

MOSAIC HARMONY BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

MINUTES

Attending (virtual): Mary Butler, Sue Price, Kurt Jaeger, Teresa McConnel, Lisa Wysocki, Sabine Creamer, Muriel Evans-Buck, Laura Romstedt, Eddie Adkins, Peggy Kramer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

The Minutes from the 8/12/21 Board meeting were approved as revised.

Plan for September to begin 2021-22 season:

Next Tuesday Sept. 14, the first MoHa meeting will be held at Antioch Christian Church in Vienna. Any member who is vaccinated and masked may attend. The purpose of this meeting is to welcome members back, give out music, and have a presentation on the GenOut partnership. For any other members who cannot attend in person, the meeting can also be viewed via Zoom.

The next meeting on Sept. 21 will be a regular singing rehearsal, which will continue after that every two weeks (i.e., Oct. 5, Oct. 19, etc.)

*Kurt, David, Darren, Peggy, Laura, and Neil will be at Antioch early to setup the space, including the Zoom. Kurt will be the Zoom 'host'. Sabine will monitor the Chat from her home. Kurt will record the meetings/rehearsals. *Peggy could post the recording on the website. Sabine has sent out emails already, *and will send out again, including how to use the View function, and the Chat feature.

Lisa will be at the Membership table, and other Board members should be available to welcome members. *Before the meeting, David and Eddie will discuss and decide about how long the GenOut presentation should last. *Mary will say a few words and welcome the members back.

Presentation about GenOut Partnership (Laura and Eddie):

(On Sept. 8, Laura and Eddie, as members of SAG, sent out an email and a comprehensive Memo to the Board members and MoHa staff, about the partnership with GenOut. They attended this Board meeting to further explain, answer questions, and ask the Board for decisions about upcoming dates, etc.)

Eddie explained that he and Laura have had several conversations with Paul Heins, the director of GenOut, as well as Thea Kano, Artistic Director of Gay Men's Chorus, and Justin Fyala, Executive Director of Gay Men's Chorus, about the partnership between MoHa and GenOut. Eddie said there are many ideas on the partnership, and he thinks it is very important for both sides to be clear on what each is doing, so that the partnership will be successful.

There are several items that are 'time sensitive' and need to be discussed/decided at this meeting: the joint concert dates of April 23/24 2022 (GenOut "Youth Invasion" concerts) and the Spring MoHa concert (possibly June 12, 2022); also, a joint in-person rehearsal with GenOut in DC on Oct. 30, followed by the Walk to End HIV. It is proposed that we sing 3 songs jointly, and one MoHa song alone, at their April concerts.

There followed a discussion of finding a venue for the MoHa Spring concert (6/12) that would be big enough for both audiences. It was noted that we would probably need a venue with at least 300-400 seats, and it would be important that it be in Fairfax County since we get grants through their Arts Council. We were unsure of the cost of such a venue, possibly \$2500-4000. Kurt said that our current budget for the Spring concert is \$1350. *It was proposed that Sabine and Laura would investigate venues.

There was also discussion about the high number of joint rehearsals that are proposed by the GenOut Director, and possible conflicts with MoHa Board meeting dates (including the proposed Nov. 11 date for a virtual discussion on diversity and inclusion). Kurt suggested that we give them our Board meeting dates, so that they could either move joint rehearsal/meeting dates and/or possibly reduce them. We would need David and Darren's input on the number of joint rehearsals which would work best for us. Laura and Eddie can coordinate with David, Darren, Sabine and GenOut on working out all the dates. It is unclear at this point whether our musicians would need to be at any/all of the additional rehearsals (and GenOut also has their own musicians).

In discussing whether MoHa members are 'ready' for in-person meetings with GenOut in DC, Laura and Eddie stated that GenOut is being very careful related to Covid, requiring vaccinations, good ventilation, etc. Laura thinks that it would be fine if even a small number of MoHa members were comfortable participating in-person this Fall.

It was emphasized that besides doing joint concerts, the focus of the partnership is on dialogue and building a relationship between the two choirs and our members.

MoHa has also been invited to join in GenOut's retreat on Jan. 22.

Muriel had questions about the sharing of revenue and expenses. Eddie said that GenOut would be responsible for the expenses and keep the profits from their concerts, and MoHa would do the same. She also asked if we would be able to sell MoHa items at their concerts. Eddie said that the Gay Men's Chorus has a mailing list of thousands and they would be advertising the concerts as well. Muriel asked if we could have access to their mailing list, and Eddie thought it would be possible.

VOTE: The Board approved the joint concert dates of April 23/24 (GenOut) and June 12 (MoHa) as well as the Oct. 30 joint rehearsal, and a Nov. date (TBD) for the virtual diversity discussion, contingent on the approval of David and Darren, and availability of musicians.

VOTE: *Eddie, Laura, David, Darren, and Sabine would negotiate and coordinate other dates for rehearsals, etc. Sabine would be the contact person for this.

MoHa Website, Storage, and Social Media:

Peggy joined the Board meeting to discuss several issues related to the MoHa website, etc. Peggy noted that the website needs to be continuously looked at, especially by Board members, to give the 'webmasters' feedback on what is wanted/needed on the website, and she asked us to please do that. Sue asked if all the old flyers of concerts and other events still needed to be in the Archives, and about updating the list of past presidents, and members who have died. Peggy said she could take the old concert/event flyers off the active website and put in the off-website Archives. Kurt suggested that the website should be reviewed once a year.

Muriel talked about the “About Us” part of the website. She found out from Liz Ott that most companies would charge \$65,000 to re-do the website. She thinks we need a professional photographer for the website (as well as for other purposes). It might be possible to find a photographer to donate their time. We also need someone who is a good writer. Liz might be able to review what we have if we come up with the photos and writing. We also may need a graphic design professional. Peggy said that we have used Wordpress software for our website, and that the ‘theme’ of the website can be changed and that will change its look.

*Peggy volunteered to get in touch with Mike Doan, a former MoHa member and professional writer, to see if he might help with the writing piece. *Sabine said that she would ask the GenOut contact person who they use for photography. *Muriel said she could look for someone to do pro-bono photography, and she thinks that Liz might send her some colleagues’ names who might be willing to donate services or give us a low price.

There was also a discussion about Google accounts for storage. Peggy said that we are using Google workspace for photos and emails, but we can’t use it for mass mailings. Google said we are not supposed to be sharing accounts for storage. MoHa does not currently have a ‘drop box.’ All of the recordings from rehearsals are saved. Sabine said that all of the virtual recordings we have done over the past year are on her MoHa Google Drive.

*Kurt volunteered to do research on Cloud Storage to see what the options are.

MoHa has a Facebook Group page, and a Facebook choir public page. It seems that only a few people post there. Sabine is the person in charge of Social Media. We are unsure if anyone is posting on Instagram or Twitter since Amaris was in charge of that (although Sabine has the password).

Treasurer’s Report:

Kurt noted that he sent out the August report to the Board. There is currently \$55,000 in reserves.

Director of Development Report:

Muriel reported that for the Pivot grant, she needed the 2019 and 2020 year statements for each month. *Kurt asked Muriel to email him the 2020 one she has.

Muriel stated that the \$700 from the Fairfax Arts Council is part of last year’s grant and that the remainder should be received soon. She said that she had gotten in touch with Dick vanDuizend, and she has submitted the grant to the Arts Council for this year.

Membership:

Lisa reported that she, Dennis, Sue, and Teresa have been contacting members who did not participate virtually very much last year to welcome them back this year.

Concert Coordinator Report:

Sabine reported that Rev. Lindsey (from Interfaith) had gotten in touch with David because he really wanted MoHa at the Unity event on 9/12. David was able to get a quartet together (Laura, Jim R, Hey-Jin, and David N) to perform the two songs at the end of the event.

Sabine stated that its is really important to get a professional photograph of the choir for official use. She does not think that anything we now have works well for reproduction. She encouraged us to do this as soon as possible.

Singing Masks:

Kurt said that he sent an email to the sew-ist; she will send an invoice. He is ordering 40 masks (34 +6 extras) for \$890 + shipping. There may be a delay since the sew-ist/company has recently moved.

Votes by Email (between 8/12 and 9/9 Board meetings):

VOTE: \$136 approved for sound equipment for rehearsals (for Zoom).

VOTE: Change of date for first MoHa meeting from 9/7 to 9/14 (due to Jewish holiday).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.