

Busy as Bees!



Being the 15th year of our existence Aspiro had a full calendar of performances.

What happens in Aspiro seems almost magical - it's wonderful to see the choral artistry and chemistry develop within the ensembles each year.

The development of this choral artistry has enabled Aspiro to produce choral programmes of beginning, intermediate and advanced levels and then to perform dynamic choral programmes of exceptionally high artistic standard.

From the very first day Aspiro has become a byword for excellence.

Nothing worthwhile is ever achieved without that core value of 'being the best you can be'.

Being part of Aspiro helps the overall development of members and many of the principles we follow in our educational model assists their emotional and intellectual growth.



Scenes from our 15th Anniversary Concert featuring the Bernstein MASS with internationally acclaimed guest conductor, Doreen Rao.

A truly memorable evening. On the opening page is a diagramme featuring the names of all who took part as part of the Aspiro Retrospective or the Bernstein MASS.



Doreen's kind words from the 15th Anniversary Concert:

"The young ladies and gentlemen of Aspiro have for 15 yrs been learning to change, to grow, to communicate and to love in their journey with Mary through great choral literature from the European classics to World Music and Gospel singing to the music of living composers here in Ireland and around the world.

Mary is the warm core, the great leader and one, who, has spent these years teaching these young people how to know themselves better and how to know the world better. These will be the movers and shakers of Ireland and the world and we owe this not only to the children themselves but very much to you the parents and families of these children who support Aspiro and support your daughter or son's experience in Aspiro.

But tonight I would also most importantly like to recognise and dedicate this performance of Bernstein's Mass to someone who has helped these young people to change, grow, communicate and love, Mary Amond O'Brien."

ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING

We have been dealt a set back with the decision of the Arts Council to withdraw recurring funding for Aspiro as part of the Government reduction in budgets. It means that we will have to apply in future for specific funding for projects and this has implications for Aspiro's future stability and programming.

We will need to undergo a major review of our structures and activities. As you can see on page 2, we have had a very extensive and top quality programme over the past twelve months and this decision will have a bearing on what we are capable of achieving in the years ahead.

