

Interim Artistic Director Report
Meeting of the Board of Directors for Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus
April 19, 2022 7pm EST on Zoom

Rehearsals and Concerts

On February 21, 2022, I began leading rehearsals via Zoom. We averaged 13-15 participants. Assistant AD Tracy Wieseman co-led sectionals for several rehearsals. Tracy led rehearsal alone on March 14 during my vacation and did a fabulous job.

Our final Zoom rehearsal was Monday, March 28. Tracy led the group while Chris (President) sent individual members into a separate Zoom room where I tested everyone's range. We concluded with a closing ritual to thank the Zoom space and move back in person.

Lawrence Turner (general board member) managed my travel and lodging and I was able to attend first in-person rehearsal on Monday, April 4 at Enola Emmanuel United Methodist Church. 18 singers were in attendance with all sections represented. I was more than satisfied with the sound of the chorus. Given some focused work, the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus is on a path to becoming a strong musical force.

At the April 4 rehearsal, I asked the chorus to schedule sectionals for the months of April and May. The following week, I approached four singers to serve as Section Leaders. They all accepted. They are as follows: Matt Riley (First Tenor), Theo Neal (Second Tenor), Seth Hammond (Baritones), and Allan Jespersen (Basses).

On April 11, a snow storm in Portland caused power and internet outages. I was unable to video in. Thank you to Tracy for leading. On April 18, I will work with Steven and Lawrence to video in to rehearsal. If there isn't a delay, I will lead rehearsal. If there is, Tracy will lead and I will observe and answer any questions that arise.

On April 24, the chorus will have a retreat from 4-7pm with a potluck following. Our guest artist for all concerts will be David Payne. Thank you to Marlene for the recommendation! David will perform in all concerts for free. David will be able to stop by this retreat to run his solo with the group. On April 25, the chorus will have another extended rehearsal from 6:30-9:30pm. This will be the final time I will see the chorus in-person until concert week.

For the month of May, I am inviting guest conductors to work with the chorus. Thank you to Paul Foltz for assisting with this.

Our concert schedule week is as follows:

Mon, June 6- final rehearsal in Ephrata

Weds, June 8- Dress/tech Tree of Life, Harrisburg

Fri, June 10- 8pm concert at Tree of Life *will be live-streamed through YouTube

Sat, June 11- 8pm concert at Bergstrasse Lutheran in Ephrata

Sun, June 12- 6pm concert at Heroes Amphitheater, Harrisburg

Artistic Reports

Steven Creps and I had a meeting before I began and we solidified the repertoire for the concert. My general comments are that your library is lacking composers of color and female composers. Please consider diversifying your repertoire in the future in these areas. I am pleased by the songs that have been commissioned by you that are in the anniversary concert.

I called several production meetings to address the lack of venues. Special thanks to Steven Creps for finalizing the Heroes Amphitheater and to Lawrence Turner for securing Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ephrata.

PR is currently in production. I asked for printed material to be in-hand for the April 24 retreat. Without venues, PR isn't possible in a professional way. I urge this organization to secure your venues one year in advance of your season. This would resolve a significant amount of stress and would prevent scrambling and emergency meetings in the future.

We have a music intern, Lindsay Brucklacher, from Harrisburg Community College. I was delegated the task of her job description. She is interested in music business and requires 180 hours by August 11. Please see the attached proposal. She is currently assigned to Lawrence Turner for social media and concert duties.

During our one-on-one meeting, I discovered Tracy does not have a job description or contract. I have attached a job description that she agrees with. My understanding is Steven Creps has a contract pending that needs to be signed by Tracy.

I did not have a job description nor do I have a contract. I have attached a job description for myself. Feel free to use this for your Artistic Director search as it is relevant. If the board feels I do not need a contract, I am fine to continue with you for the agreed upon hourly amount through the end of the Anniversary concerts.

I am currently writing the script for the show. Because we are presenting One Act, speaking must be fully scripted. I am working with the Production committee on the script and designating speakers.

I am working with Paul Foltz on choreography. I will begin choreography notes at the retreat and Paul will continue the process.

For May rehearsals, in order to keep the chorus moving forward, I am inviting guest conductors from the community to lead. If virtual conducting goes smoothly on Monday, I will consider how to schedule. With Paul's help, we are creating a list of pianists and conductors to call in case of sickness, absences, sectionals, and for your future Artistic Director.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Lynne Smith, Interim Artistic Director