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BUSINESS CENTRE MANAGER TO HIT A HIGH NOTE WITH NEW CHANNEL FIVE TALENT SHOW



Manchester business centre manager Helen Davies is fine-tuning her vocal chords for an opportunity of a lifetime when she and fellow members of the 68-strong Manchester Show Choir take part in Channel Five's new talent competition 'Don't Stop Believing' on Sunday night (18 July).

Helen, who runs Orega's business centre at Three Piccadilly Place, says she has "always fancied herself as a bit of a singer" but, since joining the choir in January, life has been a whirl of high-profile engagements, culminating in the Emma Bunton-hosted talent show on Channel Five.

The Manchester Show Choir beat off stiff competition from 3,000+ hopefuls to join the line-up of acts in the first live heat of the 'all-singing, all-dancing' show this Sunday. Each week, the public will be invited to vote for their favourite act to go forward to the live final in six weeks, while the panel of judges, including Anastacia and Tamzin Outhwaite, can vote in an act on a 'wild card' to take part in a separate heat.

Daniel Wood, the founder of the Manchester Show Choir, has chosen a masquerade ball as the theme for the choir but the music they will sing on the night is strictly top secret ahead of the show!

Aside from the fame and glory of being on a prime-time television show, the winner of the competition will win a substantial (but undisclosed) cash prize. As with all the events in which the choir has participated, any money raised will be channelled straight to its charity of choice, the Manchester cancer charity Christie's. Since the choir's formation in September last year, it has donated £15,000 to The Christie charity to help build its new £35m patient treatment centre at Salford, which will be the biggest early clinical trials unit in the world.

Helen says many of the choir – of which there are well over 100 registered members – joined not just because of the music but also because the fund-raising formed a central part of everything they do. Their aim is to raise a total of £100,000 for The Christie charity of which the first £15,000 was handed over after a fund-raising show at the Palace Theatre in Manchester earlier this month.



Further events are planned for the choir, not least of which are a number of commitments with the cast and crew of 'Coronation Street'. This includes appearing in four episodes of the top soap this summer as the Weatherfield Choir, which two regular Corrie cast members join, and even singing at a Coronation Street wedding, to be shown in August – and therefore definitely under wraps!

And as if all this excitement wasn't enough for Helen, she and another choir member are joining a small team that plans to ascend Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania – the highest mountain in Africa – in June 2011, for which each team member is planning to raise £2,500 in sponsorship for their chosen charity.

For now though, if you'd like to vote for Helen and the Manchester Show choir in 'Don't Stop Believing', tune in at 7pm this Sunday evening on Channel Five.