

Market Street Singers Annual Meeting Minutes 11/15/2016

The Market Street Singers is a choral ensemble for Ballard that builds connections within diverse communities. Celebrating the joy of choral music among singers and listeners, we aspire to cultivate neighborhood pride with choral arts that are truly community identified.

LOCATION: Blue Ridge Community Club at 10040 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177

Before the official business meeting began, Chris Vincent hosted a question and answer session during which the following items were discussed:

- 1) *Study Recordings:* Study recordings are provided as an extra element of singing in the choir. The recordings have become an expectation that Chris has been able to maintain with the help of members like Kari Stromsland, Mitchell Fund, and Lynn Arnold. Chris understands that the members want more options with the recordings and he is exploring those options, but not for all songs.
- 2) *Size:* Our group is slowly, but continuously growing. The Ballard Senior Center is crowded, but will remain sufficient for our current rehearsal needs. Our performance locations are problematic. Ballard First Lutheran will remain our home for a while because of a lack of other suitable options. One thing that will help make performing at Ballard First Lutheran more comfortable is new risers. Chris found a large (~70 people) set of risers on sale by the Boeing Employee's Chorale. He is going to purchase them with the understanding that it will take more effort to transport, set up, and take down the new risers. The membership will need to step up and help out before and after performances to assist with the new risers. We may need to rent U-Hauls to transport them.
- 3) *Next Spring:* We will perform the Rutter Requiem as half of our Spring show because we got a 60 score donation and there are 50 Chris can borrow. We'll likely have a reduced instrumental ensemble to accompany the performance. Chris is looking into the performance space at Phinney Ridge Lutheran and other options for this show.
- 4) *Ballardeers:* The Ballardeers will perform at Yulefest on Sunday, November 20 at 4 PM.
- 5) *Rehearsals:* Less talk and more singing! The choir is open to the idea of having a few, pre-planned longer rehearsals just before our performances, if needed.
- 6) *Memorization:* In order to remain an inclusive group, Chris is not interested in requiring the music to be memorized. However, Chris reminded the choir to try and look up as much as possible and to watch him conducting rather than be buried in our binders.

The business meeting portion of the evening was called to order at 7:50 PM. The meeting began with a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered in one form or another in 2015-2016. Thank you to our volunteers.

Then the MSS voted to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes from 2015. Larry Gockel moved to approve the 2015 minutes and Julie Rampke seconded the motion. The choir approved the 2015 minutes unanimously.

Next, the MSS voted to elect a new Board of Directors. The MSS voted Julie Rampke, Barbara Mrachek, Birdie Bagwell, and Elaine Mathies on to the Board of Directors. Marilyn Varas, Mitchell Fund, Kim Varner, Brandy Rinck, and Gary Woods will remain on the Board for another term. Jenna Magee's departure from the Board was acknowledged by the membership. Joie Brannan moved to approve these changes to the Board of Directors and Larry Gockel seconded the motion. All the MSS members voted in favor of the changes to the Board of Directors.

During a break in the evening, the new Board of Directors had an internal meeting to elect new officers. The following directors were elected to officer positions: 1) President – Marilyn Varas; 2) Vice President – Mitchell Fund; 3) Treasurer – Birdie Bagwell; and 4) Secretary – Elaine Mathies. Marilyn and Mitchell are being re-elected to their current officer positions. Birdie will replace Kim Varner as Treasurer and Elaine will replace Brandy Rinck as Secretary. Kim and Brandy will remain on the Board as Directors At-Large along with Gary Woods, Julie Rampke, and Barbara Mrachek. Barbara Mrachek moved to approve these changes to the Officers and Kim Varner seconded the motion. All of the new Board Members present at the meeting approved the new Board of Directors Officers. Gary Woods was not present at the Annual Meeting, but he agreed via verbal proxy prior to the event.

Kim Varner then reviewed the choir's financials with the membership in attendance at the meeting. She discussed the current budget and our net gain for the year. Kim also highlighted changes between the budgets from this year and next year. Of most importance were a decrease in costs and revenue due to an expected lower-effort summer season, an overall increase in costs and revenue associated with the larger size of our growing group, and increased expenses related to raises for our paid staff and storage expenses that are new as of early 2016. Still, we are doing well and are only marginally in the red as budgeted for next year. The choir then voted to approve next year's budget as it was presented by Kim. John Marshall moved to approve the new budget and Larry Gockel seconded the motion. The MSS approved next year's budget unanimously.

Kim Varner followed the budget review with an update on the MSS on the Finance and Fundraising Committee (FFC) that was set up in 2016. She informed the membership on the goal of the committee, which is to have 6 months of reserve funds in our account at all times. She also presented future possibilities for fundraising, some of which include additional bake sales and silent auctions at sing-a-longs, more concert cards, a brewery night, and merchandise with our logo. The committee is looking for new members and/or other ideas for fundraising and the membership is encouraged to participate.

Awards were handed out following the Treasurer's report. Mitchell Fund and Ned Palmer handed awards and signed posters to director Chris Vincent and accompanist Ingrid Verhulsdonk. The awards were Ned's idea because he wanted to show special thanks to Chris and Ingrid, especially as part of the original MSS. Mitchell gave them each cash bonuses, as well for their extra efforts over the past year. As Vice President, Mitchell Fund then passed out the Board of Director's Awards to music librarians Peggy Murphy and Deborah Stewart for their help with music organization over the past year. Peggy and Deborah really stepped up to assist Chris with music this year, which was no small task. Marilyn Varas passed out the President's Award to Brandy Rinck for her behind the scenes work publicity work. Chris Vincent handed out the Director's Award to Marilyn Varas and Dan Mihalo for taking on so many unexpected tasks and great responsibility over the past year. They really stepped up when big changes in the Board occurred over the holidays last year and we are all so grateful.

Finally, Birdie Bagwell thanked the Membership Committee for their efforts this year. A few of the many things they accomplished in 2016 included: new member guidelines, re-establishing the buddy system, new member orientation, section leader role renewal, installation of greeters, new nametags, the first membership survey, set up exit surveys, and taking on the roster in Mailchimp. As a new committee, they did a lot in one year!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

The MSS hope to hold next year's annual meeting at the Blue Ridge Community Club in November of 2017 with more details TBD.

After the meeting, the new TMSS Board voted to approve adding Marilyn Varas and Birdie Bagwell as signers on the Chase Bank checking account and to remove Kim Varner as a signer on the Chase Bank checking account. Mitchell Fund moved to approve the change and Elaine Mathies seconded the motion. The Board voted and approved the changes to the account signers.