

85 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND AN UNIQUE CHORAL WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY IN PREPERATION FOR THEIR NATIONAL CHORAL PERFORMANCE IN THE MANSION HOUSE DUBLIN.

On Sunday 23 March 2014, 85 children and young people from across County Donegal experienced a rare and valuable choral workshop opportunity, delivered by internationally acclaimed, U.S. based choral conductor and master teacher Dr.Doreen Rao as part of Music Generation's National Choral Training Programme.

The Music Generation workshop was held to prepare students for the **BIG SING** taking place on April 6th, when hundreds of children and young people from across Ireland will gather in the Mansion House Dublin for a national choral performance organised in association with Music Generation, The Association of Irish Choirs, the Choral Music Experience Institute and Local Music Education Partnerships.

Donegal Music Education Partnership is delighted that Donegal Youth Choir and it's Junior Choirs in Carndonagh, Letterkenny, Dungloe and Carrick will be among those performing in The Mansion House on the day.

Commenting on the workshop and forthcoming performance Dr. Rao said "I am delighted to be in Ireland and to have the opportunity to work with such superb children and young people and their conductors. The entire team in the Donegal Music Education Partnership has been an absolute delight to work with and the future looks bright for choral music education in this county! The development of local Music Education Partnerships is having such a positive impact on the lives of thousands of children and young people and their communities across Ireland – long may it continue".

Angela Mc Laughlin, Music Development Manager with Donegal ETB's Donegal Music Education Partnership (DMEP) said: "Doreen's visit has provided an excellent opportunity for the members of our local choral teams to receive additional mentoring and training and also for the children and young people to have the opportunity to work with such a prestigious leader in music education. It's been a once in a lifetime opportunity ahead of their participation in the national "Big Sing" in Dublin on April 6th."

The Donegal choirs will set out for Dublin early on Sunday morning where they will meet and rehearse with hundreds of children and young people from around the country before their 4pm performance in The Mansion House. What a fantastic opportunity for all involved!