



The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions

2019 - 2020

A series of live recorded sessions with surprise music artists and Past Times Community Choir

(A dementia support choir)



Project partners

**Past Times Community Choir | Kildare County Council Arts Service |
Riverbank Arts Centre**



About The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions

Through a series of live recorded sessions of musical collaborations between our choir and participating artists this project aims to celebrate creativity in older age. The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions will celebrate the human potential to create beautiful and valuable work post diagnosis and living with ill health. Illuminating the musical self that lives within us all, overcoming any obstacle to find expression.

Inspired by Glen Campbell's monumental contribution to music we are particularly in awe of his later years. His creative output and recordings after his diagnosis with Alzheimer's disease is hugely inspirational for anyone journeying that same road but also fascinating to musicians as an example of late-bloom ingenuity.

In exploring Glen's songs, contemporary compositions and old favourites, participating artists will be generating the space for older people and those living with dementia to participate in an exciting and ever evolving artistic process. In carefully documenting the collaboration we choose the frame for each individual tribute to Glen and further open up the possibilities to inspire inclusive choirs around the world to pursue collaborative work with willing artists.

Larry Weiss has fully endorsed the naming of the project, saying 'the message of Rhinestone Cowboy is to keep up the spirit of pursuing one's dreams' and with his encouragement we are thrilled to have recorded our first two sessions in this adventure: the vibrant Kildare singer-songwriter Sive and folk legend Charlie McGettigan.

Our Ask

We want to invite a number of selected Irish artists both known and unknown to the choir to film a live session in our rehearsal space. Each artist will be invited to sing a song suitable for the choirs' repertoire. The song list will be made up from Glenn Campbell's hits, the invited artists back catalogue and some general hits and folk songs. This dynamic mix will offer a wide variety of choice to create compelling and dynamic series.

Each recording is to take place on a Tuesday morning, with time for set up and refreshments after. We wish to celebrate the choir's rehearsal time & place, these invaluable moments we come together to create song and sound.

We ask our invited artists to work with Musical Directors Sharon Murphy and Sadhbh O'Sullivan with their song choice. We look for a 6-8 week lead in to prepare the agreed version of the chosen song with the choir.

We will launch this project on Tuesday May 28th in Riverbank Arts Centre (our project partner) at 12 noon with a showcase of our premier video recording to the choir. We have the ambition to record a series of our Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions from then until April 2020 (to be as flexible with the artist schedule as possible) and launch them online. We will close this project in a grand finale performance in May 2020.

Please take a look at the link below for the inspiration for this project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxtU74n_pmo

The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions is currently funded by Creative Ireland, Kildare County Council, Riverbank Arts Centre and supported by the HSE.



About Past Times Community Choir



A Kildare Music and Health Programme

The award winning Past Times Community Choir is an intergenerational choir that supports people living with dementia, their families, carers and communities.

Established in January 2015 and homed in McAuley Place, Naas, the choir meets weekly to develop their repertoire, singing skills and harmonies for their regular performances that include Culture Night, Christmas and end of year concerts and collaborations with many other ensembles from Co. Kildare.

The choir is a strategic partnership between Kildare County Council Arts Service and its Arts and Health Specialist, the HSE and our musical director Sharon Murphy to enhance health through music participation throughout the county. The choir provides supports for everyone to participate regardless of mobility, ability and communicative impairments. We strive to create an inclusive and creative outlet for all.

We currently have a waiting list for new community members but we try to provide immediate opportunities for those living with dementia & their families to engage with the choir.

- DCU – Elevator Innovation Awards 2015
- Dublin Castle – The Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Directorate (ONMSD) Leadership & innovations in practice in Older Persons' Services 2016
- Dublin Castle - The Arts Council "Places Matter" Conference 2017
- UCD - 17th International conference on Integrated Care "Building a platform for integrated care: delivering change that matters to people, 2017

We have showcased the talents of our members and their stories of living with dementia and celebrating life through song in the Irish Independent, RTE's HSE documentary "Keeping Ireland Alive" and in December 2017 we showcased the stories and song of our members on RTE's Nationwide.



For updates and information on the choir you can find us on
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PastTimesCommunityChoir/>

Our Creative Team

Project Lead, Carolann Courtney, Arts, Health and Wellbeing Specialist with Kildare County Council Arts Service

Musical directors, Sharon Murphy and Sadhbh O'Sullivan

Film Maker, Brian Cregan

Editor, Peter Kelly

Sound Engineer, Paul Dowling

Artist Support Linda Geraghty, Director, Riverbank Arts Centre

Other links

Culture Night Event 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d4RD1x-Als>

Nation Wide Christmas Show 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC8czdE7qHs>

RTE's "Keeping Ireland Alive HSE Documentary:
" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=205x05ivzbY#action=share>

Article on choir member Peggy McManus 2016: <https://www.independent.ie/life/health-wellbeing/health-features/in-praise-of-song-the-joy-of-being-in-a-choir-31602018.html>

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<https://www.facebook.com/PastTimesCommunityChoir/>