

## Membership Accounts



Unfortunately the financial aspect of the choir also needs to be kept updated.

In reflecting the current economic climate there has been no increase to fees for the coming year, which can be paid weekly, monthly, by term or annually. To facilitate ease of payments a Standing Order option is also available to those who would like to pay by this method.

The office is open to receipt payments each Tuesday & Thursday evening between 5pm - 6.30pm. It is essential that membership forms are completed and given into the office should contact need to be made in case of emergency. Please keep us informed of any changes to mobile numbers and email addresses as they occur. They are our preferred methods of contact in an effort to keep costs down.

**Many thanks for your continued support.**

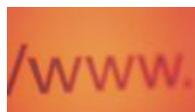


It is important to acknowledge the great work

done by so many people which continues to make our organisation the success it is.

To our Board of Directors, Committee Members, Friends and Sponsors we say a grateful thanks for all your hard work and effort on our behalf.

To our members for their unfailing commitment, their parents who constantly chauffeur and support and to all who contribute in any way-Thanks!



## WEBSITE GOING

We are currently working on our website which will be completed shortly so watch this space!

We will be able to be contacted at [www.aspirochoir.ie](http://www.aspirochoir.ie) and we look forward to welcoming lots of visitors online and their comments and suggestions.



breathing life into music

## Autumn Newsletter October 2009

Dear All,  
As we begin our 14<sup>th</sup> year we welcome all our members, both old and new and look forward to a year filled with learning, enjoyment and fun as members of Aspiro.

In this newsletter we outline our activities for the forthcoming year and hope that everyone can be part of these exciting times.

We will need help from all quarters to make our planned projects a success and so would ask people to come on board and lend their support any way they can.

We always welcome suggestions, ideas and comments so please do not hesitate to give us yours - Enjoy the term!

Yours in music,

**Mary Amond O'Brien**

### Choir Groupings

This year we have five sections to Aspiro.

**Junior Choir** or **Aspiro Óg** is for boys and girls aged 7+ This group meet on a Tuesday evening from 5pm - 5.50pm and are led by Maeve Lyons.

**Aspiro Girls** is for girls only between the ages of 9 - 13. This group meet on Tuesday evenings between 6pm - 7.30pm under the direction of Mary.

**Male Voice Squad**, as the name implies is for boys only. Aged between 9 - 13 they meet every Thursday evening at 5pm for one hour with Mary at the helm.

**Senior Ensemble** is a group of secondary school students.

Rehearsals are held on Thursday from 6.30pm - 8.15pm and again on Saturday mornings 9.30am - 11.15am.

Last but not least is an **Adult Choir** at present made up of past members who at present meet once every 3 weeks. New members are always welcome to come along and experience our sessions, so feel free to encourage others to join or indeed to bring a friend. Remember no previous singing experience or auditions required!

Aspiro with the kind assistance of Ollie Hennessy as Musical Director and Olivia Murphy Smith as Producer Director will present three nights and one afternoon matinee as outlined below. All Aspiro members will be on stage for some part of the show which, as you can imagine will entail some help being required each night with backstage management and control. If you are available to help in this capacity please give your name so a roster can be drawn up.

Tickets for the show can only be bought direct from the theatre so could we ask parents who intend on going along to see the show to ensure they buy their tickets as soon as possible as we cannot source tickets for ourselves.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December** Gala event at 8pm Tickets €45  
 Special Guest **Rebecca Storm**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** Matinee at 2.30pm  
 Guest - To be confirmed  
 Tickets €25/€20  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** Show at 8pm  
 Guest **Paddy Cole**, Jazz Legend  
 Tickets €25/€20  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** show at 8pm  
 Guest **Peter Corry**, West End Star  
 Tickets €25/€20

**Arts Council** - Our funding application for the current year is currently being prepared for submission to the Arts Council but due to the current climate we must wait until well into the new year before we learn what if any funding we will receive, so keep your fingers crossed for some good news on this front. Where possible spread news of our good work to local politicians!



**"It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas"**

As you may have guessed from listening to Christmas songs being sung in September, this year Aspiro are undertaking producing a Christmas concert to be staged in Carlow.

Running over four performances, commencing on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December Aspiro, with headlining guests, are preparing to wow their audiences with a variety of spectacular shows. We hope this venture will be well supported and provide locals with an alternative to traveling to Dublin for similar Christmas productions.



On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September we were delighted to be part of the official open day activities for the new Arts Centre in Carlow at which our Senior ensemble presented a 30 minute performance to a packed audience.

Visual Centre for Contemporary Arts & George Bernard Shaw Theatre is a innovative and welcome addition to the town of Carlow and its environs and we encourage people to support the center's many and varied programme of events to help ensure its success.

Great honour was given to Aspiro when they were named as the theatre's first **"Performing Artists in Residence"**. This is undoubtedly a great achievement for a local group to be given this privilege and one that we are very grateful for.

This opportunity will provide Aspiro with resources and facilities to broaden and create new horizons.



In keeping with our commitment to make a contribution to our society and local organizations we have committed to a once off performance of **"The Armed Man"** - a mass for peace composed by welsh artist Karl Jenkins. Scheduled for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November in Carlow Cathedral at 8pm, tickets are on sale to Aspiro members parents at reduced rate of €20. Orchestral costs are being fully sponsored and so all proceeds go towards the building of a dedicated 5 bed hospice unit in Carlow for people suffering from terminal illness. Our Senior ensemble, including 18 new members singing the work for the first time, have invested a huge amount of personal time in rehearsals for this project, working towards it since the summer months. All support would be gratefully appreciated for this very worthwhile event.

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On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November our senior choir will perform in a concert in Duiske Abbey with Cara O'Sullivan, Ireland's Leading Soprano. The choirs of Aspiro Girls and the Male Voice Squad were given a great honor when asked to sing at a wedding on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October in Carlow Cathedral. No doubt they will do us proud!