Supplementary Materials:

INTRODUCTORY FOREWORD:

The following questionnaire seeks to examine current attitudes to plainchant among Irish choral singers and directors of all ages and musical ability, and to investigate whether an interest in chant may be facilitated by greater access to online resources and both online and face-to-face training opportunities. There will be an optional focus group held to explore themes arising from questionnaire responses in due course (you can register your interest in response to question 9).

This survey is part of a study being carried out by Dr Rhoda Dullea, MTU Cork School of Music, Dr Giovanna Feeley, School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music, DCU, and Dr Ann Buckley, Medieval History Research Centre, TCD.

Please note that participation in any aspect of this study is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time without penalty. Throughout the survey your privacy will be protected and your participation will remain confidential. By completing the questionnaire, you indicate that your participation is voluntary. The questionnaire should take less than 10 minutes of your time.

If you have questions about the survey or broader study, or wish to exercise your right to withdraw any aspect of your responses, please contact the administrator, Rhoda Dullea, at rhoda.dullea@mtu.ie

Questions:

Q. 1 Please indicate whether you are answering questions as (tick box):

(a) Choral singer
(b) Choral director/conductor
(c) Choral festival administrator
(d) Music teacher

Q.2a Please indicate the nature of your choral/singing activities (tick any which apply and indicate any explanatory details in the comments box):

(a) Community choir
(b) Church choir
(c) School choir
(d) University choir
(e) Early music vocal ensemble

Q. 2b [Comment box: Any further details on your answer above:]

Q. 3 What is your musical literacy level?

(a) Never learnt to read music, learn by ear only

(b) Know how to read music, but not a very confident sight-singer

(c) Confident sight-singer and good at learning by ear

(d) Third-level qualification in music

Q. 4. (a) Are you interested in singing plainchant? Y/N

Q.4 (b). Why are you interested/not interested in singing plainchant? (Open-ended question/paragraph)

Q. 5 In which context would you perform plainchant given the opportunity to do so? (tick any which apply):

(a) At church service or religious ceremony

(b) In concert, church setting

(c) In concert, secular venue

(d) In educational setting

(e) In choral competition/festival

Q. 6 If interested in performing plainchant, are there any obstacles that have deterred you from learning and performing this vocal style? (open-ended question/paragraph)

Q. 7 If you have performed plainchant before, please provide some details about the performing context and the repertory you chose: (open-ended question/paragraph)

Q. 8 What resources would you like to see available to enable you to learn plainchant? (open-ended question/paragraph)

Q. 9 (a) Would you be willing to participate in a focus group to discuss your interest in plainchant performance? Y/N

Q. 9 (b) If yes to the above, please add your contact details: (*By submitting contact details here, you are indicating that you have granted permission for the researchers to contact you for organising an online focus group interview within the next month, however, you may withdraw from participation in this aspect of the research at any time*):

FOCUS GROUP PROTOCOL

This followed a semi-structured approach for the purpose of exploring participant perspective in some detail. It took place a month after the questionnaire administration was complete, with date arranged through consultation with the participants.

Focus group questions explored responses provided to the open-ended questions in the questionnaire form, and comprised the following:

(1) Can you tell me about your interest (or lack thereof) in singing plainchant?
(2) Tell me about your previous experience in listening to and singing plainchant – have you encountered plainchant in school (in the subjects of music, religion or history), in church, through listening to YouTube/Spotify, or through previous choral participation?
(3) When you think of plainchant, what comes to mind? How does that impression affect your interest in singing this repertory? (*this question is to establish cultural dispositions towards plainchant)*
(4) What are the difficulties in singing plainchant, in your opinion?
(5) If you are interested in singing plainchant with your choir, what would help you in this regard? Online resources? Workshops – and if so, in what format? Short courses – and if so, in what format? Any other suggestions?