

Teachers of Singing in Ireland (Tosini) was founded in September 2002 as the only professional development organisation in Ireland dedicated to supporting voice teachers and singers through regular training workshops and performance opportunities. We aim to create opportunities, which bring together teachers from all over Ireland, and all our courses are open to teachers who teach any expression of song; classical, jazz, rock. Gospel, Folk and traditional, either privately or in a school/college.

Membership

Membership has fluctuated over the past number of years, with the current figure at 16. Recently there has been a resurgence of interest in the profession. Many singers are moving back to Ireland and want to teach to supplement their income. They are eager for the CPD opportunities TOSINI can offer. Although we were founded in Northern Ireland, teachers from all over the island of Ireland are now hearing about the work we do and are joining as a result. It is noteworthy that most of the interest at present is from young teachers; who are embarking on their teaching careers .

How many singing teachers does Ireland have?

This is a difficult question to answer! There is no national register as such and much of the teaching occurs in rural areas, spread throughout the country.

How often do you meet?

We meet at least 4 times a year, with our Annual General Meeting in March, but we often hold informal meetings by email/telephone. Sometimes a group in charge of a particular project will meet more often, reporting back to the Board to keep everyone informed.

Our last session on September 24 was a one-day conference dealing with 'The Singing Teacher - Exploring the Art, Science and Mystery of Vocal Teaching at all Levels and included the following presentations:

Junior Voices; Adolescent Voices and The Choral Student; Considerations when teaching Rock, Pop and Musical Theatre; The Role of Pilates for Singers; Singing - Understanding Cause and Effect; Advice on Teaching the first lesson; The Business Side.

Why is joining EVTA important to you?

We see membership of EVTA as an important part of TOSINI's professional development. We are an island on the edge of Europe, next stop USA! We need to be part of something much bigger than ourselves. We want to keep looking outwards, to prevent us from becoming insular. There is such a huge influence of pop/rock/musical theatre here at present. We want to embrace the European Vocal Pedagogy tradition in order to keep it alive for future teachers and young singers. We welcome the opportunity of experiencing new initiatives. We look forward to comparing and contrasting other groups in Europe of a similar size to our own. Being part of a larger network of people who share similar goals, and learning from best practice providers will enhance what we can offer our members at home.

Mairéad Duffy, Chair