

Video Transcript

Deirdre Daly and Clive Christie

Well, my name is Deirdre Daly and I'm from Dublin. I live in Clontarf in Dublin.

My name is Clive Christie. I live in Dublin too, in Killiney.

I've been singing in the choir since the mid seventies, I think 49 years. Might be 48, 49, not far off 50.

Yeah, I joined the choir in September, 1975. Well, it's been primarily the music, but also it's been the companionship. I've made a lot of friends in the choir over the years. I actually met my wife in the choir, so love stories do start in the Guinness Choir. I've always found everybody very, very friendly, very helpful, common sense of purpose, et cetera. I've never felt that I didn't want to be a member of the choir.

I just love the whole process of learning music. I love that getting together and you look at this piece of music, and sometimes you don't like it initially, particularly if it's modern music that you're not familiar with. And the whole thing of getting to know something like that and getting inside it, um, I just enjoy that very much. I love the music. I love the friendships that I've made, and they are good friendships because you have something very basic in common. You, you turn up every Tuesday to choir for a very long time, it's both the music and the companionship. I suppose it's because you actually sit together. The nature of what you do at Choir is you sit with your first altos or your first basis or whatever it is and you only talk at the break times because you can't talk during choir.

You have to sing or listen to somebody else singing because you'd interrupt it. So I suppose the nature is that you then, in the moments you do get to chat, if you do get a few moments, it's the people around you.

Nowadays, people talk about the health benefits of this and whatever. And it's much more common parlance. But, you know, over the years you would've come out and you were sort of buzzing a little. You felt alive, you weren't tired you know, you'd go home and you might get home at 11 o'clock at night, but you certainly didn't want to go to bed. You'd sort of be sitting around and because you were still buzzing from it

and it was great, and the next morning you got up and you felt refreshed. They're professional musicians and we have professional solos and we're amateurs doing our best effectively. Some are really, really good. I would say that I'm average, you know, the kick you get out of it, you're there. You maybe have up to a thousand people listening to your performance. So, you know you're on edge, you're ready to go. You hope that you give it the best when you go in, but you really enjoy it, it's fantastic.

And one of the things that Victor always said, he was our founder, was that, the beauty of a choir is that people with fairly average voices can make actually very good music when they go together. That's music you could never access on your own. Suddenly because you're part of a big group, you can make really quite good music.

Yeah. There's nothing worse than looking at the page of music and nothing comes into your head. You don't know what's going to go up next, which, which happens from time to time. You open the page and there's a blank in your head, and that's frightening enough. So it's good to know the music and to know the music you have to turn up. It's not a big duty or anything. It's a pleasure. The whole learning process is a pleasure and getting together with people. And then at some stage in the evening, you put it together and it's the chords and being in the chord. I'm in the I'm an alto, you're in the middle of the music and there's this fantastic sense of music all around you. I love it. I love that sensation.