

Bealtaine Flagship Choir 2022

Deadline – 5pm Friday 12 November, 2021

Information for applicants

Age & Opportunity's Arts Programme invites applications from choirs to fill the role of Bealtaine Festival Flagship Choir for the Dawn and Dusk Chorus events in 2022. Please read these guidelines and complete the application form. We especially invite members of marginalised or underrepresented groups to apply.

About the Bealtaine Festival

Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which uniquely celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. The festival is run by Age & Opportunity, the leading national development organisation working to enable the best possible quality of life for all of us as we age. Bealtaine is at the centre of Age & Opportunity's Arts programme and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2020. In 2022, we continue our theme of **In(ter)dependence** – inspired by our centenary as a sovereign nation, but also in recognition of our interdependence with each other and the natural world. Covid-19 and in

particular its impact on older people, has underlined the natural and human ecosystem of dependence and connection.

The Bealtaine Dawn & 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 Sing Ireland 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. As part of our 2018 Bealtaine Festival we introduced the Dusk Chorus for the first time, allowing choirs more scope in scheduling an event. In 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic, we presented a virtual Dawn chorus events with our flagship choir.

Bealtaine Flagship Choir

In 2022, in addition to choirs all around Ireland organising their own Dawn and Dusk chorus events, one choir will be chosen as a flagship choir – to perform for the Flagship Dawn Chorus taking place at the start of the festival and at the Flagship Dusk Chorus taking place at the end.

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, diverse in their membership, 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.

Call for Applications

Age & Opportunity invites applications for the Bealtaine Flagship Choir, whereby the following conditions will apply:

The Flagship Choir will:

- Commit to the dates appointed for the Dawn and Dusk Chorus.
- Secure a scenic location for the Dawn Chorus in their locality*.
- Promote the event in their locality through local and social media
- Access any additional supports through the local Arts Office, Age Friendly co-ordinator and any other relevant Older Person's organisations.
- Work with the Bealtaine team in relation to the logistics of the Dusk Chorus (which may take place in Dublin, online or in a hybrid model)*.
- 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 logistical support for the Dusk Chorus.
- Provide audio visual support for the Dawn Chorus within an agreed budget.
- Provide travel costs, within an agreed budget.
- Provide PR around the event.
- Document the event.

**Health & Safety Information:

All potential health and safety risks must be fully considered and addressed for all Bealtaine events. Events must take place in accordance with current government health guidelines as well as Age & Opportunity's

own Health & Safety policies. The Flagship Choir must adhere to these policies and work with the Bealtaine team in relation to health and safety needs for the event.

Application Process:

Those wishing to apply for the Bealtaine Flagship Choir should complete the application form and save it using the choir name. Any supporting documents should be submitted separately, also using the choir name i.e. BealtaineChoir.doc.

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria and applicants should pay special attention to these when completing the application form:

- Demonstration of commitment to the spirit of Bealtaine.
- Track record as a choir, (i.e. that you have been together and performing for a length of time).
- Including older people in the make-up of the choir.
- Diversity demonstrated by choir, (either intergenerationally, culturally, geographically etc.)
- Confirmation of availability in May.

Applications should be submitted to the Arts Administrator, Eva Griffin, arts@ageandopportunity.ie no later than **5pm, Friday 12 November, 2021.**

More Information

Age & Opportunity

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, civic engagement and personal development.

Our aim is to inspire people aged 50+ to live a dynamic life where they are more active, more visible, more creative and more connected.

We work with local communities and organisations across the country to run a range of programmes and activities in three key areas:

- **Age & Opportunity Arts** provides opportunities for us to engage more in arts and cultural events and initiatives
- **Age & Opportunity Active** is designed to get us more active and participate in recreational sport and physical activity
- **Age & Opportunity Engage** offers a range of workshops and learning initiatives for our own personal development as well as opportunities for us to play an active role in our community.

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 and year round resource and development initiatives designed to support artists, arts participants and arts organisations. Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which uniquely celebrates the arts and creativity as we age.