



# Companion Voices

## *Singing for the end of life*

Companion Voices are groups who meet to learn songs and prepare together for singing at the bedsides of people who are dying. When groups are ready, this singing then happens, on request and by arrangement. The process of singing together and developing trust means that becoming a Companion is an enriching process for participants as well as those who receive the singing.

The singing may take place in a family home, residential home, hospital, hospice or wherever the person receiving the singing happens to be. There is no charge for this, though if friends or family want to make a donation to Companion Voices they are free to do so.

Companion Voices songs are chosen to create a soundscape that is comforting, relaxing and undemanding. The main purpose of the singing is to allow the dying person to progress forward knowing they are not alone.

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Contact details:

If you would like to join us or request singing for yourself or another person, please contact us through the website or on 07903 914064.

[info@companionvoices.org](mailto:info@companionvoices.org)  
[www.companionvoices.org](http://www.companionvoices.org)

Disabled people are warmly welcome to join Companion Voices. Please contact your local group for access information about their venue. Singing by the bedside of a sick or dying person may mean being in their own home so access could be an issue for those with a mobility impairment and each visit would need to be explored for suitable access. Hospices and hospitals, where we are sometimes invited to sing, are usually accessible to all.



Companion Voices was founded by **Judith Silver**, a singer, composer and choir leader and long-standing member of the Natural Voice Network and Musicians' Union. Judith has been working with singing, harmony and very diverse groups for more than twenty years, and, having been inspired many years ago by the Threshold Choirs in the US, began crafting Companion Voices in the UK in early 2014.

**Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the silent stars to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you**

*Celtic blessing, an example from our repertoire*