

ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

FACTSHEET - STORY

Name	Jane Wheeler
Details, area of experience	Founder of Living Song CIC (teaching and singing)
Interview date	December 2020
Issues addressed	Singing, community, poverty, diversity, economic security
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> class <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> faith <input type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/> neuro-diversity <input type="checkbox"/> race <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>
Dates mentioned	2012
Locations referenced	London
Campaigns, movements, protests	Black Lives Matter
Historical context	2017 onwards
Tactics	Singing, community, mentoring
Key words	Singing Community Equality of opportunity Building connection Reward
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewarding people for their reliability and commitment • All people from different economic backgrounds have equality of opportunity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Singing builds confidence and community
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<p>Story summary</p>	<p>Jane Wheeler tells the story of founding Living Song CIC, rooted in Newham, East London, and centred around singing. By providing opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to develop a sense of self and connections with each other, Living Song builds community through the belief that singing is for all and helps people unite, with their differences.</p> <hr/> <p>Jane Wheeler founded Living Song CIC that is rooted in the community and centred around singing. It is based in East London and provides opportunities for young people to gain a sense of self, agency and connection by developing skills in singing. Singing helps young people to strengthen their voice and really open their minds beyond their street or borough. Living Song is free to join, meaning that it is open to as many different people as possible.</p> <p>Working with choirs to foster pathways from young people as they grow. They can become a young music mentor to help support the others. Paid and trained to go into schools and run workshops. Increases understanding that as they grow they are rewarded what they put in through payment and opportunity.</p> <p>There is a diverse group of young people singing in the choir at Newham – “Bengali-origin British young people, African, Caribbean origin young people, a young person from Lithuania and Romania” – all with a broad range of languages spoken along with English. Once everyone is singing in the choir their different background, cultures and languages are levelled and everyone sings as one.</p> <p>There is a mentoring strand to the Artist Approach Project that ensures young people collaborate with professional song writers to create a piece. This gives them an opportunity to develop their song writing skills and also professional presentation skills.</p>
<p>Stand-out quotations</p>	<p>“I’ve come to realise the power of singing to do so much.”</p> <p>“Singing is one of the ways that can help to build a young person’s confidence - it can help them to find their voice, to express their voice, to learn to articulate more clearly what they care about, to hear and understand other stories through songs that they sing.”</p> <p>“Whether you come from an economically secure family or background, or whether you come from an economically deprived or struggling background, you can walk into that building, you can join the choir and it's free.”</p>

	<p>“Build connection outwards.”</p> <p>“I think the act of coming together and singing is like a peace demonstration.”</p> <p>“We’re all different ages, we’re all different backgrounds, we’re all different stages, we’re all from different economic securities, and here we are working together peacefully and respectfully.”</p>
Main themes for learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The power of singing: a way to gain a sense of self, agency and connection in young people (start-3.36) ● Building connections and safety with others through song: showing opportunities to connect outside the home/neighbourhood/borough ● Diversity adds interest and singing is levelling and rises above differences

<https://www.economicinjustice.org.uk>