

Workshops programme

EN - Please register with the Google Form sent through the Festival newsletter, and use the remail address you used to sign up for the festival. The festival is offering six themed workshops, all taking place in the mornings during the festival. These workshops will be held at the Festival Village (Place Royale 1000, Brussels). They will be conducted mainly in English (the facilitators for workshops 1, 2 and 4 also speak French). The venues are accessible to people with reduced mobility. To ensure the workshops run smoothly, capacity is limited to 100 people. Unfortunately, this means there will not be enough places for everyone. This form allows you to select your top three choices. We will do our best to accommodate you, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to allocate you a place.

FR - Merci de t'inscrire en utilisant le Google Form envoyé via la newsletter du Festival, avec l'adresse e-mail utilisée pour t'inscrire au festival. Le festival te propose 6 ateliers thématiques organisés en matinée pendant le festival. Ces workshops ont lieu au Festival Village (Place royale 1000 Bruxelles). Ils seront principalement animés en anglais (les personnes qui animent les workshops 1, 2 et 4 parlent aussi français). Les salles sont accessibles aux personnes à mobilité réduite. Pour le bon déroulement des ateliers, la capacité est limitée à 100 personnes. Il n'y aura donc malheureusement pas de place pour tout le monde. Ce formulaire te permet de définir vos trois premiers choix. Nous ferons de notre mieux pour te satisfaire mais nous ne pouvons pas garantir qu'il sera possible de t'attribuer une place.

NL - Meld je aan via het Google-formulier dat je via de nieuwsbrief van het festival hebt ontvangen, met het e-mailadres dat je hebt gebruikt om je voor het festival in te schrijven. Het festival biedt je 6 thematische workshops aan die tijdens het festival 's ochtends worden georganiseerd. Deze workshops vinden plaats in het Festival Village (Place Royale 1000 Brussel). Ze worden voornamelijk in het Engels gegeven (de begeleiders van workshops 1, 2 en 4 spreken ook Frans). De zalen zijn toegankelijk voor personen met beperkte mobiliteit. Om de workshops vlot te laten verlopen, is de capaciteit beperkt tot 100 personen. Er zal dus helaas niet voor iedereen plaats zijn. Met dit formulier kan je je drie eerste keuzes aangeven. We zullen ons best doen om aan je wensen tegemoet te komen, maar we kunnen niet garanderen dat we je een plaats kunnen toewijzen.

1. An inclusive and accessible festival: financially too? - Thursday 25/06 (10h-12h)

Various Voices is an LGBTQI+ festival that aims to be inclusive, but is it inclusive in financial terms? Funded mainly by the registration fees of choir members, who also have to pay for their own travel and accommodation, the festival represents a significant budget that not everyone can afford, particularly the most vulnerable members of our community. Several choirs have cancelled their participation for this reason. This workshop will be an opportunity to discuss the solutions put in place by Legato and the Brussels team to make the Festival more financially accessible, as well as the solutions put in place by each choir. This exchange of best practices may help to identify possible solutions for future festivals. Facilitators: Marina Belotti, treasurer of Various Various 2026 and Sing Out Brussels! - Stefano Abruzzini, statistician and Festival Support Team.

2. Why Does a Choir Need a Strategy? (Yes, Even Us!) - Thursday 25/06 (10h-12h)

Running a queer choir is not just about hitting the right notes — it's also about navigating big questions. How do we embrace diversity within the group? Choose repertoire that reflects who we are? Communicate with our members and our audiences? Stand up for the causes we care about? And what happens when generations, expectations, and visions collide? In this lively and practical workshop, members of the Joy Team Strategy of Sing Out Brussels! will share real-life examples from their choir and explain how they build and use a strategic plan to keep their community vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable. Expect honest stories, useful tools, and plenty of shared experiences. Because when the strategy is clear, the harmony comes more easily — both on and off the stage. Come exchange ideas, learn from others, and leave with inspiration to make your choir thrive.

3. LGBTQI+ rights in Europe - Friday 26/06 (10h-12h)

As the capital of the European Union, Brussels is a city of influence. ILGA Europe works there every day to make sure decision-makers understand the realities LGBTI people and organisations face in their daily lives, and to advocate for solutions that allow our communities in Europe to be free, safe, and equal. In the wake of the annual Rainbow Map and Index, which will be published on 12 May 2026, Chaber, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe, will summarise the major issues facing our community, and the opportunities for strategic wins in the current political climate. Our conversation will focus on how movements can protect hard-won rights, defend communities against rising opposition, and rally allies across the region, before opening the floor to answer your questions.

4. Trans and non-binary folks in our choirs - Friday 26/06 (10h-12h)

The choir world is often very binary and gendered (section names, gendered sections, gendered language, ...), and can be very rigid. How do we make our choirs more fluid, less gendered and ensure that all voices - especially the ones outside of gender norms - are heard? This workshop led by Elli Tessier, member of Sing Out Brussels!, invites singers of

all gender identities (including cisgender people) to share their experiences and good practices, and build choir spaces that work for everyone.

5. Queer Choirs, LGBTQ+ Rights, European Belonging - Saturday 27/06 (10h-12h)

How do our choirs build community? How do our songs, performances, and festivals support human rights? What shared and unique challenges do we face in 21st century Europe? Writer, musician, activist, and professor of ethnomusicology, Thomas R. Hilder, will share stories from his forthcoming book on LGBTQ+ choirs in London, Rome and Warsaw.

6. Choir History Workshop - Saturday 27/06 (10h-12h)

Each of our choirs plays a role in the history of the LGBTQI+ movement. But how can we preserve our history and share it? The Pink Singers recently won a British Podcast Award for their series Sing It Pink, telling their 40-year history and opening up their archives to the public. Project leaders Chris Scales and Hsien Chew will explain how they worked to discover and share the choir's story, and how they are now supporting LEGATO to create an archive for the pan-European network and Various Voices Festival. It will also be an opportunity to discuss how to manage your archives and the legacy your choir would like to leave behind.