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IN OUR TIME

## *Work Songs: Call for five South Dublin County businesses and workplaces to collaborate on Work Songs.*

**Time commitment:** Between October 2017 and December 2018, there will be 2 short meetings (one with HR and one with staff), two days of observation and conversations (with minimal disruption to the working day), one workshop, six rehearsals and two performances.

**Process:** The process will be a collaborative one. From observations and conversations, Fiona will tease out the workplaces' singing needs, make proposals and begin to establish the nature of the work-song; where it's sung, at what time of the working day and during which specific task. Lyrics will be developed in consultation with the employees. Fiona will then bring her findings to George, who will build the work-song. The song will be presented to the group for feedback.

**Outcome:** Once the song has found its definitive shape, rehearsals will start, leading to an initial performance in the workplace for a limited audience. This performance will be filmed. A few months later there will be another couple of rehearsals leading to a performance in a public art venue.

**Benefits:** In recent years, TV programmes such as *The Choir* and competitions such as *Workplace Choir of the Year* have brought the workplace song into the spotlight. Recent research has detailed the manifest benefits of singing to workers' morale, cohesion, reduced stress levels, as well as improved productivity.

**Who?:** We are looking for businesses and industries that are representative of the economic profile of South Dublin County. We would like these businesses to be diverse and to be excited by the potential of the project. No previous singing experience is necessary.

### **Provisional timeframe for each business:**

#### **Research (Autumn 2017)**

- 1 meeting with HR/ management (1/2 hr -1hr)
- 1 meeting with staff/interested staff (1/2 hr -1hr)
- 2 days observing and engaging with staff through conversations around a tea and cake station operated by the artist. Graphic harvesting of findings (2 days)

#### **Composing (Winter 2017-2018)**

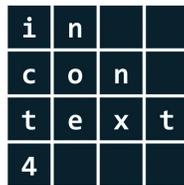
- Workshop in which Fiona and George share the song with the workplace singers and get their feedback (2hrs)

#### **Rehearsals and performance 1 (Spring 2018)**

- 4 rehearsals led by George for Spring concert (2hrs 30mins each)
- First public performance (1 to 2hrs including prep)

#### **Rehearsals and performance 2 (Autumn 2018)**

- 2 rehearsals led by George for Autumn concert (2hrs 30 each)
- Second public performance (1 to 2hrs including prep)



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## **Do you work in a bakery, a tech company, a hospital or garage? If your business had a work song what would it be?**

Interested in getting involved? Email Fiona Dowling and George Higgs at [southdublinworksongs@gmail.com](mailto:southdublinworksongs@gmail.com) to register your interest.

***Work Songs* is commissioned under IN CONTEXT 4 - IN OUR TIME, South Dublin County Council's Public Art Programme for 2016-2019 under the Per Cent for Art Scheme.**

**IN CONTEXT 4 - IN OUR TIME** is South Dublin County Council's Public Art Programme for 2016-2019 under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. The programme builds on the fundamental principles and experience of 'IN CONTEXT 1, 2 and 3'. This programme continues South Dublin County Council's commitment, as the Commissioners, of progressive public art processes and practices (in all disciplines). The programme provides a platform for temporality and experimentation, and a supportive environment, which enables artists to explore new ideas and realise ambitious projects.

IN CONTEXT 4 - IN OUR TIME asserts the role of the artist as citizen and the artist as a leader in society. It aims to enable the County's vastly diverse communities of people and of place to become more familiar and involved with risk-taking and experimentation in artistic processes. It asks artists and arts practitioners to inspire a future for the County that is connected to a sense of place, community belonging and civic awareness. Fundamentally, it provides artists and arts practitioners with the opportunity to develop new work within a supported environment and to present this work to new audiences at home and abroad.

The vision for IN CONTEXT 4 – IN OUR TIME is to develop a public art programme that acts as a gathering point and catalyst for social change. The Commissioners' ambition for this programme is that it reflects on the history of the South Dublin County, its present moment, and that it presents a platform for imaginings of our future. By inviting such proposals, through an open submission, the Commissioners ask artists to drive the agenda for public art that will unsettle assumed, contemporary attitudes of what is possible in our world today.

'IN CONTEXT 4 – IN OUR TIME' is commissioned by South Dublin County Council and curated by Aoife Tunney and Claire Power. IN CONTEXT 4 – IN OUR TIME is informed by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism's General National Guidelines for delivery of Per Cent for Art Schemes, published in 2004 ref: [www.publicart.ie](http://www.publicart.ie)

[www.incontext4.ie](http://www.incontext4.ie)