

MINUTES
Market Street Singers Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

President Eileen Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:05pm at the home of Elsie Simon.

PRESENT: Board Members: Suzy Crawley, Kathryn Minturn, Eileen Nicholson, Susanne Redalje, Kate Riordan, Deborah Seidel, Elsie Simon, and Jeanne van Aalst; **Director,** Chris Vincent

M/S/C to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2010 Board Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Kate Riordan reported Balances for January of: Income \$2956.00, and Expenses \$1177.01 resulting in a Net Gain of \$1778.99 for the month. Income was mainly from participants' donations, which are higher at the beginning of a quarter.

M/S/C to approve the Treasurer's Report of January 2010.

Agenda: we agreed to postpone until the March Board meeting Chris Vincent's reports on the cost of software for CD production, and on an E-mail Marketing Plan. We also postponed a discussion of Section Leaders' job update until Eden Rivers can be present to participate.

March Board Meeting: Kathryn Minturn will host the March 8th Board meeting at her home, 2422 NW 64th St in Ballard. Suzanne Redalje will take Minutes in Elsie's absence.

Board Member Resignation: The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Ronna Dansky, with appreciation for her service, and the hope that she will rejoin us when she is able.

VENUES and SPACE ISSUES:

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church: 5816 15th Avenue Northwest, Chris has inquired about their rental policy, but hasn't heard back. Suzanne Redalje will give it a try. Per Chris, they have a beautiful acoustic space, maybe the best in Ballard.

Ballard Church: (Formerly Ballard Free Methodist Church) 1460 Northwest 73rd Street (near NW 70th St. NW & Mary Ave. NW) They are shifting to electronic music and instruments, which they are leaving set up there. We would need to bring a piano, and would have to pay them a fee each time we're there, to move their equipment.

Hale's Palladium: (at back of Hale's Brewery) 4301 Leary Way. This venue is OK for performing at an event being held there, but not to do a concert there. It is very uncomfortable, with limited parking, a theatre w/stage that would hardly fit us, and no piano; costs a lot of money: they have small seats but we'd have to rent them, and they charge for lighting, sound, etc.

Performance Request - Empty Bowls Fundraiser: Sat., Feb. 27, 3 - 8PM at Ballard Community Center on 6020 28th Ave. NW. Chris reported that we had to decline the invitation to perform there, because of the limited space for the size of our choir, and the short (20 days) preparation time. But it would be a great venue for our mission to the community, and we should consider it for next year. Meanwhile, board members will try to go this year, to "test out" the facility. <http://www.seattleemptybowls.org/>

Ambassador Ensemble (AE)

The Empty Bowls discussion of space to fit our choir continued, with Chris' idea of an "Ambassador Ensemble", a small group of singers, 16 or so, who could fulfill performance requests where venue space is limited, ones that we currently have to decline. The AE would be composed of the better singers -- a smaller number of singers necessitates better quality -- and have 6 pieces ready to go. These singers would need the flexibility to put in time for extra, separate rehearsals. There would be added cost for accompanist, and rehearsal space, and Chris cannot work any more hours without pay. How should this be paid for? Would Chris select the singers? invite volunteers, perhaps necessitating auditions? Would that cause resentment?

Chris will compose a questionnaire for choir members, to gauge their level of interest, willingness, and ability to give extra time. If so, how much? every season? first try during summer only?

Conversely, the larger choir we now have might make it possible for us to sing outdoors more, preferably in the summer, perhaps at the Sunday Market, Sustainable Ballard, etc.

JUNE CONCERT. It will be on Saturday, June 5th, 7:30PM and again Sunday, June 6th, 3:00PM, at Ballard First Lutheran Church, 2006 NW 65th Street (at corner with 20th NW). The venue is lovely, with very good acoustics. The church has not specified any charges, so Chris will negotiate a \$200 donation, plus the cost of tuning their piano. At Suzy's suggestion, Chris will provide a letter to the church stating our understanding of the arrangements, for their approval and assent.

Production Issues: Chris asked us to set a budget for concert publicity and production costs that he can give to Russ Long to get started. Elsie will provide him with 2009's Expense Detail Report for Production and Publicity from which to calculate that.

Risers: Jeanne van Alst brought samples of two kinds of individual, step-stool risers for us to consider. Both were \$15-\$20 each. The black, assembled, one-piece one holds 300 lbs, is light-weight and stacks for storage. The Grey, collapsable one holds 200 lbs, is 4 inches lower, same width but with sides, so feet won't slip off. Kate offered her friend Karl's carpentry talents to build us 6 risers, to hold 4 people each. The Board definitely preferred this configuration for stability and comfort when standing 20 minutes or more. Eileen will also introduce Kate to her contacts at the Boys' Choir, which has home-made portable risers that could be copied.

THE CIVIC PARTNERS GRANT is offered by the City of Seattle every two years. In 2008 we submitted our application online via a provided website, where it is still stored and can be accessed and updated.. Eileen Nicholson, Mae Waldron and others compiled the first submission in 2008, doing all the initial research, pulling together the data on audience size, member attendance, budget (which we didn't yet have), etc., which will make it much easier this time around. We also now have better listening samples. The fact that we don't charge performance admission -- but try to raise money in other ways -- should help us. Chris will update the history narrative and will inquire (as allowed and encouraged) as to why we weren't chosen last time.

The new application will be available online June 1st and is due in August. Eileen will help guide us through this once her term as President is over, and Sue Bean offered to help us get started on it. It would garner several \$100 a month, for the two year period.

Suzanne also suggested the Vulcan Grants, which this year are focused on the arts. And we could apply to PONCHO. In that case we need to compose a good explanation of what we want to do with the money.

Adjournment: 8:30PM

Next Board meeting March 8, at Kathryn Minturn's home, 2422 NW 64th St. Kate will bring treats.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Simon, Secretary

TO DO list:

Katherine: host next board meeting

Suzanne: do next meeting minutes

Suzanne: call St. Alphonsus Church about space

Chris: formulate questionnaire re ambassador ensemble

Chris: ask what we did wrong in last grant request

Chris: Cost estimate for software to produce practice CD's

Chris: prepare Building Use Letter of Understanding for Ballard Lutheran

Chris: propose E-mail Marketing Plan

Eileen: advise Eden about sectional report for March meeting
Eileen: introduce Kate to Boys' Choir contact about risers

Kate/Karl: build risers, accommodate 25 people

ALL: try to attend Empty Bowls Feb. 28

ALL: familiarize ourselves with the grant application: