



CHOIR BLAST

CELEBRATING CONTEMPORARY CHOIRS

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Registration no.1210483.



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JANUARY 2025

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OUR FOUNDER

Phoebe Gaydon, founder of ChoirBLAST, is an experienced music studio owner and choir leader recognised for her community contributions. In 2023, she received the Godalming Town Volunteer Award, was nominated for the Star of Surrey Award, and was invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party for her impact on creative arts in 2024.

During a 2022 tour in Freiburg, Germany, Phoebe was inspired by a non-fee festival where choirs performed across multiple stages in the town to enthusiastic, diverse audiences. Discovering no similar inclusive, non-competitive events in the UK, she conceived ChoirBLAST festival as a joyful celebration of choral music, bringing choirs together to perform purely for the love of singing.

Phoebe is the Director of A Touch Of Musicality and teaches Vocals, Piano, Songwriting and Music Theory. She also founded, leads and writes all the arrangements for several choirs.



OUR TRUSTEE BOARD



Phoebe Gaydon

Chair



Annabelle Lawrence

Trustee



Joanne Fox

Treasurer



Caroline Swaisland-Dyke

Trustee



Philip Beck

Secretary



OUR IMPACT

Established in 2022 as a group, ChoirBLAST benefitted from the powerfully connected communities in the local area, musicians and choirs who believe in and enjoy music. Through our positive outreach and persistence, this reach has continued to grow organically, creating a supportive network. Our reach is incredibly diverse, a cross-community group whose common interest brings them together despite any differences in age, gender, background or even language.

7000+

Festival visitors in 2024

Growing year-on-year and attracting local residents of Godalming and beyond, the festival is also attended by music-lovers travelling from further afield. We are also thrilled to have hosted local dignitaries such as the Mayors and local councillors, as well as industry heavyweights and the media.

100+

Choirs connected to the festival

Since 2023, we have connected with well over 100 choirs and groups who have both performed at and attended the festival. This hugely diverse reach represents multiple styles of music and group size, giving an opportunity to perform, share the joy of singing, and grow in singing confidence.

60+

Community Choir singers per week

Through our first two community choirs which have been founded, we reach over 60 singers who may otherwise have no opportunity to sing as a group, benefitting their physical and mental health. This positive effect reaches those beyond the individual themselves, such as friends, family and carers.

OUR MISSION

As a charity, our focus is:

To bring the joy of music to everyone

We believe that music is for everyone, whether you're a seasoned singer or someone who has never sung a note before. By creating choirs in schools, workplaces, care homes, and community spaces, we aim to give everyone the chance to experience the power of singing together.

To foster inclusivity and connection

Our goal is to bring people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds together. Whether you're young or old, able-bodied or differently-abled, music has the power to bridge gaps and build a supportive, inclusive community.

To provide opportunities for performance and education

We're here to advance public appreciation of the art of music, giving choirs the opportunity to perform in front of large audiences on big stages. Through training and developing future choir leaders, we'll ensure that our mission continues to grow and flourish.



OUR OBJECTIVES

We are committed to:

Advancing music education

We aim to improve public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music, especially group singing. Whether it's through public events or community choir programs, we want to spark a lifelong love of music.

Providing accessible music facilities

We're dedicated to creating opportunities for people to enjoy music for recreation or leisure. This is especially important for those who need it most - whether it's due to youth, age, disability, or social and economic circumstances.





WHY THIS MATTERS

By becoming a charity, we're opening new doors to bring even more people into the ChoirBLAST family. Here's how we're making a difference:

Creating new choirs in schools, workplaces, care homes, and beyond

We're committed to giving back to the community by creating choirs that bring people together, offering a joyful, supportive space to sing and connect.

Giving everyone a voice

We believe in creating performance spaces where those less able can sing alongside those who are able, celebrating the beauty of diversity and inclusivity through music.

Training more choir leaders

We'll be offering training opportunities to develop talented musicians into choir leaders, helping to spread the joy of group singing even further.

CHOIRBLAST COMMUNITY CHOIRS

With our charity status, ChoirBLAST is committed to making a difference through the power of contemporary choral music. Our charitable objectives are focused on two key areas:

1. We aim to foster public appreciation and participation in the art of music—particularly group singing—by creating choirs and offering opportunities to perform at public events. This is about more than just singing; it's about building confidence, joy, and community through music.
2. We're dedicated to creating opportunities where people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can come together to enjoy the art of music. Whether it's through choirs in schools, charities, or care homes, we want to ensure that everyone has the chance to experience the life-changing power of group singing.

We have already created two choirs in the community, reaching over 60 people per week, supported by ChoirBLAST funding. We are aiming to grow this number to 5 choirs this year, supporting over 200 people!





CHOIRBLAST FESTIVAL

The UK's biggest non-competitive event for contemporary choirs!

ChoirBLAST festival is a joyful celebration of music and community, gathering choirs from across the globe for an unforgettable day of performance. This free, volunteer-powered event welcomes thousands to experience diverse styles, creating a space where everyone can enjoy the magic of music together.

ChoirBLAST welcomed 23 choirs across three stages in 2023. In 2024, participation surged by 117%, featuring 50 choirs on seven stages and attracting approximately 7500 singers and spectators, showcasing the festival's growing popularity and community support.

ChoirBLAST's three-year plan aims to transform public perception of contemporary choral music by showcasing diverse choirs across genres, ethnicities, and ages. United by a passion for singing, the festival seeks to inspire community participation, highlighting the mental, physical, and social benefits of group music-making. We aim to create a musical family that celebrates collective harmony and encourages more people to consider joining a community choir.

ChoirBLAST has quickly established itself as a community event in Godalming too, generating in kind support from local schools, charities, businesses, and the town council.

SUPPORT FOR CHOIRBLAST



*Lucy Miguda
Head of Fundraising
The Meath Epilepsy Charity*

What really staggered us was the distance people came to be a part of something so special, it was really joyful. We love getting involved in all sorts of events in Godalming, but ChoirBLAST for us was incredible - to have our choir perform in front of 1000 people in our home town was just an exquisite event.



*Adam Duce
(Cllr - Godalming, Holloway), Mayor of
Godalming 2023-24*

This event offered something different, unique, focused solely on voice.... the joy and positivity is definitely something I took from it. I hope this event goes from strength to strength!



*Bazil Meade MBE
Pioneer and Founder of London Community
Gospel Choir*

It was a pleasure to experience your event - thank you for your warm welcome.



*Penny Rivers
Councillor - Godalming, Farncombe and
Catteshall 2024-25*

What a day of majestic, marvellous melody. Bravo to everyone who contributed to ChoirBLAST!



SUPPORTING US

Now more than ever, we're looking for supporters who believe in our mission and want to help us make a difference.

Together, we can create something truly special - a community where music brings joy, connection, and opportunity for all.

If you'd like to support us or find out more, get in touch today. We'd love to hear from you!



Donors and Sponsors

Your support as an individual or corporate donor, or to sponsor one or more of our community choirs, provides long-term stability for the charity.



Fundraising

Collaborating with us to fundraise at your events, as well as attending our events and donating raffle prizes, is a great way to help us reach our goals.



Volunteering and Materials

Give us your time at events, or with our community choirs, or if you can provide equipment or materials for the festival, you'll help keep costs down.

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[@ChoirBLAST](https://www.instagram.com/ChoirBLAST)

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