VMC Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 11 2023, 6:30 PM

1. Call to order - 6:33pm

2. Attendees:
   Jana Hart
   Cara Hernandez
   Dan Warner
   Dave Lawley
   Dennis Haberkamp
   Ginny Wood
   Jaz Bieby
   Katherine Nitsch
   Kristin Judge
   Min Kuang
   Susan Pautz
   Tom Paulu

3. Old Business - none

4. New Business
   a. Masks
      1. Jaz advocated for masks, speaking for those for are immune-compromised
      2. Jana recommends we go by WA state guidelines, people can wear masks if they want to. This is pretty much what everyone is doing (in other settings).
      3. Susan noted that people were surprised when they came into rehearsal after April 3 and singers weren't wearing masks.

5. Treasurer's report - Dennis Haberkamp
   a. Dennis emailed the Treasurer's report to the Board prior to the Board meeting.

6. Director's report - Jana Hart
   a. Risers are here!!
   b. Will hear on May 8 about grant for next year. $10k is the most they give. Writing one for the Christmas concert
   c. Met with Victoria regarding the orchestra for next year. Orchestra members request increasing compensation from $100/concert to $125/concert. This is the union rate. May need to meet their request because some of the current orchestra took other gigs because they didn't get the union rate.

7. VP of Marketing - Min Kuang
   a. Min asked Scott to provide her with the current version of the program. Need to see where we can cut content if we need to, such as lyrics.
      1. Jana said if we need to cut the translation of Hebrew Love Songs, she will provide an intro to the song anyway. Do what we need to do, just as long as the song order is in the program.

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b. Ginny provided Scott info like singer's list, orchestra members, etc. while Min was away.
c. Videographer provided quote for review
    1. Tom knows Chris (videographer). This concert will be his first time doing a recording of a choir. He did provide a friends and family discount, so giving us 50% off. Min recommends giving it a try; if works out well we can do business with him in the future.
    2. Min thinks we should definitely do a recording of the 75th anniversary concert. Not sure if videographer would give us a discount then, but we'll know how good he is. Tom said he has done dance recitals so he at least has an idea. He was also a musical theater major in college so has an appreciation of choir.
    3. Chris will have one camera in the balcony and one around the sanctuary. He will come in Sat for rehearsal to scope everything out for the concert. Wants to get enough footage to play with. Sun will be the prime recording, especially since it will be a lot brighter, enhances the quality of the video. Will give us raw video, then audio to review for editing. also will do audio from phone and camera to achieve better audio quality. He will give us 3 video clips for social media within 2 days after concert.
        a. Do we want to pay extra for the 3 video clips? Katherine/Jana – we already have (3) 5-min video clips for one of the grants.
        b. Katherine: If we have all that raw video, then what? Do we know anyone who has that knowledge of how to edit?
        c. Min: Chris will have 2 versions for us to choose from: (1) one raw video, no editing, or (2) one video, which will be an edit of the raw video. Min said the second option will have better color, best audio recording for combining with the video
        d. Jaz recommends we put a clip on our website but not the whole video.
        e. Tom: can we post it on youtube then provide a link to the youtube on our website? Jaz said youtube is starting to crack down on this.
        f. Min: full concert will be available online, then clips for social media or grant applications.
        g. Min: Do we want to pay $100 for 3 video clips? Consensus is yes we do. Jana said that the grants want up to 3 video clips - would be nice to have the 3 clips available for this purpose.
        h. Katherine: 6 video clips would be better so we're not constantly reusing the same clips.
        i. Min will ask for 6 but will say we don't need them to be within 3 days; second 3 clips will be due later on. She'll ask for different short clips like solo, choir as a whole, candid shots of audience.
        j. Tom suggested also posting on TikTok
        k. Min said it was very time-consuming to do the edits when she did it for the Cowlitz grant.
        l. **Decision:** Will go with the edited version + 3 clips - $600.
    4. Min: Give Back … almost done with design for 75th.

5. Min asked Tom if he could do some re-write of the article to request request donations. Min also wants us to have a sort of slogan as we march into 75th year. Wants us to have a title that expresses that we're a community group … come from community, support the community, ask for donations from $75 and beyond.
    a. Jana likes the idea of slogan for 75th year.
    b. Tom will do research to see what other groups have done for 75th anniversaries. Design logo and snappy slogan must be in Friday. Min will send to Theresa by Fri.
    c. Min sent Theresa digital ads today for 75th, will give her something for Fri for Give Back campaign.
6. Jana got great feedback on the newsletter!
    a. Tom is thinking of doing stories on the married couples. Right now we have 2 married couples.
    b. Tom: saw something about how to grow your audience, wants us to have a place on our website where ppl can click and get on our email list.
7. Jana will send the winners of the Youth Scholarship Competition to Gail (?)
8. Jana: Vancouver symphony uses James Bash for Columbian stories, etc. Tom said he's freelance -The Columbian will contact him to do a freelance article. The Columbian won't use an article that we wrote.
    a. Jana knows James; when she first took over choir, she contacted him and he did articles on us. Very knowledgeable. Columbian paid him. He was fired by previous Director but Jana thinks enough time has passed and he may accept our request for an article on us.
    b. Tom said we'll only get one article in the paper a week before our event rather than getting publicity for 2 months ahead of time.
    c. Min: do we have a spot on our website where people can click to subscribe?
        1. Jaz said just have a contact link for auditions, but she is planning to add a section on website where people can subscribe to emails, etc.
        2. Request their contact info to sign up for our email blasts
9. Min brought up how we can get contact info for the people who paid through pay pal, as discussed previously
    a. Jaz said we have that info from when they purchase tix. Tom isn't sure if Pay Pal allows that info to be shared.
    b. Katherine concerned about how much Jaz will be burdened with. Jaz thinks we need to get website updated for all we need to do first.

8. VP of Concerts: Cara Hernandez
    a. Volunteer recruiting is going really well! Lots of volunteers from last season are returning. The volunteers from the last 2 concerts worked really well as a team so it's been easy to get volunteers back. Cara said they'll check in with these people 2 weeks before concert.
        1. Had one volunteer from last concert who was so excited that she asked to be a volunteer again.

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9. VP of Membership - Susan Pautz
    a. Still working on getting cabinets. Did purchase one but thinks she got scammed so looking into that. Finding others but a lot of them require picking them up in St Helens or other far away. Can we use grant $?
        1. **Decision**: We should use the grant because we need quality.
    b. Working on end of year party (Wed, May 10). Question brought up of whether family members are invited.
        1. Jana: spouses and families have attended before
        2. Susan: asking specifically about younger kids. We have a lot of younger people in choir now with younger children. **Decision**: include kids.
        3. Hospitality committee gun ho. Beth is amazing - did a lot of work in removing old things from bins, organizing, etc.
    c. There are singers who are missing many rehearsals. What do we do about that?
        1. There is a new singer who has missed many. It's not appropriate for her to be singing in concert. Jana already talked to her about this. Jaz spoke to a regular singer who has missed many rehearsal, but she thinks she won't be singing.
        2. Tom suggests Jana and section leader address in the future
        3. Susan said members are not to be allowed to miss 3 rehearsals in a row before dress rehearsal. Jana said due to covid, things just aren't as strict anymore. Jana said we have some members who will be singing only one or another concert (college graduations) and we are letting them do this. People work so hard, need to be flexible. Jana said that's life, we're a community choir, singers really show up!
        4. Susan: we have had really great attendance the past few months, generally.
        5. Tom: parts-predominant recordings really really help

10. VP of Business: Dan Warner
    a. Emailed Theresa to work with Min for GiveMore 23.
    b. Party: Dan will look up time church is reserved … thinks 4-8:30. Get info to Susan by Sat when she's meeting with hospitality committee.
    c. Dan will talk to them about tables … Susan said they're in the room already

11. Other
    a. Final mask **decision**: masking optional. Everyone is doubled, so if someone gets sick, we're covered.
    b. Dan: if you want to wear a mask, mask must be singing mask. Talk to Mary for guidelines.
    c. Katherine: as of last night, only have 3 people who have applied for the youth scholarshi
        1. Jana will type out the judging forms for Jana, Susan and Scott
        2. Jana will contact Laura Thorsen to see if she has any people interested in scholarship
        3. Jana thinks we'll get more this week. Knows Nick is thinking about sending one in

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4. Jaz will put something in social media
5. Jana will send something to teachers again

Meeting end: 8:00
Next meeting: Short meeting May 9, 7-7:30 prior to party.
Annual meeting: At party on May 10.