

MOSAIC HARMONY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

Attending (virtual): Mary Butler, Sue Price, Kurt Jaeger, Lisa Wysocki, David North, Muriel Evans-Buck, Sabine Creamer.

Eddie Adkins and Laura Romstedt attended a portion of the meeting related to the SAG evaluation of partnership with GenOUT choir and plans for future partner activities. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

The Minutes from the 3/10/22 Board Meeting were approved. Lisa will take minutes during Teresa's planned absence.

Membership Report:

Lisa reported that scholarships were offered to two long time members this month. One person turned down the scholarship and paid dues. The other person has apparently accepted the scholarship and is attending regularly. Lisa is almost done with a write-up for the website that introduces the leadership and staff of the choir.

Treasurer Report:

Kurt submitted monthly financial reports to the board and indicated that low numbers were explained partly by the lack of a Paycheck Protection Program, which helped Moha keep paying its staff last year. It is hoped that the popcorn sale may bring in some needed funds. Paid concerts in March and April will also boost our totals.

Vice President Report:

The Nominating Committee has completed their work. They are nominating three new people and for the 2022-23 Choir Board: Crystal Jefferson, Marsha Gallagher, and Sallie Williams. Mary Butler is nominated for re-election as Board President. Only one board member will be rotating off the Board after two years: Lisa Wysocki, Membership. The board voted to accept this slate of officers.

The slate will be presented at the next choir rehearsal and the election will happen before the end of June. Newly-elected Board members will be invited to sit in on monthly Board meetings.

Spring Concert: Sue, Sabine, and Jane Cruz have been completing the digital concert program; they don't anticipate many more ads. We would use the same prices as previously (\$400 for a full page; \$200 for a half page; and \$100 for a quarter page). Sue can send out the ad form and these forms and donations would have to be in by a deadline, possibly May 1, to be listed in the digital program.

There will be a one-page paper program with a list of songs to be performed. There will also be an attachment or separate flyer to encourage audience members to join Mosaic Harmony. Kurt and Sabine will meet to decide how to process ticket sales.

Promotion Manager Report (Sabine):

Anthem Concert April 28 will require a Covid test – Sabine will arrange to receive the packet in time to distribute to our 19 participants. Masks will be worn during singing. The sound check will be at 3:00, supper will be served (choir too) at 6:45. After discussion it was decided that choir members should stay on site during the long break.

Strategic Advisory Group discussion:

Eddie, Laura, Nikki and David arrived to report to the Board on the GenOUT choir collaboration and to discuss the collaboration proposal for next fall.

The SAG met to evaluate the GenOUT project. Eddie and Laura reported that coordinating the project was very time consuming. A wish was expressed that there could have been more engagement with the youth, although there were several joint meetings, a retreat, and two leadership presentations by Nikki Barnett Harrell. At the same time the team valued the experience for our group of working with teens and nonbinary folks. Shared music was also valued, and we expect that the concerts and career directory may still engender more connection.

The SAG considered whether to continue some form of collaboration with GenOUT in 2022-23 and whether to begin a new partnership, as had been the original plan. SAG planned to approach Tema Choir about a collaborative project in 2022-23. Tema performs the music of Ghana and songs in that tradition.

Next Choir Project: the SAG has concluded that the 2022-23 project should be less ambitious and focus first on music, less on personal and social justice connections. Buy-in from both choirs should also be fostered to help with engagement. Perhaps each choir's membership should be part of the decision to enter into a partnership.

- Let each choir choose an easy, inspirational song from its repertoire to teach the others and to sing together whenever they perform together.
- Make Moha participation voluntary.
- Invite both choirs to sing with us at the June concert next year.

Sag also suggests we hold a Spring concert that would include multiple choirs and that would share proceeds with a mutually-decided social action group.

Include Washington International Chorus and Children's Choir, building on the model of the joint concert held over several years.

Benefit a community project such as the Trevor Project (LGBTQ youth suicide prevention) or world AIDS day.

- Be clear that participation by Moha choir folks
- Consider Allyship opportunities for both groups
- Invite GenOUT graduates to join Moha.
- Involve Emma Chapman - Transgender day of remembrance
- Choose songs that emotionally reach youth.
- Social change songs.

Director of Development Report:

ARTS FAIRFAX GRANT: Muriel is completing the narrative of this grant proposal today. She has received an extension from ARTSFairfax for the financial portion of the application and has asked Kurt to help with this information.

It was noted that the popcorn fundraiser would be held in the upcoming month; Kurt will train the choir in how to operate the phone app.

Music Director Report:

In preparation for the June Concert, Darren organized the songs into themes. David is looking at ideas for announcing songs and tying the concert themes together.

David proposed we re-consider the choir Covid policy. Our earlier decision to follow GenOUT's policy to allow for collaborative concerts, is problematic for our membership. GenOUT's more restrictive policy, which requires Covid booster shots for singers, would exclude some of the leadership and soloists from participating in our annual concert.

David proposed that the booster requirement be lifted, that we substitute a requirement for a Covid test within 24 hours of a concert. Masks would still be required. There was discussion, and then the board voted to adopt David's recommendation.

The Board president will contact GenOUT's leadership about this change, hoping they will be willing to participate in the June concert despite the change.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Submitted by Lisa Wysocki, Membership