

## "Joy of Singing" Vocal ensemble

### Project Description

"Joy of Singing" is a vocal ensemble of young people with disabilities.

This ensemble was born as a common idea between the Association "Blue Eye" led by Besim Petrela and conductor Suzana Turku, for the integration of this part of our society in the artistic and cultural life of Albania and other countries where Albanians live, with the objective "enjoying singing together".

The vocal ensemble "Joy of Singing" began its rehearsals with 12 singers / art lovers, musicians and amateurs who with love and dedication worked for the first concert on April 28, 2017, with a diverse repertoire from Albanian songs, polyphonic songs and also famous foreign composers. The special feature of this vocal ensemble is that the participating singers are both soloists and instrumentalists. This Ensemble has been created since 2017 and have performed several concerts.

The first concert of "JOY of SINGING" was on April 28, 2017 in Tirana in the hall of the former Experimental Theater 'Kujtim Spahivogli' under the direction of conductor Suzana Turku, pianist Robert Radoja, stage director Milto Kutali and french poems translate by Cecilia Plasari. The concert was very successful and received positive reviews from local and national media.

After the ensemble "JOY of SINGING" success, It traveled to the art-loving city of Shkodra where the next concert was very well received and with great success to the Cathedral of St. Stephen

On 2018, the "JOY of SINGING" vocal ensemble gave a concert to the Cathedral 'Mother Theresa' in Prishtina, invited by our partner "MUZA" association led by Mrs. Ajmone Dhomi.

After these successes, came the sad year of the Covid-19 Pandemic, but now we want to reorganize our reappearance for the good impact it had on society and the positive impact it had on the emotional life of these disability people .

### Main purpose:

Creation of this Artistic & Cultural vocal ensemble based on the involvement of people with disabilities, in order to highlight the talents of this community and combine their artistic life with artistic /cultural Albanian society, to make them feel equal in transmitting their values to our society.

### Objectives:

1. Activation of persons with disabilities to create artistic values and animate their lives as well as the Albanian artistic / cultural life.
2. Giving new opportunities to this category of society, for a different life, away from the limitations of the community and merging their activity in the artistic / cultural life of the country.
3. Contributing on expanding the values of this category in the whole Albanian space: Albania, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro. and in the future in European countries

### **Work methodology** for the resumption of “JOY of SINGING”:

1. Rehearsal 2 times a week for 2-3 months.
2. Program selection by Suzana Turku and Jusiald Xhani
3. Coordination for organizing the concerts with sister organizations, as well as artistic / choral organizations throughout Albania.
4. Finding financial supporters, sponsors, etc.

### **Evaluation:**

An evaluation of the work of this ensemble will be viewed in 3 directions every year:

1. Annual selection of elements and its updating new talents.
2. Discipline, enthusiasm of participants - in rehearsals and concerts
3. Realization of the annual calendar concerts by analyzing: The quality of the concerts (the diversity of their program), the quantity of the concerts and the quantity of the spectators.

### **Calendar of project activities:**

On 2021, in the framework of the International White Cane Day on October 15, we want to organize several concerts during two weeks with the vocal ensemble "JOY of SINGING" of blind and disabled people. Places such as:

1. Tirana, - Dt 15 October.
2. Ulqin (Montenegro) - the third Sunday of October 16-18.
3. Shkodër, - Feast of Our Lady of Shkodra Dt 18 October Monday of the third week (third weekend of October).
4. Prishtina (Kosovo), October 22-24.
5. Tetovo (Northern Macedonia) October 22-24.
6. On the occasion of Christmas, two concerts in Tirana and Shkodra.

**Managing team:**

Suzana Turku- choir conductor

Jusald Xhani- assistant choir conductor

Laura Lila- Piano and administration

Organizer: SYRI BLU Association -Besim Petrela- manager

**Partners:**

Tirana School for the Blind - Emiliano Lule

Shkodër- Gjon Shllaku- Preng Jakova association

Ulqin- Gjylie Plingu - Cultural Center Ulqin and Municipality of Ulqin

Prishtina- MUZA association - representative Ajmone Dhomi

Tetovo- University of Tetova- Fatos Lumani- Dean of Music- Municipality of Tetova