

The Unity Singers was founded in Kilkenny in the latter half of 1967, about twenty in all formed the founding membership. It was intended that the choir would be representative of all faiths – hence the name. Early performances included an appearance on the “Late Late Show” and performing in a special concert for the prisoners in Mountjoy Jail – a truly unique and memorable experience. A golden era followed with television appearances, sharing the stage with well-known performers in concerts, trips abroad and many prizes in prestigious choral festivals.

In 2000 the choir celebrated the new millennium with a concert in St. Mary’s Cathedral which featured Cork soprano, Cara O’Sullivan. In 2002, Ms. O’Sullivan paid a return visit to Kilkenny to sing at the choir’s 35th Anniversary Concert in St. Mary’s Cathedral

In November 2000, we travelled to Sligo for the 13th Annual Sligo Choral Festival. Competing against six other choirs, the Unity Singers won the McLoughlin Perpetual Cup for four-part adult choirs and also received a bursary for £500. Another success came at the Aims Choral Festival in New Ross in 2005. Up against choirs from Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Kildare and Wexford, the Unity Singers did very well to secure 2nd place – achieving an overall mark of 83%.

However, one of our biggest coups in this or any era was an invitation in May 2004 to sing in a concert in the National Concert Hall, Dublin which was organised by Kilkenny man Jim Molloy. The concert featured two Irish soloists, Ciaran Sheehan (tenor) and Niamh Murray (soprano) along with the Unity Singers. It was a sell-out success and left the choir with memories that will live for many a day.

On March 12th, 2009 we made a very memorable appearance in Carnegie Hall in New York when we performed in “A great night for the Irish”. It was a wonderful occasion for us all.

In 2017 we celebrated our 50th Anniversary of the choir, and one of our main events as a Gala Concert in St. Mary’s Cathedral, with Cara O’Sullivan, Tanya Sewell and The Clonmel Concert Band.

In July 2018 we were delighted to be invited to sing at the unveiling of The World War 1 Memorial, which is situated off Michael Street.

We participated in Culture Night for the last few years, singing on The Parade.

Our Christmas events include, carols in Kilkenny Castle and our annual carol service, along with St. Mary’s Cathedral Choir in St. Mary’s Cathedral on the last Sunday before Christmas.

The esteem in which the choir is held locally is no doubt attributable to the commitment of its members, the quality of their singing and to the leadership and dedication of John O’Neill (musical director) and Joy Bibby (accompanist).