

The P2 Walpurgis Choir

P2:s Valborgskör

P2 Walpurgis Choir is a four-part choral work consisting of a collage of voices and faces of P2 listeners. The Walpurgis Night on 30 April is celebrated with traditional bonfires all around the country. We gather together to greet spring on its return and not least greet it with song. Choir singing is a hugely popular movement in Sweden, much appreciated by both the singers and those listening.

But now it is spring 2020. This spring, the word 'cancelled' has been a frequently recurring word as the corona pandemic puts a stop to all festivities, concerts and public gatherings. Many are writing to Classical Morning [Klassisk morgon] on P2 to send greetings to choral chums and to tell them how sad they are to see that both the Walpurgis celebrations and spring concerts have been cancelled.

The idea of a digital choir was born. Is it possible to have the listeners record themselves on their smartphones and send the films to us, so that we can put all the individual singers into one huge choir? An instruction video is posted on social media. At the programme website, listeners will find the audio files with the four different keys in the most well-known Walpurgis song Longing for the Country [Längtan till landet]. There are also files with sheet music, containing both notes and lyrics.

The response from the listeners is overwhelming. In less than a week, more than 700 listeners have sent their films to P2. Young people, old people, in the countryside and in cities, and even a number of ex-pats. The choir performs on Sveriges Radio P2 and it spreads out onto social media and quickly becomes a virtual success with more than 1,2 million viewings. We did it. Swedes get to enjoy their traditional spring singing.

We are able to celebrate spring and Walpurgis in 2020 as well!

Submitting organisation: **Sveriges Radio – SR**
Contact: **Maria Eby von Zweigbergk – maria.von_zweigbergk@sr.se**
Author: **Pernilla Eskilsson**
Adapted from: **the song Längtan till landet by Herman Säterberg and Otto Lindblad**
Director: **Jonna Spiik**
Sound: **Erland von Heijne**
Commissioning editor: **Elle-Kari Höjeberg**
Producer: **Helena Malmberg**
Co-producers: **Ellen Nordin, Joar Plunger**
Length: **2 min**
Original language: **Swedish**
First broadcast by: **SR P2**
Date of first broadcast: **30 April 2020, 08:00**
Competing for: **Best European Radio Music Programme of the Year**