

The Phoenix Symphony Chorus Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting: August 21, 2016
Host: Lynne Traverse

Attendees: Joel Auernheimer, Marilou Baxter, Tom Bookhout, Erin Entringer, Wendy Gould, Lynn Jech, Katie Jones, David Kahrs, Huntington Keith, Jane Kniffen, Brian Matas, Susie Phillips, Lisa Rolland-Keith, DanRuss, Ivylyn Scott, Lynne Traverse, Diane Van Dyke, Stephanie Seigla, Christine Young, Malia Arguello, Symphony Representative

Wendy Gould called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

The Council welcomed Malia Arguello, the new Director of Production for the Phoenix Symphony, who will be the Chorus liaison going forward.

Auditions – Wendy Gould

There have been 2 sets of auditions, with a third round scheduled for Monday, August 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. 24 new or returning members have been selected so far, bringing the total roster to 150. The new and returning members break down by section as follows:

8 sopranos
9 altos
3 tenors
4 basses

Elizabeth Rosensteel is working on wardrobe fittings for the first rehearsal.

Commitment forms – Katie Jones

Katie has received 120 completed Commitment Forms with 30 still outstanding. Katie will give lists of those outstanding to the section reps to assist with getting responses.

Handbook Review – Katie Jones

Katie Jones reviewed the proposed Handbook revisions with the Council, including audition processes, Symphony ticket purchasing benefits and Chorus history. Small changes were suggested. It was moved and seconded that the changes be

adopted. Katie will make the adopted changes, and the fully revised Handbook will be posted on the Chorus website.

Malia requested a copy of the Handbook be sent to her, which Katie will do.

Library – Diane Van Dyke

There are currently 132 available Stravinsky scores. Because we have 150 singers on the roster, more copies may need to be made. Diane will check the final head count for this concert run to establish how many copies we will need and ask the Symphony to provide them.

Treasury – Lynne Traverse

The Chorus account balance is currently \$8,247.84

Refunds of the hotel overcharge proceeded over the summer. There were quite a few donations made (Chorus members indicating they wished their refunds to remain in the account for the benefit of the Chorus). There are also several Chorus members who have not responded to repeated requests to designate disposition of their refunds. Lynne asked the Section Reps for assistance in reaching out to those members, and will be on hand Monday to write checks.

Chorus Member Refund Donations Total: \$1,616

Undesignated Refund Total: \$1,157

Social – Christine Young

Wendy and Joel had asked Christine to create a list of possible events for the coming year. The goal is to help Chorus members get to know each other and to boost morale. Christine made multiple suggestions which were well received by the Council.

A discussion was had regarding other possible non-event activities to help boost morale and recognize our volunteers. Suggestions included:

Monthly recognition of members who go above and beyond (to be determined by the Council

December - bubble wrap stress release*

Birthday recognitions

Christine requested suggestions for new after-party locations.

It should be noted Dr. Bookhout had a specific reaction to some suggestions:



Web Site – Lisa Rolland Keith

Having received approval from the Symphony for a new Chorus website, Lisa has built the frame work. Lisa reviewed the new website with the Council. We can keep the “old” domain (www.tpsc.us), which is currently connected to a Google account and costs approximately \$10 per year, or we can establish a new domain name.

The old domain could be automatically forwarded to the new at no additional charge. Alternately, we could establish a new domain name via an upgraded Weebly account, which would removed from the URL. Upgrading the account would cost \$5-8/month depending on a 1-year vs 2-year contract. New domain names cost roughly between \$10-\$20/year, though we can get the first year free through the Weebly upgrade. Lisa will search domain names and costs and report

back to the Council. We can keep the old URL with forwarding for a couple of years to make sure everyone is clear on access. It is currently being paid for by former chorus member Robert Majure, however, so if we keep it, the choir council should discuss absorbing the cost.

ACTION ITEM: The Council should look at the website separately and send comments to Lisa.

Photography –Wendy Gould

The new date for the Chorus photography session is October 16th at 4:30 p.m. This date was established by surveying Chorus availability. It will occur at the Desert Botanical Gardens, which will offer free Admission to chorus members following the shoot. More details will be forthcoming. The Council photo will be taken at that time.

Vienna – Tom Bookhout

The information we have on the Vienna trip is contained on the email Tom sent previously. We would like to send 90 or more singers (plus guests). There is a possibility we can sing in Salzburg, which would require an a cappella piece being prepared. All rehearsals scheduled after the final Symphony season concert will be for those participating in the Vienna trip.

The Planning Team should be formed and plan to start work soon. The team will handle travel, and may need to decide the parameters for individual travel. Mid-America has suggestions on travel agencies we should look at, and there are Chorus members who may have connections to agencies with expertise.

Currently, there are 72 “probably yes” responses out of 118 (60%) Commitment Form responses.

A suggestion was made that the new web site include a trip page with FAQ's. Those planning to travel should be reminded to renew their passports

Next Council Meeting - 9/18 Host - Brian Matas or Marilou Baxter.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Traverse, Treasurer and Recording Secretary