

## Video Transcript

### Jean Clarke and Barbara Forde

My name is Barbara and I've been in the Guinness Choir now for 42 years.

My name is Jean, and I joined 20 years ago. So a friend said, I think you should join the Guinness Choir. I came along and the only thing I could do for my audition was to sing crazy - Patsy Kline song. David was our choir master then, and he said, you're a soprano too. So I'm in and I'm here since,

Yeah, I've made some really good friends who are still with me in the choir after all these years. So there's a great camaraderie and great you know, interaction between us all.

And you come to choir and you may be tired and you may have had a difficult day, but you sing and you go home and you have a new energy, and that's really what is wonderful about it. I think Handel was the Glastonbury of his day, you know you really want to rock, don't you? When Handel is playing, so from that point of view, it sort of seeps into everything really.

Well, I remember we went, I think it was 1993, we sang with Pavarotti, the Verde Requiem in Wembley Arena. And, we were there from the Wednesday to the Saturday. And I remember that at the end of the first performance we did I met Pavarotti himself and he just kissed my hand and said *bellissimo*, and then one of the other men in the choir said, did he mean you or the music, Barbara? I wasn't really sure what he meant by that, but yeah it was just a wonderful moment to meet Pavarotti as well.

If you can't reach a high note, you know, you just sort of hold steady and you know your colleague is going to get there or encourage you or whatever. There's great collegiality, really. There's no doubt in camaraderie in it, you know? There is. Yeah.

Well, I think it's actually stupendous you know, um, just looking out at those people and saying, they've come to hear us, so we better do a really good job, you know, and make sure that they actually enjoy it. The biggest performance I'd say that I was involved in was the Special Olympics in 2003 in Croke Park, where the choir of 800 got to sing the anthem '*May we never have to say goodbye*'. And we had 90,000

people including the special athletes on the pitch that night. So that to me was just mind blowing.

If you're a man and you're thinking about joining a choir, first of all, you need to say, should I think about a choir? Like if I sing at the rugby match or I sing at the soccer match, maybe I could sing somewhere else. You know? And I think, um, think about joining a choir because whilst you're singing at the matches and it's fun or whatever, nothing beats the privilege of singing a big coral piece with an orchestra and all of that. And do you know, men can find their divas and whatever and come out and sing?

Yes, and really and truly, and it's good fun. It's fun and I mean there's a lot of men in the choir that have been here almost as long as I have been. And, you know, they kept coming back as well. And there was a great friendship between the men in the choir. I noticed that a lot of the men are best friends as well, you know, when they've been here for so long. So I would just say yes, just, join.