

Our Integra Journey

Chris and Martin started Integra in 2005/6 as we began the planning for Various Voices London 2009. We needed a system that would enable us to plan and organise Team London, which provided detailed planning capability for the concerts, social events, workshops, seminars and major performances. Chris brought all his passion and 20 years professional expertise as a programmer together with stage management experience, to create just what we needed. The 'Online Planner' could register choirs and link them to a performance slot or activity, as well as the facilitators, conductors, musicians, comperes and hosts. The registration facility allowed individual participants to register and pay, completing online tailor made questionnaires with information to assist us to plan, organise and deliver the festival. Productivity functions enabled team planning and task management. Everyone in the right place at the right time, efficiently and effectively organise by Online Planner and Team London.

The systems key feature is that it can be used by anyone, anytime, anywhere. Users create their own data, this reduces mistakes and makes the best use of time and resources. All system users see and use the most current data, to pull off reports, filter data and efficiently collect and provide data for the technical team 'production book', and any marketing needs. Our Festival philosophy is to dismantle the barriers to inclusion, enabling participants to build and create their own festival experience, a "pick and mix" approach, paying only for what they want and offering exciting opportunities to share, eat, drink and enjoy, free and other ancillary events to experience your own complete and exciting accessible festival.

They say "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" and the Southbank Centre the largest arts complex in Europe adopted our template, creating festivals that became the cornerstone of its artistic vision.

Martin ran his successful event and catering business for 30 years, was as Chair of the London Gay Men's Chorus and Festival Director for London Various Voices. This experience led onto working with Legato and with Gala Choruses helping to shape and develop their signature events, leading the organisation as President into Festival year 2016. Various Voices morphed into the Charity Fruitvox and has continued to create, coordinate, collaborate and facilitate on LGBTI choirs and music internationally. Martin was award an MBE (Order of the British Empire) by the Queen in 2013 for contribution to music and LGBT Community.

Martin and Chris formally incorporated Integra Planner in 2013. We have continued to develop new functionality, redevelop and rejuvenate older technology, design systems that are more intuitive and create the Integra Planner Schedule App. Our aim to enable our clients to delivery exciting and artistically brilliant festivals offering our expert advice and support through Integra Planner to delivery fantastic festival experiences to you.

Integra Planner works for festivals, conferences and organisations, we would enjoy showing you around Integra Planner, just ask us, no on-going commitment, no hard sell (well some sell), just an honest look at us and our how we can help you. Use our 40 years of experience in event planning, computer system creation and motivating and organising organisations to help and support you - "organising the organisers"

We support the LGBTI community worldwide by sponsoring many of the events we work with and by providing Integra Planner for events and festivals we feel committed to. Our clients mostly identify as LGBTI or allies but not exclusively. We strive to be the best we can and work to improve our accessibility, functionality and to include our intuitive approach in all we do, to deliver effective, efficient and exciting experiences for all our clients and users.

(600 words)