



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Each year, outstanding examples of volunteering work are celebrated through the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). Equivalent to an MBE, QAVS are the highest awards given to charities in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

Exciting news for Shout at Cancer to have received this honour. Launched in 2015, it's the only charity in the world specialising in the use of music to help speech recovery and social reintegration after laryngectomy, the surgical removal of the voice box.

For Shout at Cancer music is a motivational tool to rebuild voice and confidence, and an instrument to facilitate public education and engagement.

The concerts of their laryngectomy choir are a form of storytelling that explain targeted audiences the layered psychosocial impact after this life changing operation. As positive activists they continue to make a vast positive impact on the laryngectomy community. They have inspired research, art and our society to direct much needed attention to their overlooked and neglected small community.

They are unique in making an incredible impact, at a high level, in three very different areas; arts, science and healthcare. Although distinct from one another, brought together in harmony by Shout at Cancer, they are even more powerful.

The charity has received respected prizes and grants, had worldwide media coverage (including an award winning documentary), and performed at prestigious art venues and at highly regarded scientific conferences. In a way, music gave this unique and courageous group an even stronger voice than before.

#QAVS2021 #volunteersweek



Quotes:

Ian Bradshaw (laryngectomy participant): *"I couldn't even sing before the operation, (laughs) and now we won an award by the Queen!"*

Director of **Shout at Cancer** and Doctor with special interest in voice pathology, medical lead and research coordinator **Dr. Thomas Moors** (tel 0044 78793 92005):

"There's more music in your voice than you think and our techniques and approach are allowing you to realise this. A new voice that delivers a strong message of hope and resilience in an inviting and attractive way"

Pug Halliday (laryngectomy participant): *"I never ever in my life would have thought to experience anything as uplifting like being part of the choir and receiving such an award!"*

Sara Brading (laryngectomy participant): *"We are doing this for a bigger reason: we are inspiring our laryngectomy community and those who are going through tough times in life"*

Our mission is to improve the voice and quality of life after laryngectomy, to build confidence and help people reintegrate into society. We use workshops that incorporate breathing, singing and acting techniques with public performances and collaboration with musicians, singers and actors.



Our goal is simply to help give a voice back to every person who has had it taken away by cancer.

Our slogan: "Together we shout louder"

Find out more about our next musical journey to Japan and how we will be singing together with a choir of trees that survived the nuclear bombing:

<https://www.philipcleo.com/fromsilenceintosong>

Find out more about our participation in Sound Voice, how Opera meets biomedical research with people who have lost their voice: www.soundvoice.org

Notes:

March 2017 Shout Dr Thomas Moors awarded by **PM Theresa May**, with the *Points of Light* Award.

In Feb 2020 Bill Brummel (L.A based film director who won the Peabody award and was 5 times nominated for Emmy's) released a long feature documentary about the choir: "[Can you hear my voice?](#)"

In Oct 2020 Prof Himonides (UCL) and Shout at Cancer receive [the UCL Provost's Public Engagement Award 2020: Experimentation Award](#).

The charity's aims are:

(1) the relief of persons suffering from head and neck cancer by providing help and support to relieve affective symptoms and to improve voice rehabilitation through the provision of supported and quantifiable rehabilitation techniques involving participation in music, art and drama.

(2) the advancement of education of the public, health professionals and persons affected by throat cancer and laryngectomy by providing a forum to discuss and respond to issues of interest and concerns.

(3) to promote research in head and neck cancer and the relationship between the arts and rehabilitation and disseminating the useful results for the public benefit.

We are happy to discuss our work further and we would be grateful if you could help us promote the event and report on the charity's work.