

Festival Coordinator Jessica Hill interviews **Annemarie Homan & Emily May't Hoen** – the brains behind The Single Singers

- *What first inspired you to set up The Single Singers?*

It was in September 2011 at the Solevoci Camp, Florence that I (Annemarie) participated in. The Swingle Singers hosted a couple of days filled with workshops and concerts – an extremely inspiring couple of days. I went there on my own and discovered that even if you go alone, as a single singer, you can have a wonderful time. Luckily I wasn't the only one that had come alone and I soon 'teamed up' with two other girls and we did a lot of vocal improvisation. When I then heard about LACF, I knew I just HAD to go there, alone if I had to. Whilst counting down the months to the LACF I visited the website and saw that there was a possibility for groups to perform on the open stage in the foyer. I would have loved to perform there, but I didn't have a group. So I had this wild idea: would it be possible to gather a small group of people together who are also coming alone, learn a couple of songs, and perform them at the festival? I put this idea on Facebook and almost immediately got a reply from Emily May who loved it. And the rest is history...

- *As a concept it has expanded internationally – can you tell us a bit more?*

Almost immediately after LACF2012 we got a message from Nick Girard (The House Jacks and Overboard), asking if it was okay if he took our idea to the Los Angeles A Cappella Festival only two weeks later. We were very honoured that he had picked up our idea and so The PickUps were born. And only a few months after that, in March 2012, The Single Singers (DC) formed at SingStrong.

Original single singer member Joakim Skog, was involved in the organization of The Real Group Festival in Stockholm (August 2012).

To cut a long story short: we were asked to organize a Single Singers group at that festival and we called ourselves The Real Single Singers. This was by far the biggest group we have had to date: 75 singers! In 2013 we expect to have more European editions of The Single Singers!

- *We're delighted to be welcoming the Single Singers home to LACF – what can we expect this year?*

We are very happy to return to LACF as an 'LACFextra' event and we're hoping to give you at least the same experience as the first time and perhaps even better! The group will probably be a little bigger and even more international and we hope to have some Swingle involvement somehow. We are looking forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces in January, as well as to getting to know many new ones!

See The Single Singers perform at the LACF on Saturday 26th January 2013

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

It's very easy to get involved and there are a few simple conditions:

- You have a ticket to something at the festival
- You are not performing with another group at the festival
- You can study your parts at home
- You can attend the rehearsals (Fri 25th Jan + tbc) and the performance (Sat 26th Jan)

Please send e-mail info@thesinglesingers.com with your name, the name of the group you are currently singing with (if any) and the voice you are most comfortable singing.