

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.

**March 14, 2014, at the home of Gloria Chenoweth
Call to Order: 7:05 pm**

Present: Jean Bowman, Gloria Chenoweth, Cassie Owens, Cathy Palmer, Brandy Rinck (*ex officio*), Patty Stedman, Marilyn Varas, Chris Vincent, Gary Woods, Jaime Worthington

1. Minutes – (ALL)

The board reviewed minutes for the February board meeting. Cassie moved to accept the minutes and Gloria seconded the motion. All approved; minutes accepted as written.

2. Treasurer's Report (Cassie)

Cassie asked for any questions arising from Ken's monthly reports: there were none, and Cassie reiterated her appreciation for reports that make TMSS financial situation clear and easy to understand. Cassie then presented data the Board had requested about the cost of printing concert programs. Cost per program (covering seven concerts) has ranged from 40 cents to \$1.13, with the average cost 82 cents. Numbers of programs printed have ranged from 150 to 300. Cassie emphasized that current costs are reasonable and that the programs look good. After discussion, the board decided to order 300 programs for the upcoming May concert, at a total cost of \$250, the cost to include any fee for design.

Chris V. announced a contribution of \$188 from the Ballard Market, the latest in their program of contributing back 1% on all returned Ballard Market sales receipts.

3. Previous action items (ALL)

- a. Ads in the concert program: postponed until September, given the already complicated logistics of the May concert.
- b. Civic Partners Form: completed and submitted two weeks before the deadline. TMSS grant-supported activity (which must be an event open to the public) will be the May concerts.
- c. Board meet-and-greet: postponed until the next silent auction, a time when this social occasion has drawn good participation from choir members and guests.
- d. Display board: Jean has been working with Russ on this project. Gloria will review the final design. Jean expects to report progress at the board meeting in April.
- e. Orientation for new choir members: per Chris V., orientation is "going better."
- f. New rehearsal locale: Sunset Hill Community Center currently has an occasional Tuesday renter, which it is not willing to displace. Monday night is available. Cost for the upper hall is \$40 per hour (the Board noted that this is a significant increase from current costs); the lower hall is also available, but only until "Clay Camp" begins. After discussion of different ways in which this locale might be tested for suitability, it was agreed that the Ambassador Ensemble would be asked to test both spaces on June 9th. Whether the Ambassador Ensemble itself would continue will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- g. Section leaders: Chris V. has not yet moved forward on this item.
- h. Concert donations basket: Gary will bring it to the next concert.

4. Rehearsals and composition of the choir (Chris V.)

Chris V. reported that Mitch Fund's leading of sectionals during rehearsal time has been very productive; Mitch, in turn, is happy to be leading these sectionals and sees his doing so as his contribution to the choir. He does not want to be compensated, nor is it necessary to track his time for an in-kind contribution. The Board discussed other ways of expressing its appreciation.

Chris V. also reported that we do not need to consider longer rehearsals at present (the renewed emphasis on focused use of rehearsal time has been well received), and that it is most likely past time to be recruiting more tenors and basses before the May concert.

5. Picnic (Marilyn)

Marilyn reported for Chris B. that the preferred date and location for the picnic is July 15th, at Woodland Park. She circulated a map of the reservable shelters. Chris B. recommends Units 1, 2, or 3, as they are farther way from joggers and other park users, and also closer to parking. The Board concurred. Marilyn will check back with Chris B. about submitting the reservation request to Seattle Parks; once confirmed, Patty will announce the date, time, and location in the Gazette.

6. Concert coordination (Chris V.)

Because of the complicated logistics of the upcoming concerts, Chris V. is soliciting a volunteer production crew now. Pierre Rose has agreed to coordinate—a BIG thank you from the Board. Several persons have already volunteered, but more are needed; volunteers are not required to work at both concerts; Westside Unitarian-Universalist will provide some volunteers for the Saturday evening concert. Pierre and Chris V. will produce a list of tasks, a master schedule, and the number of volunteers needed. Margo will be asked if her vehicle is available to transport risers; risers will probably not be needed for the WUU concert.

Chris V. also said that he has been duly reminded about the Choral Consortium program insert, and that he has reserved all rehearsal times.

7. Donating to underfunded music programs (ALL)

At the last meeting the Board discussed the possibility of donating some choir funds to support underfunded music programs. This suggestion came from Chris V., who has since reflected on the issue and changed his mind. In a discussion with TMSS bookkeeper, Ken Molsberry, Ken pointed out that donors and grantors to TMSS might be confused by being asked to donate to/support TMSS, only to have funds then passed on to other organizations. Several Board members supported Ken's position, and expressed a preference for designating specific causes (such as Hurricane Katrina or the earthquake in Japan) with which to consider sharing a portion of received concert contributions on specific occasions.

A Board member then asked about the possibility of rescinding the seasonal music fee, or offering an occasional "vacation" from it (as a way to benefit TMSS members); the Board decided that the fee was modest and had contributed markedly to stabilizing the choir's financial situation.

8. New keyboard (Chris V.)

Kennelly Keys has a Casio keyboard that is as good or better than TMSS current keyboard, almost ten years old when TMSS purchased it eight years ago, and more cumbersome to move than concert organizers would prefer. The newer model has textured keys (a feature Chris V. has never seen before), weighs 68 pounds, is much smaller, and can be disassembled. Although it will still have to be carried in a flat bed, it can be laid on its back, due to a detachable power cord. Price (with \$100 discount) is \$765, plus tax. Cassie said that,

although depreciation on the current keyboard has not yet been exhausted, losing it would have little effect on TMSS finances (especially since the organization does not pay income taxes).

Chris V. said that the old keyboard could perhaps be sold for \$300 - \$400. The Board also discussed the possibility of donating it to an underfunded music program. Patty suggested donating it to Echo Glen, so that TMSS would not have to transport a keyboard for the annual concert it gives there. This was applauded as a brilliant idea; Chris V. will investigate.

The Board will vote on this purchase in future.

9. Ballard High School as possible concert venue (Patty)

Patty reported that her son (a BHS staff member) had, most helpfully, written a letter of introduction to Ballard High School Powers That Be. Patty has since exchanged e-mail with the choral director, the music director, the principal, a rental manager, and, finally, the theatre director, who schedules the space. The theatre director has asked that any discussion be postponed until after their current production has concluded (this coming weekend). Patty was thanked for her diligence in pursuing this matter; the Board asked that she keep at it.

10. New business (ALL)

- Chris V. asked about paying the website fee; he has Board authorization to do so as part of regularly occurring expenses that do not have to be discussed by the Board.
- Chris V. announced that, after considerable wrangling, he had negotiated a 30% discount from the \$250 cost of renting the Westside Unitarian-Universalist hall for the May 17th concert.
- Chris V. announced that many new member referrals were coming through a website, openharmony.com; he recommended that Board members check out the site.
- Cathy asked about progress on finding a site for the rummage sale (planned for the first or second weekend in October); Terrell had been part of that committee. Chris V. said that construction at St. Luke's, which was expected to displace TMSS from that site in fall 2014, may be delayed. The first step is to e-mail Terrell and ask what, if anything, she knows. Cathy will do that.
- Marilyn thanked Chris V. for having recommended the Concordia College concert in the Gazette.
- Patty raised a question about a new choir member who lives considerably north of the city and has asked for help in finding a carpool. After discussing, the Board agreed that it is each member's responsibility to approach other members him/herself about carpooling. The roster is current and is there to help. However, we can perhaps help with carpooling from Ballard to Westside UU for the May concert.

Adjournment: 8:20 pm, Gary moved, Jean seconded.

ACTION ITEMS

Kate:

- Confirm with Ambassador Ensemble date and time for "test" rehearsal at Sunset Hill Community Center

Marilyn:

- Coordinate with Chris B. to submit picnic reservation request form.

Cathy:

- E-mail Terrell about any progress on rummage sale site.

Market Street Singers Board Meeting
March 14, 2014

Patty:

- Continue heroic efforts with Ballard High School
- Communicate Board policy about arranging carpools to the new member.

Jean:

- Work with Russ on new trifold display about TMSS

Gary:

- Bring donations basket to May concert

Chris V.:

- Meet with section leaders
- Coordinate with Kate about Ambassadors Ensemble and Sunset Hill CC rehearsal
- Work with Pierre Rose on list of tasks, master schedule, and number of volunteers for May concerts; ask Margo about vehicle to transport risers (or delegate this task to Pierre)

Upcoming

May

May 17-18th

June 11-14th

July

September 13th

November

December

Give Big

Spring concert

Chorus America

Annual picnic

Fall concert

Annual Meeting & Silent Auction

Holiday concert

Next meeting: April 11th, 7:00 pm, at Cathy Palmer's house (Wallingford)