

# Information Pack

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*Ordinary people... doing extraordinary things... in exciting places....*

Under the Musical Supervision of  
Director and Founder  
**John S. Morris**

*Featuring*

Huge Company

Professional Orchestra

Celebrity Host

*A New and Exciting Adventure into the World of Theatrical Concerts*

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# ***Welcome to***

  

# **singlive**

UK

**The country's fastest growing, independent singing organisation.  
Ordinary people – doing extraordinary things – in exciting places.  
If you enjoy singing – this is for you!**

## **Introduction**

In 1998, a charismatic Yorkshireman, Mr. John Morris, took a leap of faith. He abandoned his career to champion his first love – music. His simple philosophy of “bringing the joy of singing to the people” is now erupting across the UK – and beyond.

A simple, local press advert offered ordinary people the opportunity to do extraordinary things in exciting places, united by their joy of singing. The response was astonishing. No auditions were necessary. Ability to read music was not a pre-requisite for taking part. For a modest performance and coaching fee, the company was vocally coached and technically directed by a crew of remarkably talented and dedicated professionals.

The concept was (and remains) simple - to bring together people from all different backgrounds, all ages (minimum age 16 years) and with differing singing abilities – from absolute beginners to experienced and even professionals, and, over a period of approximately three months, prepare them to perform in a huge musical extravaganza of popular music, accompanied by a professional orchestra – in a major concert venue!

The first huge concert in Leeds Town Hall was a sell out. A vast cast sang some of the favourite songs from the world of the musicals, and the incredible “wall of sound” caught the audience’s imagination. Spectators wanted a place in the chorus, to become part of this marvelous experience. Consequently, all sectors of the community are now reflected in the company’s singers. Entire families - sons, daughters, mothers, fathers even grandparents and Godparents, are now hooked on Sing Live and share the joy, excitement and pleasure of performing popular music - live! .

A full professional orchestra accompanies the musical spectaculars, and concert programmes encompass songs from the musicals, movies and showstoppers from the world of popular music, ranging from the *Hallelujah Chorus* to *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The company now has eight companies, based in Leeds (Sing Live Northern), Newcastle (Sing Live North East), Manchester (Sing Live North West), Coventry, Stratford and Warwick (Sing Live Central), Sheffield (Sing Live South Yorkshire), Liverpool (Sing Live Merseyside), Nottingham (Sing Live East Midlands), Belfast (Sing Live Northern Ireland) and the ninth company is now recruiting in and around Birmingham (Sing Live West Midlands). Performance venues include Leeds Town Hall, Huddersfield Town Hall, Manchester’s Bridgewater Hall, City Hall Sheffield, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and the Symphony Hall in

Birmingham, The Royal Concert Hall Nottingham and The Waterfront Concert Hall in Belfast. A concert in London's Royal Albert Hall has been an annual or bi-annual event on Sing Live's calendar. The London Gala Concert is produced by West End director Mr Hugh Wooldridge and has featured musical direction from Mr David Firman and "Mr Broadway" himself – Don Pippin. The Company has been honoured to receive and perform original musical arrangements from Don Pippin, who is a staunch supporter of Sing Live. The enormous chorus has shared the prestigious stage with numerous stars from musical theatre – TV, West End, Broadway and Movie personalities, including, Sir Tim Rice, Sir Cliff Richard, Sir James Galway, Sir Roger Moore, Sir Trevor Nunn, Glenn Close Rita Moreno, Andy Garcia, Michael Crawford, Michael Ball, Dave Willetts, David Essex, Howard Keel, Gloria Hunniford .... The list is almost endless and they have been accompanied by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the City of London Philharmonic and the National Festival Orchestra.

Sing Live has made radio recordings, television appearances and recorded three CDs. It has made music in a stately home; a Scottish Castle; an Irish castle; an Airport arrivals lounge; sailing on Lake Windermere and pre-match entertainment has been provided for 40,000 soccer fans at a UEFA cup-tie, and two arenas – The Odyssey, Belfast and the Hallam FM Arena Sheffield

In 2003 Sing Live became the first International Singing Organisation to be invited by Walt Disneyworld Entertainments to perform in their flagship Christmas production The Candlelight Processional, performed at the American Gardens Theatre, Epcot, Walt Disney World Resort, Florida. Two jumbo jets full of singers and their families enjoyed the trip of a lifetime. We returned in December 2004 to appear in this event once more – with the added bonus of performing a massive concert on a cruise liner as it sails the Caribbean! In 2005 Sing Live combined Disney with a visit to New York, where we were honoured to be invited to sing at St Paul's Memorial Chapel at Ground Zero. Sing Live were back in Epcot in 2006 and will return in 2007. Sing Live have performed on cruise liners all over the world from Canada and New England to the Caribbean and Mediterranean seas

This only highlights the story so far . . . . Sing Live has many more challenging productions to bring to fruition and the company is constantly looking to expand its base around the UK. Sing Live Academies are run in the various locations where singers can build and develop their musical, vocal and sometimes their stage skills as well.

So.... this pack is designed to provide you with all the information necessary to allow you to make the all-important decision whether you wish to become a singer with Sing Live. Remember we are producing huge scale musical extravaganzas of popular music....

**and they are going to be performed by YOU – and people like you**

Our aim is simple – to bring the joy of singing to ordinary people. Read on about how to join us and what is involved.

## **Taking Part**

Our concept is to bring together people from all different backgrounds, ages and singing experience and, over a period of approximately three months, prepare you to perform in a huge musical extravaganza of popular music, accompanied by a professional orchestra – in a major venue!

To take part in our events, you do not need to be a budding superstar with a voice like Michael Ball or the next Elaine Paige, nor do you need years of experience in other choral groups. All you need is a pleasant singing voice, the desire to work as part of a large team, the commitment to attend the

necessary rehearsals in order to produce a concert of the very highest standard, and most importantly, to want to have some FUN. **You DO NOT have to audition** to be in the main company, nor is the ability to read music necessary to join.

If you are an experienced singer then great, you will have the opportunity to audition for one of the many solos or duets in our concerts - if you choose to do so! Just think, you may even find yourself fronting the concert with a massive orchestra backing you! But once again, **there are NO auditions** to sing with the main company.

If you have ever dreamed of being involved in a huge 'showbiz' venture, then this is the opportunity you have been waiting for to experience for yourself the fun and excitement of rehearsals, the thrill of auditioning for principal roles, the ups (there are plenty of those) and the downs (something to laugh about later!!), the sensations and emotions of the first time you perform at the venue, the sound and light checks, the orchestra rehearsals, and, last but not least, the tremendous sense of personal achievement.

Sing Live Ltd has a tremendous crew of vocal coaches, musicians and support staff. They have the ability to get the best out of you and you will get the chance to perform in some of the most prestigious concert venues in the country. In addition to this you may find yourself on stage with top West End and Broadway Stars, or even on local or national television.

The mission statement of Sing Live Ltd is:

***“Ordinary people doing extraordinary things in exciting places”***

## **About The Crew**

The promotion and production team is led by John S. Morris, a musical director, arranger and composer, with over 25 years experience in the production of large scale musicals and concerts throughout the UK and in the USA. He is also a freelance producer for the BBC and was musical director to BBC TV's *Children in Need* in 2000 and 2001. He has appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, London on numerous occasions and has conducted the City of London Philharmonic, theatre and TV orchestras and The Band of HM Royal Marines. Notable show successes include *Evita*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Chess*, *Barnum*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *42nd Street*, *West Side Story*, *Me & My Girl*, *Tell Me on a Sunday*, *Crazy For You* and many, many, more; performing at top venues such as The Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Leeds Grand Theatre, Birmingham Symphony Hall and The Royal Albert Hall, London. John composed the score of the new musical *Bellas* and led the production team for the recording of the show on CD. This CD is available for sale in London's West End, New York or via Sing Live's website.

John was the national coach for the National Operatic and Dramatic Association's Musical Directors Summer School for 6 years. His high profile role as founder of the company has led to associations with many different contacts in the music industry which in turn has led to many opportunities for our singers, not least of which are the opportunities to sing at the Royal Albert Hall and obtaining the licence to perform *Evita*, a huge coup for Sing Live.

John has a 'hand picked' crew of professional musicians supported by other experienced musical directors, professional vocal coaches and talented accompanists, backed up on the technical side with artistic directors and production managers, each talented in their own field.

The musical team are supported on the administration and marketing side by an enthusiastic and experienced team led by the Co-Director of the company, Linda Metcalfe. The Administration Office is based in Northallerton, North Yorkshire where the team ensure that the myriad of tiny administrative details that need to be taken care of to put on such concerts are dealt with promptly, leaving the company's singers free to enjoy the awe-inspiring experience of taking part in the performance.

## About The Concerts and The Musical Programme

A series of concerts will be held in your area each with a different theme. Each concert will be performed throughout the country by the different companies of Sing Live. We secure the rights to some of the best known and most popular and powerful songs from the top musicals, and we mean the top musicals! A superb professional orchestra playing the original West End arrangements exactly as they sound in the stage shows and on the CDs will accompany you. The only difference is that YOU will be doing the singing!

To our knowledge, Sing Live Ltd is the only organisation to offer an opportunity for people who genuinely like to sing to appear in such an exciting concert. Exact details of programmes for future concerts will be revealed when they are launched. A well-known local radio or TV celebrity hosts each concert.

## How It All Works

Once a concert is scheduled for a Sing Live area, we then recruit singers to take part in it. **THERE ARE NO AUDITIONS TO BE PART OF THE MAIN CHORUS.** And you do NOT need to be able to read music to take part. Auditions are only if you want to have a solo part. If you enjoy singing, are over 16 yrs old on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month of the concert, are prepared to make the commitment to weekly rehearsals and can meet the cost of the Performance and Coaching fee then you are ready and able to be part of the Sing Live experience. There is no upper age limit – though we do ask that our singers be in reasonably good health as the concert day can be quite tiring, as you can imagine!

If we are currently recruiting then an application form will be attached to this pack. To become a performing member simply follow the instructions on the back page of this document – though you may want to read on, first! If we are not recruiting then your name and address will be held on our database until such time as we begin recruitment and you will automatically receive an application form and full details of the forthcoming concert in your area.

If Sing Live is not operating in your area – watch this space! We are constantly expanding and will hold your details on file and contact you as soon as we open in your area. Keep checking our website at [www.singliveuk.com](http://www.singliveuk.com) for up to date details on our activities.

## What Does It Cost?

There is a Performance and Coaching fee, which covers the 12 weeks of weekly rehearsals up to the concert and includes the concert performance itself. The current concert fee is detailed on the application form. If you choose to register, we will process your application form and send you notification of which rehearsal pod you have been assigned and a full rehearsal schedule. If you find you cannot meet the commitment, Sing Live Ltd offers a 14 day 100% money back guarantee in respect of your Performance and Coaching fee – no questions asked. The guarantee applies for 14 days from the date on your notification letter. So you can see there is absolutely no risk to your funds!

***But please note that once the one-time 14-day 100% money back period has expired we are unable to offer refunds, for whatever reason and no refund will be given to singers who join***

**on or after the launch. All queries should be directed to the Administration Office – Tel No 01609 780315 or email [admin@singliveuk.com](mailto:admin@singliveuk.com)**

### **Any Hidden Extras?**

None because they are detailed here! The ladies and gentlemen of the company perform in exclusive performance shirts and black trousers. The performance shirts are only available through the company at a cost to cover their exclusive manufacture You are obliged to pay this and the Security ID card mentioned below in addition to the coaching fee.

We supply you with a rehearsal music pack on the day when rehearsals are 'launched' containing all the information you need to help you through the rehearsal schedule, including the performance shirt order form, as well as the music for the concert. The music packs are returned to us when rehearsals are completed so we ask you for a £10 deposit cheque. When you sign up for the next concert this deposit is carried over to that concert – if you leave you get the £10 back!

**Security** is now a bigger issue everywhere and here at Sing Live we are now introducing Security ID passes, containing a photo and vital information about singers. This card is then valid for all future concerts and is priced £6. Providing you do not lose your card and details remain the same, it is a one-off cost.

### **Concert Launch and Registration**

For every concert we have a big launch which signals the start of the rehearsals and you should try to attend. This will be your first opportunity to meet the Musical Director, the staff and the vocal coaches and you will pick up your music and have your first sing through of some of the music.

This is the time when you meet up with your new friends and colleagues. You are expected to stay for the duration. Then it's into the rehearsal schedule as previously described. Rehearsals start the week immediately following the launch and work commences in earnest to 'get the show on the road'.

### **Rehearsals**

Simply register for your home rehearsal pod which is handy for you. Depending on the size and location of our rehearsal venues we have weekly rehearsals at your home pod - followed by up to five big rehearsals, when everyone comes together and the concert is developed. This gives everyone a feel of the progress being made and builds the true team spirit, which the company have become renowned for. Big rehearsals usually take place at weekends when they are held in the afternoons and also the week before the concert in the evenings. Remember to keep that week free in case additional rehearsals are called.

Each pod rehearses once a week. The rehearsal days and their location are listed on the website or on a separate sheet to help you decide on which pod to attend.

We are aware that everyone will have their own personal schedule, so, if there is more than one pod in your area you are given a choice of which pod you would prefer to attend to suit your individual commitments. So you can see there is absolutely no reason why you can't fit this in to your schedule, no matter how busy you are! We will do our utmost to ensure that you are allocated the pod of your choice, but remember, in a company of, say, 300 voices, that means there are only 30 soprano, 30 alto, 20 tenor and 20 bass/baritones in each pod. To guarantee your first choice, you are advised to register early. Once allocated you must attend your 'home' pod. However, should you feel the need for some additional coaching you may attend an 'away' pod at no extra cost. All we ask is that you let us know in advance. If you miss 3 rehearsals, without following the procedure, the company reserves the right to withhold your place in the concert or to cancel your registration without refund, extreme circumstances will obviously be taken into consideration e.g. Illness, work commitments etc).

A vocal coach, pianist and rehearsal manager staffs each pod. All you have to do is turn up and sing. You are given a full rehearsal schedule on application.

## **The Performance of the Concert**

This is the big day - **you must keep the entire day of the first day of the concert free for vocal and technical rehearsals.** Please remember that to take part in a concert of this size and nature can be very physically demanding, as well as being tremendously exciting! You will be rehearsing for the entire day and then there is the adrenaline rush of the performance, so you need to be in good health to make the most of it. The exact timetable will be released nearer the time but this is when the adrenaline really does begin to flow. The day will include the 'get in' and 'set up' with the resident crew and technicians at the venue. There will be lighting plots and sound checks. It will also be your first and only chance to rehearse with the orchestra. **This is tremendous fun, as well as being nerve-racking!!**

And finally we perform - in front of what we always anticipate to be a capacity audience.

After the show we have a huge company celebration for you, the performers, and your families and friends, when we take over an exclusive venue in the area for a private party and enjoy ourselves into the early hours. We also try and secure discounted group rates at local hotels to enable you and your families to stay if you so wish.

## **Celebrity Host**

Depending on the theme of the concert we invite local or nationally well known celebrities from the world of TV and/or radio to host and introduce the event – so you could find yourself on stage with your favourite personality!

## **Ticket Allocation**

Tickets for the concerts are offered to the company on a first come - first served basis. Any remaining tickets then go on general release to the public. Ticket prices are fixed dependent on the venue, as we must be in keeping with the venue's own pricing structure. Quite simply, if every performer sells 10 tickets for each performance, then you know you are playing to a full house, and Joe Public will be locked out of one of the biggest concerts to hit your area. Ask yourself, do you know 10 friends, family members, or colleagues who would support you by coming to see you perform in something as big as this - possibly realising your ambition?

## **Code of Conduct and Company Standards**

Every organisation has to have 'rules and regulations' and Sing Live Ltd is no different. We have drawn up a Code of Conduct and Company Standards that every member of the company and production team must adhere to. This has been designed for two reasons. The first is to ensure that everyone taking part gets the maximum fun and enjoyment out of the venture, whilst the second is to ensure that the concert is delivered to the highest possible standard for the paying audience to enjoy. Each member must sign the Code of Conduct, which is on the reverse of the application form. The Code of Conduct will be rigorously enforced to ensure the well being of all.

## **How To Become A Performing Member**

If there is an application form attached, simply fill it out. If not this means we are not currently recruiting, but don't worry. Your details will be held on file until we are recruiting again. If you can't take part this time why not come to the concert and see exactly what you are going to be involved in next time!

## **TO APPLY:**

1. Fill out the application form – either on line or download it and post it on to us following the instructions below
2. EITHER attach one payment covering the Performance Fee and £10 Music Pack Deposit (if applicable – see application form). Cheque should be made payable to Sing Live Ltd or use the credit / debit card form provided.
3. Enclose a Stamped Addressed C5 Envelope so we can return your confirmation and rehearsal schedule promptly.
4. If you need a Security ID card, (all Sing Live singers need this for security reasons), please send a passport sized photo with your full name on the reverse, an additional stamped addressed envelope and include £6 with your performance fee.
5. Put everything in an envelope and send it to: Sing Live Ltd, 62 Thirsk Rd, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1PL.
6. Please send one cheque for Performance Fee, Music Pack Deposit and ID Card (if applicable)
7. OR sign up on line by following the links following and we'll do the rest!

**So there it is! Fill in that form and post it now!!! Remember it's first come first served!!**

**Looking forward to meeting you at a forthcoming launch and  
working with you on a superb concert**

**Linda Metcalfe and John Morris  
Founders and Directors of Sing Live Ltd**

P.S: Why not photocopy the information pack and form(s) for your friends? – or email them this link - but  
**one application form per singer please**