / or conductors of choral groups based in Cork.

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Communication and Education

- 1) Maintain communication post-C19.
- 2) Establish collective support alongside established healthy competition.
- 3) Establish and normalise standards for musical integrity and excellence in a C19 world.
- 4) Understand and utilise the multidisciplinary power of the collective.
- 5) Establish common structures and routines.
- 6) Explore and normalise online delivery.
- 7) Advocate mutual promotion.
- 8) Identify and share common resources.
- 9) Identify opportunities for peer-feedback and upskilling.
- 10) Minimise experimental risk and waste.

Safety and Wellbeing

- 11) Safeguard singers, choirs and conductors for future practice.
- 12) Promote the social and health benefits of choral singing.
- 13) Delegate responsibility.

Structural

- 14) Propose solutions for the digital divide.
- 15) Promote and sustain Irish-based music infrastructure.
- 16) Advocate for a multifunctional community music space.

ESSENTIAL OUTPUTS

- Create a Code of Conduct for choirs that safeguards both conductors and singers.
- Establish an online project choir to ascertain best practice and disseminate findings.
- Organise a schedule of online meetings for conductors to discuss, reflect and share information.

PRIORITISED OUTPUTS

- Develop a database of local expertise.
- Discuss common policies for online delivery (fees, on- and off-time, etc.)
- Identify what choir members value about choral singing.
- Organise a community-wide event.
- Populate the Facebook group with local conductors.

POTENTIAL OUTPUTS

- Collect data and publish information about the health benefits of singing.
- Create a centralised folder of resources.
- Develop process equally for on- and off-line delivery.
- Develop resources for comprehensive warmups (mindfulness, posture, breathing and tone).
- Discuss ways to further collaboration amongst local artists.
- Explore repertoire for smaller forces.
- Explore the 1 : 2 (work : life) balance.
- Find ways to easily communicate local events.
- Identify easy solutions for the digital divide.
- Identify ways in which new tasks can be delegated out to choir members.
- Outline a plan for establishing a multifunctional community music space.
- Publicise upcoming masterclasses and seminars.