

# Sing Ireland

## Board of Directors

**Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness, Honorary President**



**Alan Kelly- Chairman**



A communications professional working in the sport sector, Alan was appointed to the Board in 2015 and elected as Chairman in October 2018. A qualified secondary level music teacher, he left the profession to pursue a career in communications and sponsorship. He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, The Irish Academy of Public Relations and the European Sponsorship Association. Alan is also a member of the Public Relations Institute of Ireland. In his spare time he is the musical director of Millicent Singers in Clane, County Kildare. Aside from his love of singing, choirs and music generally, Alan 's interests lie in Formula One, Golf and Poker.

## Mark Armstrong



Mark Armstrong is one of Ireland's best known musicians with a wide-ranging career spanning over thirty five years. As a conductor he has immense experience both on the concert platform and in the recording studio and has conducted all of Ireland's top ensembles, choirs and bands – National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Irish Film Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Baroque Orchestra of Ireland, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Opera Theatre Company, Irish Youth Wind Ensemble, RTÉ Chamber Choir, National Chamber Choir, Dún Laoghaire Choral Society, Tallaght Choral Society, RTÉ Cór Na n-Óg, RTÉ Philharmonic Choir and the Choral Scholars of University College Dublin.

As an arranger and composer Mark has created many works for choirs, orchestras and bands and is an award-winning published composer of choral music. He is also a regular adjudicator at Irish choral music festivals and has acted as conducting tutor on courses conducted by the Association of Irish Choirs. Mark has held the position of Director of the Defence Forces School of Music since 2010 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with responsibility for the formation of Defence Forces musical policy, performance and training of Irish military and pipe bands.

Mark is delighted to join the board during an exciting period of development and is looking forward to contributing within the current strategic planning process and in the artistic direction of the association over coming year

## **Jean Coleman**



Jean has been involved in choral music from an early age. She received vocal training with the late Brían Ó Dubhghaill, and was a member of Cantairí Óga Átha Cliath for 16 years, traveling with them all over Europe. After a choral break, in 2009 she became a member of New Dublin Voices, under the direction of Bernie Sherlock and has been singing happily with them ever since. She is also serves on the NDV committee as Treasurer

Professionally, Jean is a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor. She heads up Employment Tax for EMEA for Google, having previously been a Director with PwC.

Jean served on the board of The Volleyball Association of Ireland for 4 years in various roles as ordinary board member and treasurer. She is really excited to work with AOIC in a time of growth and strategic development, and is especially interested in engagement with members, who really are the core of our organisation.

## **Jim Fitzsimons**



Jim Fitzsimons has sung with many choirs, including Nas na Ri Singers, Kilkenny Arts Festival Chorus, Dublin County Choir and currently sings with Culwick Choral Society and Dublin City Choral Union.

He has worked as a Management Consultant for over 20 years all over the World and has specialised in Innovation, funding and managing research projects involving companies, academic groups and funding agencies,. In addition he has been President of The Institute of Management Consultants and Advisors in Ireland and has served on the boards of many community organisations.

## **Jane Pilkington**



Jane holds a Degree in Politics and Philosophy from UCD, a Diploma in Legal Studies from DIT and a Diploma in Commercial Litigation from the Law Society of Ireland. She qualified as a solicitor in 2000 and is a partner in Mason Hayes & Curran Solicitors where she practices commercial litigation and business immigration.

## **Raegnha Zutshi**



Originally from Malaysia, Raegnha enjoyed an international upbringing, growing up living in Singapore, India, and USA before settling in Ireland. She completed her studies at Trinity College in 2014, obtaining a B.A. in Music, an M.Phil in Composition and a P.Dip. in Education. She has been very active as a choral singer, having sung with many choirs, including Trinity Singers and New Dublin Voices, and has traveled internationally with the Mornington Singers and the Irish Youth Chamber Choir. She also founded Trinity Belles, a female a cappella group based in Trinity College, and is currently the Choral Director at Rathdown School. Raegnha has composed and arranged for many ensembles, both choral and instrumental, and was involved as a music advisor in the Irish feature film, Dare to be Wild under director, Vivienne DeCourcy. She is also a participant on the Female Conductor Programme 2017/18, a new initiative being run by the National Concert Hall.

Raegnha joins the board of Sing Ireland, focusing on the area of youth choral development, an area that she feels very passionately about. She thoroughly believes in the ethos of ‘music for all’ and is looking forward to engaging with more younger singers to get everyone singing!

## **Caroline Connolly**



Caroline Connolly joins the board following her election at the company AGM in September 2018. Caroline is a choral singer who has been involved with a number of choirs in Dublin: The Culwick Choral Society, Cantairi Avondale Dublin Bach Singers and the newly formed Dublin City Choral Union and her native Dundalk.

She works in communications at one of the country's largest private third level institutions and is a former editor of Focus magazine. Caroline studied voice with Alan Leech, is a regular attendee at the Association's International Choral Conducting Summer School and is a graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music's Diploma in Community and Group Music Teaching programme.

Joining the board at this time Caroline is keen to shout out the message that choral singing is for all: levels, ages, abilities and welcomes the opportunity to champion this message and advocate for the Association as it transforms into Sing Ireland.