

Holland Chorale

Annual Meeting

August 31, 2021

- Jean welcomed singers, reflected on our challenging year, and encouraged us to think about our situation as a glass half full, being both realistic and positive, as we consider the way forward.
- Patrick shared the guidelines the Chorale will operate under:
 - We have missed singing together and singing together; it's good to be back.
 - We will move forward as safely as possible.
 - We will continue to monitor the public health situation.
- Patrick introduced the new season
 - There will be two rehearsals for those singing at *Grand Night for Singing*, our largest fund raiser: September 7 and September 14. All singers attending *Grand Night for Singing* are invited to join in the opening and closing selections.
 - *Adventures in Harmony* and visits to local high schools have been cancelled, so the rehearsal schedule has been changed.
 - Rehearsals will begin October 5, the first Tuesday in October, at First Reformed Church. The Chorale will work on music for the December holiday concert.
 - The West Michigan's Children's Choir will join us at this concert.
 - Patrick is happy to have more time to work on rebuilding our voices. He and Nicholas will develop and share exercises to help us in this endeavor.
 - The later rehearsal start will also give us time to reach out to new members.
 - In January, we will begin preparing for our March concert: Beethoven to Beatles.
 - In April we will perform Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Holland Symphony Orchestra.
- Patrick announced that five new members had joined the Chorale. He introduced three who were present: Hannah Karel, Jennie Schmidt, and Justin VandenBrink.
- Jean opened the floor for discussion of Covid guidelines and encouraged questions. She reminded us that the Chorale Board met August 3 and set guidelines which have been shared with singers, but the situation has changed with the spread of the Delta variant. At its recent meeting, the Executive Committee mandated that masks be worn for rehearsals.
 - *What will rehearsals look like?*
 - Sopranos and altos will rehearse separately from tenors and bassi.
 - Rehearsals will continue in small groups until we determine it is safe to be together.

- Rehearsals will be shortened from the previous 2.5 hours to 1 hour and 15 minutes.
 - Air purification systems will be in both rehearsal rooms (the choir room and sanctuary).
 - Masks will be available, but singers may also bring their own. Masks are required.
 - *Will vaccinations be required?*
 - A decision has not yet been made.
 - The public health situation changes often and rapidly. What seemed good Covid policy to the Board in early August is no longer appropriate. We recognize the need to keep informed.
- In the absence of the treasurer, Jean presented the financial report.
 - The Chorale is in good financial shape.
 - The annual report will be posted on the Chorale webpage.
 - Good news (in the spirit of glass half full):
 - We created 52 *Music Mondays* to keep in touch with singers and supporters. Thanks to Carol Zeh and others who made these possible.
 - The Chorale premiered our first virtual recording in September 2020.
 - We offered two others concerts in winter and spring.
 - Challenges
 - We had no tickets sales, so our budget was impacted.
 - During the pandemic, fundraising has been particularly difficult. Members can help by
 - Inviting family and friends to purchase tickets
 - Making donations to the Chorale
 - Encouraging businesses to purchase digital ads; there will be no printed program this season
 - Checking with their employers about matching grants for tickets to Grand Night for Singing and other donations to the Chorale.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Reynolds

Secretary

