

**Age & Opportunity call out:  
Flagship Bealtaine Choir for Dawn and Dusk  
Chorus, 2019**

**Deadline 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**



Image: The Line-Up Choir perform on Grattan Bridge at Dawn at Bealtaine 2018

## Information for Applicants

Age & Opportunity's ARTS invites applications from choirs to fill the role of Bealtaine Festival Choir for the Dawn and Dusk Chorus events, 2019. Please read these guidelines and complete the application form.

## About Age & Opportunity and the Bealtaine Festival

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation that provides a range of opportunities for older people who want to get more involved in arts and culture, sport and physical activity, education

& personal development. Our aim is to inspire people aged 50+ to live a dynamic and fulfilling life where they are more active, more engaged, more creative and more stimulated.

**Age & Opportunity Arts** is our dedicated arts and culture programme running throughout the year in local communities all over Ireland. We host a range of different creative initiatives including the annual Bealtaine Festival which takes place throughout the month of May, and is delivered in partnership with communities and organisations nationwide. Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which uniquely celebrates the arts and creativity as we age.

## About the Dawn and Dusk Chorus

The first Dawn Chorus event took place on Culdaff beach in Donegal as part of the 2009 Bealtaine festival. Following this extraordinary debut the Dawn Chorus developed into a nationwide event with choirs all over the country taking part each May. . In 2010, we initiated a partnership with the Association of Irish Choirs and Active Retirement Ireland designed to grow the event even further by bringing choirs, active retirement groups and older people together across Ireland to sing at dawn, in a scenic location.

In 2018 composer Tom Lane was commissioned to create a piece of music especially for the Dawn Chorus – and the result – *The Little Waves of Breffny* was performed by choirs all over Ireland. In 2019, *The Little Waves of Breffny* will once again be celebrated as part of the Dawn Chorus, in addition to a programme of the choir's own choosing.

As part of our 2018 Bealtaine festival we introduced the Dusk Chorus for the first time, allowing choirs more scope in scheduling an event.

## About the 2019 Flagship Events

### Flagship Dawn and Dusk Chorus

In 2019, in addition to choirs all around Ireland organising their own Dawn and Dusk chorus events, on dates of their choosing, one choir will be chosen as a flagship choir – to perform for the Flagship Dawn Chorus taking place at the start of the festival on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of May** and at the Flagship Dusk Chorus taking place at the end of the festival, on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of May**.

### St Patricks Festival

In addition to these two flagship events, there will also be an additional component to our choral activities in 2019. We are excited to collaborate with Ireland's largest festival, St Patricks Festival, and to invite the Bealtaine Festival Choir to preview their Dawn and Dusk Chorus events as part of St Patricks Festival on the weekend of **16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.

### The Bealtaine Festival Choir

For these flagship events the Bealtaine Festival wishes to showcase a choir that celebrates the Bealtaine spirit in some way – it may be that they are intergenerational, (one of Age & Opportunity's strategic priorities), or that they are championing creativity as we age or that they have been staging their own Dawn Chorus events for the past number of years.

The flagship events are also key to the Bealtaine Festival because offer the momentum of being natural opening and closing points to the festival as a whole. They also have the potential to be high profile events which hopefully will secure local and national media attention. Key supports will be given to the chosen choir, as outlined below. For the flagship events, we would love to hear from choirs all around Ireland, - at least one of these events will happen outside Dublin.

## Applicant Guidelines

### The choir will:

- Commit to the dates appointed for the Dawn or Dusk Chorus and St Patrick's Festival.
- Work with the Bealtaine team in securing an appropriate location for the event (if outside Dublin).
- Commit to performing Tom Lane's composition *The Little Waves of Breffny*, as well as their own programme.
- Agree to make representatives available for PR or marketing opportunities, outside of the event itself as well as supporting the Bealtaine marketing campaign where possible.

### Age & Opportunity will:

- Provide a workshop with Tom Lane, in respect of performing his composition.
- Provide logistical support through our dedicated project assistant.
- Provide audio visual support for the event.
- Provide travel costs, within an agreed budget.
- Provide PR around the event.
- Document the event.

## Assessment Criteria

- Demonstration of commitment to the spirit of Bealtaine.
- Track record as a choir, (ie that you have been together and performing for a length of time).
- Include older people in the make-up of the choir.
- Diversity demonstrated by choir, (either intergenerationally, culturally, geographically etc.)
- Confirmation of availability on dates above and meeting the guidelines above.



[www.ageandopportunity.ie](http://www.ageandopportunity.ie)

[www.bealtaine.ie](http://www.bealtaine.ie)