

ChoralART Restart Committee & Music Advisory Committee
Combined Meeting - via Zoom
Tuesday, March 30, 2021. 5.00 p.m.
Notes by Carolyn Paulin

Meeting called to order by Chair Robert Stoddard at 5.02 p.m.

-Members present were Robert Russell, Gail Knowles, Robert Stoddard, Carolyn Paulin, Sarah Bailey, David White, Mark Johnson, Richard (Red) Sullivan, Wesley Johnson, Tracey Hawkins, Nancy Farrand, Joyce Walworth.

Bob Stoddard began by indicating that he feels all is well with ChoralART, and the path forward in this time of pandemic. An indicator is that FOKO will present a live event, in Merrill Auditorium, with organist Kaitlyn Emerson, on May 7th (also available virtually). Those who wish to attend in person will need to donate enough to be members of the Herman Kotschmar Society.

– so we can look forward to our own possible live events (the purpose of this meeting)

– those will include Summer Singing arrangements, and plans for Christmas

1. Discussion of our virtual concerts so far (a discussion that MAC does at each meeting):

A. Christmas - David White reported ca. 2300 views

B. Epiphany - ca. 300 views

C. March - Hope for Consolation concert - just up and no information yet.

-Discussion: We started with a low bar for viewership and it's been better than expected. But we all still believe that live performance is where we want to go, despite the fine performances on the virtual concerts.

-Mark Johnson brought up the idea that we might, in the future, want to have an online/virtual presence in addition to live performances. (A committee of Mark, Sarah and Carolyn will discuss the place of produced or virtual concerts in addition to live concerts - on April 8th).

2. How to make next season happen - Choral Restart:

A. Summer singing: gather gather in the yard of a member's home once per week, from 5.30-6.30 p.m. to sing.

1. Four members have volunteered their homes: Red Sullivan in Cape Elizabeth, Ginny Pomeroy in Windham, Joe Seale in Gorham, and Jodi & John Nichols in Cumberland.

2. Will begin the first Monday in May and continue through August, with four rehearsals in each home/yard, before moving to second location.

3. Rules for Singing: masked, socially distanced, outdoors. Take attendance, particularly for possible contact tracing needs. Also communicate the typical 9 COVID questions (via email?) as a "how are you?"

- being vaccinated will not be a requirement for participation (????)

-participants will be only CA members and spouses

-bring a chair if you don't wish to stand for an hour/ water bottle/suggestion to carpool/plan to not need the bathroom facilities if possible.

-no socializing, again for safety

Sarah Bailey volunteered to write up a survey to gauge interest, and particularly to find out if singers want to only participate if all are vaccinated.

3. Concern expressed re. next season: Mark Johnson brought up the fact that next season doesn't include any performance for Masterworks. He was wondering if we should offer to forgive Masterworks dues for 2021-22? (this season 70% of members paid their dues, even though they didn't sing). Minimal discussion, for Robert Stoddard indicated financial matters are for the full board to deal with.

4. Christmas Concert 2021: options -

1. Virtual
2. As usual in Cathedral
3. Reduced forces and fewer rehearsals

Discussion: Wes opined that things will be back to normal by Dec. 2021. Sarah was not quite so optimistic.

- will audiences be ready to “break down the door” for a Cathedral concert or is the fear factor still a big thing? Will there still be a perception of risk?

This topic was moved to the Executive Committee for further discussion.

The next meeting of the ReStart Committee (including Gail Knowles), which needs to take place before May 1, will determine what the Christmas Concert will be. The decision needs to be made this early to allow Bob Russell to program, get the music, and prepare, and for the chorus to have sufficient rehearsals

-Sarah Bailey will draft another survey to be included with Gail’s email to membership re. next season. Included will be questions on vaccinations, and desire to sing, as well as auditions for Choral Art Singers.

- Bob Stoddard will draft a notice to go with this, and it will be shared with us all for comment.

Choral Restart Committee next meeting is April 27th, via Zoom at 5 p.m.

[later email from Bob Russell suggests that the Music Advisory Committee be included in that meeting]

Meeting adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Paulin, chair, Music Advisory Committee