

MD Musings 2022

What a year! It's hard to know where to start; we've taken on so many new challenges, had so many new adventures together and welcomed so many new friends into our community. I think, instead, I'll begin by thanking and acknowledging a few people I have had the pleasure to work with, without whom there simply wouldn't be a One Voice. The Steering Group work so hard behind the scenes – organising events, managing memberships, applying for (and usually getting!) funding and grants, as well as countless other tasks with ne'er a grumble. This is to say nothing of their constant challenge of keeping MY feet on the ground when my ego needs a punctual puncturing! Ann, Pippa, Chris, Paula: you are all amazing!

As many of you will know, 2022 saw me taking on two other choirs in the Cheshire area, which, inevitably, led me to consider what makes One Voice, special, and honestly, I'm still not sure I can quite pinpoint it. Much like the barman's eye in Helter Skelter, when I think I've got it, it vanishes into the ethanolic ether. I guess we all have our own answer, but if I had to make my closest approximation, it's you. Yes, you reading this on your phone or tablet [insert device of choice]. Having gotten to know you all, I know there are many of you who feel you are just a small cog in a big machine, but it is the little moments that you bring that define One Voice. Everything from offering to try a solo, helping set up or dismantle equipment, or checking the traffic so you won't be late, to organising a social, checking in with someone who's missed a few rehearsals, or sharing a silly photo with your section's WhatsApp (yes, I know they exist!).

And then there's the music! Oh, the music! We all know this year was largely dominated by our performance at the Brindley, but we didn't let that tie us down. We've fed birds, shown our true colours, roared, found out just how far we'll go, and, from now on, I now feel a lot closer to you!

Thank you for all your hard work, kindness, and support. Have a wonderful Christmas, and I can't wait for 2023's adventures!

Joe x