

Vote for your favourite choir in the Novartis Ireland Patient Choir Contest!

Mar 26, 2025

We are celebrating music and patient communities across Ireland through our first-ever Patient Choir Contest, launched as part of our company's global partnership with the [Eurovision Song Contest 2025](#), hosted in our headquarters city of Basel, Switzerland.

How voting works

From 14-30 April 2025, voting is open to everyone. Simply listen to the choirs' video recordings below and vote for your favourite patient choir. The public vote will make up one-third of the final decision, and our two judges – [Charlie McGettigan](#), former Eurovision winner, and [Hilary Moss](#), Professor of Music Therapy, University of Limerick – will contribute the remaining two-thirds of the score.

The winning choir will receive €3,000 and be invited to perform at our offices in Dublin.

Select your favourite choir

In total, 10 choirs are participating in our contest. Watch the videos below, and VOTE for your favourite choir!

Click on the choir photo to watch performance

- [Read more by clicking on choir name:](#)
- [Cork Headway Choir](#)
- [Forget Me Nots Choir](#)
- [Mercer's Melodies Choir](#)
- [Purple House Cancer Support Choir](#)
- [Relay for Life Donegal Survivors Choir](#)
- [Rhythm of Recovery Choir](#)
- [Sea of Change Cancer Choir](#)
- [Sing for Life Choir](#)
- [SingStrong Choir](#)
- [Sligo Cancer Support Choir](#)

Cork Headway Choir



Forget Me Nots Choir



Mercer's Melodies Choir



Purple House Cancer Support Choir



Relay for Life Donegal Survivors Choir



Rhythm of Recovery Choir



Sea of Change Cancer Choir



Sing for Life Choir



SingStrong Choir



Sligo Cancer Support Choir



Watch the performance of the Cork Headway Choir

The choir is a place that builds confidence and where friendships are formed. The group comes together weekly to sing, it is a place of support, they feel less lonely, and they help each other along. Singing together brings out the best in people and for some it has helped them get their voice back.

Why we sing

Written by Greg Gilpin

Watch the performance of the Forget Me Nots Choir

From light chit-chat to focused rehearsals, fun physical warm-ups to exhilarating performances, the reach of our choir support network is broad. As our members say in our song: We have a little place, a little refuge. It's fun and it's safe... When you step inside your worries leave you ...

This shock of flowers

Composed by Norah Constance Walsh, written with the Forget Me Nots choir

Watch the performance of the Mercer's Melodies Choir

Mercer's Melodies has been life-changing. Originally focused on lung health, it has grown to boost voice strength, breathing, and most importantly mental well-being. We've made new friends, reduced stress, and gained a sense of belonging. Singing together lifts our spirits, supports us through tough times, and enriches our emotional and social wellness enormously! We're delighted to unite in our common love of music and song!

Grandma Grandma

Unknown – Children's Rhyme/Folklore

Hallelujah

Written by Leonard Cohen

Watch the performance of the Purple House Cancer Support Choir

Our choir offers individuals an outlet for expressing emotions associated with surviving cancer and connects singers with others who understand what they are going through. It helps people find their voice again after cancer, enhances their mood and reduces stress, while also providing physical benefits such as improved lung health.

This little light of mine

Written by Harry Dixon Loes, adapted by Zilphia Horton

Watch the performance of the [Relay for Life Donegal Survivors Choir](#)

No matter what cancer does to us, no matter how ill we are, we will laugh again, we will sing again, and if we haven't before, damn it, we'll do it now!

The war

Rachel Akkoc, writer and arranger

Watch the performance of the [Rhythm of Recovery Choir](#)

Participation in the choir provides us with physical, mental and emotional autonomy and control over our recovery journey – and facilitates inclusion, contribution and motivation. The rehabilitative effects of singing enhance brain recovery, speech function and cognition. It's medicinal!

Vision

Written by Orna Tully and Kevin McNamara

Watch the performance of the [Sea of Change Cancer Choir](#)

We find support, friendship, and belonging, especially powerful for those affected by cancer and who have come through treatment and are a bit lost. It builds our self-esteem and confidence proving that every voice matters.

The path that chooses you

Written by Ollie Cole with the choir

Watch the performance of the Sing for Life Choir

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be extremely traumatic and isolating. The choir offers members a sense of belonging to a community of people who have had similar experiences. It provides informal support and reduces social isolation and loneliness, whilst providing an uplifting experience, both physically and mentally.

Lean on me

Words and music by Bill Withers, adapted by Jack Zaino

Watch the performance of the SingStrong Choir

Through breathing exercises and singing, participants have improved their lung function test scores and vocal strength, and gained tools to self-manage COPD, which helps prevent social isolation. Every member also reports that it has boosted their mental well-being and that they always feel better physically and mentally after a class.

One day like this

Written by Guy Garvey Elbow

Watch the performance of the Sligo Cancer Support Choir

An environment where everyone shares similar experiences allows people the freedom to just be without explaining their struggles or feel defined by their illness. Singing provides a sense of

normalcy and joy. Focusing on something positive and uplifting is invaluable in navigating the emotional and mental challenges cancer often brings.

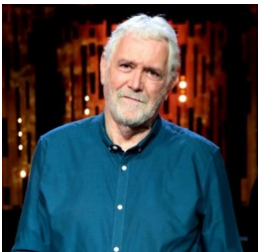
I have a dream

Written by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus (ABBA)

Voting closes on 30 April. Don't miss your chance to support your favourite choir.

[Vote now!](#)

Meet our judges



"Ireland has a long, proud association with the Eurovision. We have won seven times, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of Irish entries to the Song Contest. Reaching this milestone demonstrates the enduring power of music to bring people together, so I am delighted to be involved in the Patient Choir Contest."



"Singing connects people across all cultures, creating community and reducing social isolation. There is growing evidence that singing in groups boosts immunity and lung function, improves mental health and reduces pain perception. I am excited to be part of this initiative and see the positive impact of music on the lives of people living with chronic illnesses."

Charlie McGettigan

Hilary Moss

Former Eurovision winner

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