

Music Advisory Committee - report of meeting on September 20, 2018

The Music Advisory Committee met on September 20th at 5 PM at Mark Johnson's offices at SMRT. There was a quorum present.

Topics of discussion:

1. Concerns of some of the members of Masterworks' that the large chorus is only singing once per year. This has been raised before. There was extensive discussion, including a look at Robert Russell's detailed list of CA performance history.

Four questions were raised by Bob.

1. *Do we wish to offer more Masterworks concerts each season?*
2. *If so, do we wish one additional MW performance every season or periodically?*
3. *Which venue? Merrill Auditorium? Westbrook PAC?*
4. *What repertoire would we sing?*

Some important points: a. there have been seasons with just one performance and also with more than one. b. usually MW performances are dependent on combining with the PSO or other organization (like FOKO for opera choruses concert). c. cost to present, on our own, a large major work (the music that MW sings) would be prohibitively expensive. d. *Programming is based on artistic considerations, not on appeasing people.*

Conclusion of the discussion: Tell Masterworks singers "We've heard you." No decision being made now. Landscape in flux with new organist and new PSO director. We hope we'll be in a position to choose. We continue with one per year and the occasional two per season. Longer term consideration in strategic planning committee.

2. Question was raised about dues structure: should all singers pay the same, whether they are on one chorus or more than one? Decision was to not change the current system.

3. 50th Anniversary program. Robert Russell has revised his programming to make the distribution of performance time more equal among the three choirs. Suggested repertoire is below (and subject to change)

- CA Singers: about 25' of the program including
 - Kevin Siegfried Commissioned Work 10'
 - Vaughan Williams Serenade to Music 14'
 - performed with organ accompaniment and a solo violin
- Camerata: about 25' of the program
- Masterworks: about 25' of the program
 - Handel: Zadok the Priest (Coronation Anthem #1) (brass) 5'
 - Shawn Kirchner—Hallelujah 4'
 - YM Barnwell—Steal Away 4'
 - Shawn Kirchner—Unclouded Day 3'
 - Handel: Worthy is the lamb + Amen (Messiah) (brass)

4. Brief discussion of MW section leaders and their responsibilities. General consensus that the system is working. New tenor and bass section leaders - Simon Smith for tenors and Robert Stoddard for bases. Heidi Seitz will be soprano section leader now that Sarah Bailey is taking time off.

5. Brief discussion of lapsed members this season - only one singer left after one year (moved out of state). An improvement over the previous season.

6. Discussion of the audition process, and some members' concerns over not being retained. Several possible changes to the time of the auditions and other aspects, but no decision made.

7. Discussion of optimal size of the MAC, adding members, and whether there should be term limits. See below:

Discussion of having ten members all together: Bob plus three ex-officio members (President Mark, Manager Gail, E. D. Brooke) and six members representing the three choruses. Three-year term, with staggered membership, two new people a year, and two departing. This increases potential for wider participation, keeps it fresh, encourages more engagement, gives people feeling of investment....

Decided to ask Tracy Hawkins to join MAC, beginning with January meeting: she accepted. Sadly Marshal Green has resigned from the committee.

8. Discussion of Kathleen Grammer's *Continuing Education for ChoralArt Members* proposal, in which she would give classes in vocal techniques and skills..

Decision was to put it to the Strategic Planning Committee for possible future inclusion or offering to CA, but to decline to offer it at this time.

Next meeting is Wed., January 30 at 5 PM at SMRT.

Carolyn Paulin, MAC chair