

Minutes of the Music Advisory Committee  
ChoralART  
June 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM. Present were: Bob Russell, Tracy Hawkins, Gail Knowles, Carolyn Paulin, Mark Johnson and Red Sullivan. Absent were Sarah Bailey, Joyce Walworth and new member Nancy Farrand.

Old Business:

Bob has been contemplating the lingering question “Can the average audience member hear the difference from an average choir and one that is ‘nit picky’ about the details of musical excellence.” He concludes, “yes”, that one can discern that A is better than B, even if unable to articulate why.

We are aiming to attract a sophisticated audience who appreciates the difference.

“What is our aspiration? What criterion do we use?” Bob says that each choir is pointed to a standard: for the Camerata, the Sixteen or the Tallis Scholars; for Singers, the Robert Shaw Singers; for Masterworks, the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

Another standard is the degree of independence of individual singers.

Concert evaluations:

Duruffle and Britten: preparation and execution never better.

Rachmaninov: most challenging, and a test of the character of the chorus. We gave it our all.

Spring Song: discussion of the disappointingly small audience.

Summer Sing:

Gail Knowles sent, for not the first time, an email of concern about the lack of leadership for Summer Sing. In the early days Andy Graichen and then Kathy Grammer ran the event. Now no one from the chorus is in charge. All the work falling on Gail, the “stuckee.”

Organization is set for this year, except for publicity. Mark will follow up on this with Kue, particularly re. email, Facebook or Constant Contact outreach.

We need one or more members of ChoralART to take responsibility for coordinating this for the years ahead.

FOKO Hymn Festival:

Proposed for October 10-11, 2020 with Saturday rehearsal and Sunday performance. ChoralART asked to perform for 8-10 minutes. Bob will decide if this will be Singers or Masterworks. *In favor of Singers:* valuable rehearsal time will be necessary, and Singers can perform repertoire from CATC. Masterworks will have two big concerts the following spring.

Considering Matthew Shepard updates:

Venue changed from Westbrook (not available) to Woodford's. It is suggested that we present 4 concerts: preview and evening on Saturday March 29 and afternoon and eve on March 29, 2020. Daryl is already working on promotion.

Masterworks desire for input into programming:

Three options for reconfiguring the respective groups were delineated by Bob and considered, and no change is planned.

A September Saturday rehearsal for Masterworks to introduce Verdi *Requiem* was discussed and will be planned.

Committee membership:

Carolyn's summary outlined in the agenda was approved. There will be three ex-officio members: director, president and manager, and 6 at large members, each with a 3-year term.

Terms begin in the fall, with the following composition of remaining time:

One year: Red and Carolyn

Two years: Joyce Walworth and Sarah Bailey

Three years: Tracy Hawkins and Nancy Farrand.

Joyce will be asked, by Carolyn to take on another year. If she declines a second year, Red will take her place.

Next meeting will be planned for January, unless pressing business arises before then.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM

Red Sullivan, acting secretary.