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IN OUR TIME

## *Work Songs: Call for a South Dublin County business or workplace to collaborate on Work Songs.*

**Time commitment:** Between January and June 2018, there will be a short meeting with a company representative, two half-days of observation and conversations (with minimal disruption to the working day), a feedback session, two to four short rehearsals and a filmed performance.

**Process:** The process will be a collaborative one. Fiona will start by observing and recording the sounds, gestures and rhythms of the working day to inform the rhythm and texture of the song. From observations and conversations, she will tease out the workplaces' singing needs 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 a performance of the song by the workers in the workplace for a limited audience. This performance will be filmed and along with the four other workplaces' work-songs, will form the South Dublin Work-Song Symphony.

**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:**

#### **Research (January-March 2018)**

- 1 meeting with HR/ management (30min-1hr)
- 2 half-days of observation, where the artist comes to the workplace to record the sounds, gestures and rhythms of the working day and harvest ideas for lyrics through conversations (2 half-days)

#### **Composing (April 2018)**

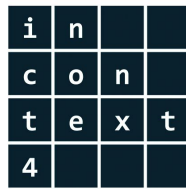
- Workshop in which Fiona and George share the song with the workplace singers and get their feedback (30min-1 hr)

#### **Rehearsals and performance (May-June 2018)**

- 2 to 4 rehearsals led by George for public performance (duration to suit the workplace)
- Public performance (1 hr 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)