

2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Together
productions

www.togetherproductions.co.uk



INTRODUCTION

A WORD FROM HOLLY & JEREMY

2020-2021 has taken us in directions we never could have imagined. The ongoing challenges of the pandemic revealed the endless resourcefulness, ingenuity and commitment of our team and volunteers and the resilience of our community. We were moved to see the TP community go from strength to strength and take an ever more central role in people's lives as they faced difficulties together, and found release and expression through communal creativity.

It was wonderful to make new work with new friends Soundabout Inclusive Choirs and the Samaritans, and to further develop existing partnerships with the King's Singers, Mind & Soul Choir at the Maudsley Hospital, and the International Organization for Migration.

And we were delighted by the surprising opportunity that embracing the digital universe presented to make friends around the world, through our Together Twilight Sessions and at the hugely exciting Singing Our Lives international residential, where we began plans for our biggest project yet - an internationally co-produced collaborative Opera. Watch this space!

A huge thanks to the TP team and all of our supporters, collaborators and members for sticking with us and making this our most exciting year yet. Roll on 2022-2023!

Holly Jones & Jeremy Haneman
Together Productions Directors



Together Productions is a community interest company (CIC) that builds community and creates positive social change through the arts.

We engage with those whose voices are often misrepresented or unheard – refugees, migrants and religious minorities, those facing mental health challenges, for example – and enable individuals and organisations who might not otherwise meet to communicate, connect and better understand one another through participating in artistic projects and programmes.

Our projects offer opportunities to develop skills in communication, creative practice, empathy and leadership. They result in artistic productions that reach broad audiences and stimulate new ways of seeing and listening.

Our ongoing programmes provide a sustainable model for building mixed and cohesive communities through the arts.



Vision

A connected and compassionate world where artistic expression is a human right and difference is celebrated.



Mission

To enable people who may never otherwise meet to come together through the arts to sing, learn, create, nurture new communities and inspire change.



AUTUMN 2020

- Weekly Zoom rehearsals - Mixed Up Chorus and Sing for Freedom Choir
- Premiere of *Walk with Me: Imagine Imagine* - international music project featuring 125 artists from 14 countries worldwide
- Online concert for World Peace Day, September
- Premiere of *Nowruz* - a collaborative composition by the Singing Our Lives company, filmed with the King's Singers
- Launch of the **Together Twilight Sessions** - online workshop series featuring leading international musicians from across the globe
- Premiere of *I Choose Love*, music video by the Sing for Freedom Choir at the Freedom From Torture Resilience Festival
- Engagement workshops - MicroRainbow
- Singing Our Lives International Residential - bringing together 30 leading arts practitioners from around the UK and across the globe to dream and plan international collaborations
- Together Productions online Winter Concert

556
participants

134,000
audiences



Still from *Listen*, animated music video Mixed Up Chorus

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

- Weekly Zoom rehearsals - Mixed Up Chorus and Sing for Freedom Choir
- Premiere of *Listen* - animated music video, Mixed Up Chorus in collaboration with The Samaritans
- Premiere of *I'd Like To Teach the World to Sing*, music video and collaboration with the King's Singers and Soundabout inclusive choirs, for UN Zero Discrimination Day
- Together Twilight Sessions - Season 2
- Engagement Workshops: Red Cross Hackney, City of Sanctuary
- Online participation training - Digital Engagement
- Singing Our Lives creative composition workshops
- The Circle - workshops and filming - Singing Our Lives collaboration between the Mixed Up Chorus and Sing for Freedom Choir
- Half term family workshop - Gospel Music

102
workshops

132
artists engaged



OUR COMMUNITY

WE ASKED: WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT TOGETHER PRODUCTIONS?

"It is an attempt to unify humanity through music and to ameliorate suffering. It is possibly one of the best musical projects I have ever come across".

"The community that is created, the range of projects that I can get involved with (none of my friends singing in choirs gets the opportunities that I do), the innovative and imaginative developments like the Twilight Sessions, the flexibility coupled with the commitment to keep going".

"Together Productions is doing a very good job. Basically sing is good for soul...Torture is not something you ever escape completely. Loneliness and isolation give you time to think but the singing touch my soul, express myself, resonate with my heart and mind. And also singing helping me to forget my troubles, lift me to another dimension and give me happy mood. That's why I love this choir".

"It has made a huge difference to my life especially during this pandemic"

***"Together Productions
has been a mental health
promoter during this year
of pandemic"***

community
connection
wellbeing
sanctuary soul
global fun innovation
singing
ambition
learning
social change
new perspectives
performance
creativity
collaboration

* We asked our stakeholders "choose three words that sum up how you feel about Together Productions"

WE ASKED: HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED WITH TOGETHER PRODUCTIONS AFFECTED YOU?

"I have felt like I am making a small contribution to society in the projects the Mixed Up Chorus has been involved in. Singing with a purpose in such a friendly choir has given me a sense of being part of a worthwhile community. It has given me a chance to volunteer in various ways in the past. Have loved being creative in ways that I wouldn't normally as part of the writing new songs for Singing Our Lives. Performing at concerts has been a challenge and given me confidence".

"It has broadened my musical experiences and enabled me to believe in myself"

"It has given me more confidence in talking to strangers from different backgrounds".

"Improved my mental well being. Improved breathing and singing skills. Raised awareness of issues I had not really addressed"

"It has made me more relaxed about my demands on myself. And it has given me much joy"



OUR ORGANISATION 2020-2021

GROWTH & CONSOLIDATION

We were delighted to expand the Together Productions family this year and appoint a new part-time Head of Programmes, Programmes Producer, Digital Content Producer and Engagement and Pathways Coordinator. We continued to work closely with our teams of volunteers and steering committees across all projects.

We developed new partnerships with the Red Cross in Hackney & Thurrock and the Manor Gardens centre, Islington.

We built on our relationship with the Mind and Soul Choir at the Maudsley Hospital to co-create a new programme of work exploring the links between singing, leadership and mental health - *Singing For Our Minds* - successfully securing funding from the Baring Foundation.

We reviewed and updated policies, procedures and infrastructure.

We completed the **Measuring the Good** programme, undertaking a wide-ranging consultation with participants, stakeholders, participants, audiences and the wider public and developing evaluation and impact methodologies for all programmes.

We held a **Together Productions Vision Day** with staff, participants and stakeholders and redesigned our Vision, Mission and Theory of Change.

"They are utterly committed to their mission, to community involvement and diversity as well as positive social change. I appreciate that very, very much and it inspires me".



FINANCES

STABILITY & DIVERSIFICATION

Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic and lockdown, through the continued development and innovation of our online offer we were able to retain membership of our choirs. Subscriptions saw a slight downturn due to the constrained financial circumstances of many participants but the income stream remained steady.

We continued to attract support particularly for the Sing for Freedom Choir, receiving donations including £1069 from Linklaters in September 2020 and raising £10,359 (129% target) in an Indiegogo Crowdfunding Campaign in January 2021.

We were successful in applications for grants from:

The School For Social Entrepreneurs - £5000	December 20
Culture Recovery Fund - £34,800	March 2021
Comic Relief Community Fund - £3920	March 2021
The Baring Foundation - £39,974	July 2021

These allowed us to maintain our online offer to our community and retain our staff team, deliver new projects and develop a new strand of work - leadership training for artists from diverse backgrounds in singing and mental health.



WATCH

Listen

Nowruz

You Tube Channel
www.youtube.com/c/TogetherProductions

I Choose Love

Imagine Imagine



OUR SUPPORTERS

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO
THE FUNDERS AND PARTNERS
WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US
THIS YEAR.....



school for
social
entrepreneurs



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**The Baring
Foundation**





Linklaters

...AND DELIGHTED TO HAVE RECEIVED OUR FIRST AWARD:

