

Fundraising for Your Choir

Fundraising is often essential to support your choir's activities, whether that's covering running costs, planning a tour, making a recording, or staging a special concert. While membership fees may form a base, additional funds can come from grants, ticket sales, events, collections, or online campaigns.

Many choirs also raise money for good causes, particularly during National Singing Week or around Christmas through benefit concerts and charity collections. Fundraising can be hard work, but it's also an opportunity to engage your community, promote your choir, and have some fun along the way.

Fundraising Ideas

- Coffee morning, tea party, or bake sale
- Bag packing at local supermarkets
- Raffle with sponsored prizes (ask local businesses)
- Table quiz
- Sponsored singathon, singing walk, or sponsored silence
- Carol singing or busking (check local permit requirements)
- Concert or open rehearsal
- Sale of work, craft fair, or car boot sale
- Karaoke night
- Online crowdfunding (e.g. fundit.ie, [GoFundMe](https://gofundme.com))

Choose ideas that best suit your choir's audience and resources. Use social media, local press, community noticeboards, newsletters, and word-of-mouth to promote your event.

Be Clear on Your Purpose

Before planning, clearly define why you're fundraising. A well-communicated goal helps motivate choir members, encourages public support, and ensures everyone stays focused on the outcome.

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Key Steps

1. Plan

Set your fundraising target and outline the steps needed to meet it. Estimate how many people are involved, how much you need per person, and how you'll promote the event. Share the workload so it doesn't fall to one or two individuals.

2. Budget

Keep costs low. Ask local businesses to donate food, prizes, or supplies. You may be able to secure a free venue. Friends and family might volunteer their time or services.

3. Venue

Suitable options include homes, gardens, schools, churches, pubs, libraries, workplaces, or community centres. If outdoors, have a wet-weather plan.

4. Promotion

Use local radio, newspapers, email lists, posters, flyers, and social media to build interest. Ask choir members to spread the word.

5. Permits

For public events such as collections or busking, contact your local Garda station or council to confirm whether a permit is needed. Regulations vary by area.

6. Health and Safety

Ensure your venue is safe, accessible, and appropriate for the event. Consider capacity, facilities, and any specific needs of your participants.

After the Event

Follow up on any outstanding donations and distribute thank-you notes to volunteers, donors, and sponsors. Keep an accurate record of funds raised. If cash is involved, it should be counted by at least two people.

Sharing photos and updates from the event on social media or in your local press can highlight your success and raise your choir's profile for future activities.