

HOLLAND CHORALE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - VIRTUAL  
May 4, 2020

PRESENT: Betty McLarty, Jean Lemmenes, Julie Anderson, Sally Zenas, Carol Zeh, Pam Wells, Jenny DeGraves, Patrick Coyle, Terri Borgman, Pam Pierson, Maura Reynolds

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Jenny DeGraves

ABSENT: Ruth Hofmeyer, Mihai Craioveanu

President Pam Wells called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

MINUTES: Motion made and seconded to approve the April 6, 2020 board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Jean Lemmenes introduced Jenny DeGraves who was welcomed to the board.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. **STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION:** Patrick presented a three-year strategic plan to guide us through the COVID-19 crisis and help us move forward. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the attached strategic plan dated May 4, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.** Carol Zeh will post the strategic plan to the website.
  
2. **2020-2021 SEASON DISCUSSION:** Patrick walked us through the realities and uncertainties of our current situation. Although we cannot say what lies ahead, we do know that the 2020-2021 season will not look as we envisioned it a few months ago. We do know that we have been socially isolated for two months and that the danger of spreading the virus is heightened in group singing venues. We don't know when it will be safe to resume rehearsals. We need to be prepared to make modifications in our proposed season when circumstances warrant. To do this, we need options; but if we want to have a season, we must plan as if it will happen. Based on what we know now, we plan a three-concert season:
  - A. Postpone Adventures in Harmony originally scheduled for October 6, 2020. (See further discussion below.)
  - B. Plan on performing the cancelled 60th Anniversary concert with guest conductors on October 20, 2020.
  - C. Plan on the Holiday Concert December 13, 2020
  - D. Plan for a West Michigan Choral Festival with Anton Armstrong in April or May 2021.
  - E. Shift *Beethoven Does the Beatles* to the Fall of 2021.
  - F. Have a virtual Grand Night for Singing in June 2020 (see below) and plan to resume the traditional Grand Night for Singing fundraiser in May 2021.

Patrick will write the singers about the current plans. (This was done the day after this meeting and is attached.) He will continue to communicate monthly. Betty will contact First Reformed Church with calendar requests for 2020-2021. Patrick will stay in touch with previous directors as we aim to reschedule the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert. Our primary concern is the safety of our singers and audience.

3. **GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING UPDATE:** Jean Lemmenes summarized the proposed 2020 virtual Grand Night for Singing – Home Edition, tentatively planned for June. (See attachment) **A motion was made and seconded to accept the attached plans for a virtual GNFS-Home Edition leaving the date open. Motion passed unanimously.** The goal is to raise \$5,000. Patrick will serve as host. Board members are asked to contact Jean, Betty, or Terri with names of potential sponsors for this event.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Julie's financial report has been posted on the website. The checkbook balance is \$21,259.60. Under ordinary circumstances, Julie would present the board with a budget at the May meeting. Given the current uncertainty, Julie will prepare a draft budget for the June board meeting and will include a rolling budget that can be modified as circumstances change. As always, Julie will monitor finances carefully. We will not ask singers to pre-pay dues since they have already paid for the second semester of the season which was canceled. Staff will continue to be paid, and we hope the GNFS – Home Edition will provide sufficient money that we can begin the new season confidently.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Betty's April report is attached. She has contacted Chanticleer ticketholders and is issuing refunds at their request. She reported that we can expect \$2,500 from the MACC/CEP grant, originally approved for the May 1 concert with Chanticleer (which was cancelled) and recently approved for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert, tentatively rescheduled for October 2020. Betty reported that she is working fewer hours during May and anticipates this to continue in summer.

#### **WORKING BOARD UPDATES**

**ADVENTURES IN HARMONY:** **A motion was made and seconded to suspend Adventures in Harmony scheduled for October 6, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion passed unanimously.** Pam Pierson reported that K-12 teachers fear that there may not be choir and band offerings in the fall because of concerns of spreading the virus. She recommends that AIH be resumed as a Women's Edition in the fall of 2021.

**GRANTS:** Gene Gess has agreed to shadow Pam Pierson and transition to being the MCACA grant writer when Pam leaves the board in June 2020. MCACA asks that organizations complete the 2020-2021 application as if a normal season will happen. The final report for the 2019-2020 grant can be written any time after funds have been spent: the report will include cancellations affected by the pandemic. Pam cautioned that we should not assume that the Chorale will be awarded a similar grant next season: money simply may not be available, and state and national budgets are in flux. **A motion was made and seconded to submit a Michigan Council for the Arts grant application for Operational Support fiscal year 2020-2021. Motion passed unanimously.**

Pam requested a timely response from board members when she requests information needed for the MCACA grant application.

**COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING:** All agreed that Music Mondays have been well-received and expressed appreciation to Carol Zeh and Jean Lemmenes for crafting them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Sally Zenas, Secretary

NEXT CONCERT: TBD

NEXT MEETINGS;

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sunday May 17, 2020 – 4:00 pm via Zoom

BOARD MEETING: Monday June 8, 2020 – 7:00 (likely via Zoom)