

**The Phoenix Symphony Chorus Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting: August 20, 2017**  
**Host: Lynne Traverse**

**Attendees: Joel Auernheimer, Tom Bookhout, Tia Coates, Erin Entringer, Wendy Gould, Steven Hwang, Lynn Jech, Katie Jones, David Kahrs, Karen Martin, Adriana Martinez, Lisa Rolland-Keith, Dan Russ, Ivylyn Scott, Stephanie Seigla, Lynne Traverse, Diane Van Dyke, John Vousden, Malia Arguello, Symphony Representative**

Joel Aurenheimer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Current members**

We have 123 returning members:

- 35 Sopranos
- 37 Altos
- 23 Tenors
- 26 Basses

Exact section numbers likely to shift slightly after Tom's rehearsings.  
New members TBA; auditions in progress.

**Rehearings**

Tom is very pleased by rehearsings. Found it very useful to hear everyone's exact range, and thought it was a good process. Even though phone recordings may not be great quality, Tom could hear what he was looking for, and the process was fair for everyone.

**Commitment forms**

We are only missing 6 from returning members.

There are a few cases where a member is only available for a few months, or whether a member is missing dress rehearsals or more than 25% of rehearsals for a concert. Section leaders should be proactive about encouraging attendance, following up on unexpected absences, making members feel welcome.

**Auditions**

- 28 people initially requested to audition.
- 10 auditioned last week, 5 invited to join.
- 12 more auditioning tomorrow.

Not a lot of men. Please invite men! Always need tenors... (IAT... Invite A Tenor)

**October concerts**

Harry Potter 1 (Sop & Alto only): Tom to pick 48 women. Will be onstage.  
They are anticipating 3 hours for the orchestra – they are doing the WHOLE move. There is an intermission.

TPS removed us from the Bernstein concert because they realized three weeks in a row was too much to ask of us.

Beethoven at Mesa. Matthew Kaspar conducting.

First concert of the season for the full chorus. Fri./Sat./Sun., all at Mesa.

Malia to double check numbers – Mesa Arts Center is big, so probably no cap.

November: Holiday Pops, Messiah

Right after New Years: Harry Potter 2 (also Sop & Alto only)

Given all of the above, it was decided that there was no room for a solo concert in the fall, which is why we just have one in the spring: Friday, March 23. One night only. Will likely include some of our Europe music.

### **Choir management software**

Council team made up of Katie, Lynne, Lynn, Susie, Diane, Lisa and Adriana spent several weeks over the summer exploring three options for chorus management software. Two have been ruled out (Choir Genius and Charms).

A third, Chorus Connection has a number of features that could be helpful to us, e.g. tools for taking attendance, making seating charts, communication, etc.

Would need approval of TPS.

Other possible uses for funds:

- a professional recording
- more risers (but would also need to pay for their storage and transport costs)
- black folders for everyone

If we do not chose to go with Chorus Connection, there are process improvements brainstormed by the software team that should be considered further and implemented.

### **Name tags**

Joel is making them this year. Encourage everyone to wear them, especially at the beginning of the year, especially council.

Would be nice to have a way to help members connect names and faces. At the very least, a Dropbox collection of snapshots of everyone.

### **Bus pickup for Prescott concerts**

We are not able to use the parking lot by CUMC anymore. We will use Tempe Marketplace for the first pick up spot instead.

### **TPS staff updates**

There have been a number of staff changes, including several people on the development and finance teams. Matthew Feldman has also left; his assistant Kevin Kerr will be filling in until a replacement is found.

**Attendance**

Katie has prepared the attendance spreadsheet for 2017-18. Will share it with all section reps, Diane, and tpsc06 Google account.

Lisa will add section reps' names, photos, and contact info to the members-only section of the website.

Section reps to remind members about the website and its password.

Katie will provide the full new roster to Malia.

**Continuing education credits**

Music teachers will now be able to get continuing education hours for rehearsals. Tom will create a certificate that can be submitted to school district. Tom will announce to group.

**Next meetings**

Sept. 17 at Ivylyn's

Oct. 15 at Steve's

**Treasury**

\$6,222.06

Lynne will have messenger bags and shirts available at first couple of rehearsals.

**Ticket discounts**

Will remain the same as last year. The Harry Potter movie concerts will be an exception because they're so popular: the discount will be available only to the women singing. If you log in and your discount doesn't work, call the box office.

TPS has decided to go back to providing us water carafe at Symphony Hall instead of individual bottled water. Encourage people to bring their own bottles.

**New member orientation**

Section reps to ask new members to come early to 2<sup>nd</sup> rehearsal.

New women will need to be fitted for dresses at first rehearsal, might have them in time for Harry Potter 1.

**Web report:**

Our contract is up for renewal. Will renew for 2 years to get a better monthly rate. Can add email support later if desired.

Meeting adjourned 6:33 p.m.