

Voicing Your Choir Timetable for the Day

9.30 – Arrive for coffee

10 – 11.30 Session 1 with Kevin O'Carroll

11.30 – 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 – 1 Session 2 with Kevin O'Carroll

1 – 2 LUNCH

2 – 3.30 Session 1 with Sally McLean &

The White Rosettes

3.30 – 3.45 Coffee break

3.45 – 5 Session 2 with Sally McLean &

The White Rosettes



More about the Sessions

Morning workshops with Kevin O'Carroll: Voicing your Choir

Choir voicing is a remarkable technique which establishes the optimum blend for any given group of singers. Having applied this technique to small ensembles and full choral societies it is safe to say that the technique can make a substantial difference irrespective of the size of the group.

'Having attended Kevin O'Carroll's absorbing presentation at the Association of Irish Choirs Choral Conducting Summer School 2009 entitled Choir Voicing – a technique for a blended choir timbre', I'm fully convinced that all choirs should investigate the potential benefits of utilising this subtle and mysterious technique – they might be surprised at the results!' - David Brophy, Professional Conductor

'Having seen this technique in action, it was fascinating to observe the change in vocal tone and unity that it brought about in the choirs that Kevin worked with. The result was obvious for the singers themselves but even more so for the listener. Every choir would find this technique to be beneficial.' – Dermot O'Callaghan, CEO Association of Irish Choirs

Afternoon workshops with Sally McLean and The White Rosettes

Workshop 1 -Voice Unity, Vocal Matching and 'stacking' to create vocal blend

Want your sections to sound the same? Want your choir to phonate with unity? Not sure where they should stand to get the best from each voice?

The White Rosettes will demonstrate how they achieve 'vocal blend' and share tools and exercise for you to take away.

Workshop 2 - Give it a go!

Delegates will have the chance to sing 4 part Barbershop Harmony with the Rosettes. This will involve a couple of tags, taught there and then and incorporating some of the techniques explained in the first workshop.

About Kevin O'Carroll

Dr Kevin O'Carroll is a Waterford based freelance choral conductor and teacher. His choral conducting repertoire extends from small-scale Renaissance polyphonic works through to orchestral choral works such as Mozart Requiem, Dvorak's Te Deum, Haydn's The Creation and Handel's Messiah. In 2018, he directed the first Irish community choir performance of Jubilate Deo by Dan Forrest and in January 2020 he presents Requiem for the Living by that same composer.



Kevin studied with the conducting pedagogue Dr John Dickson at Texas Tech University, USA and has also worked with David Hill (King's College, Cambridge), Tim Brown (Clare College, Cambridge) and the British composer and conductor Bob Chilcott.

Recognised as a choral specialist, Kevin is in demand as a teacher and choral consultant for workshops and guest lectures both in Ireland and further afield. He has adjudicated at many choral festivals throughout Ireland, including Cork Choral Festival and Feis Ceoil Dublin. He has provided lectures on conducting at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra (DCU), NUI Maynooth and at the University of Limerick.

Over the years, Kevin has conducted groups from many countries including Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Australia, Taiwan and the USA. He celebrates twenty-five years as conductor of Madrigallery Chamber Choir in Waterford in 2020. Kevin also conducts two large choirs, Wexford Festival Singers and Notable Works, that perform large-scale choral orchestral works. In addition he conducts Vocalis, a professional ensemble and the Renaissance group Vox Humana, both groups come together on an occasional basis. Equally at home in front of orchestra, choir or musical theatre groups, he has been guest conductor for musical societies in Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Kevin is a member of the board of examiners of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Kevin holds a PhD from the University of Limerick for his research on the impact of modern music notation on the performance practice of Renaissance polyphony and in the process created the Phrased Notation System for use with editions of Renaissance polyphony. This system seeks to inhibit the impact of modern convention while at the same time promoting known Renaissance performance practices.

About Sally McLean

Sally McLean became Musical Director of the White Rosettes in January 1998. Since taking over the role, she has led the chorus to new heights, winning sixteen national championships, and the hugely important European championship in 2009, 2013 and 2017. With Sally at the helm, the chorus has also had the honour of competing three times for the title of Llangollen Eisteddfod Choir of the World



.It is Sally's incredible musical ability, combined with her determination, ambition, leadership and

motivational skills, that drives the chorus to ever greater achievements. Sally is a committed educator both within and outside of the chorus.

Sally acts as vocal coach to a significant number of female and male choruses and quartets across the country. Sally is an inspiration to other directors; her masterclasses with The White Rosettes have proved highly successful and she presented to the Association of British Choral Directors at their Annual Conference in August 2012. Sally was part of an expert jury in the BBC's Gareth Malone 'The Naked Choir' programme, looking for the country's best a cappella group, which aired on BBC2 in autumn 2015.

Joining the White Rosettes as a singer in 1982, Sally has also won four National Quartet Championships and one European Quartet Championship.

About The White Rosettes

The White Rosettes are a Leeds-based female barbershop chorus. In October 2017 they won the LABBS National Ladies Chorus Championship for an unprecedented 16th time! They were also delighted to successfully retain their title as European Champions for the third time in a row – also a result without precedent.

Under the direction of Sally McLean, The White Rosettes aim to push the boundaries of technical excellence, musicality and performance, and achieve this by entering prestigious national and international competitions and performing both in the UK and mainland Europe. The chorus sings a range of styles, from strict barbershop, to jazz, gospel and show classics.

Formed in 1977 under the direction of Clive Landey, the chorus still rehearses weekly and welcomes visitors and prospective new members. The 67-strong chorus is supported by a hard-working and inspirational Music and Presentation Team and an organisational Committee. The chorus' success is particularly remarkable as the majority of the singers have no musical training.

Achievements include:

- LABBS Chorus Champions: 2017, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2000, 1996, 1993, 1990, 1987, 1986, 1984, 1983
- European Chorus Champions: 2017, 2013, 2009
- National Choir of the Year Finalists 2016
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod Choir of the World Finalists: 2012, 2010, 2008
- Winners of Coleraine International Choral Festival 2007
- Radio 3 Choir of the Year Category Finalists 2006
- Radio 3 Choir of the Year Finalists 2005
- Sainsbury's Single Voice Choir of the Year 2000

