

## Interim Artistic Director Report

Meeting of the Board of Directors for Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus

July 18, 2022 7pm EST on Zoom

### **Since the Last Board Meeting**

The chorus performed double outreach performances on Saturday, June 25. Mitchell Sensenig was outreach conductor and pianist for Hershey Pride and led a pick-up rehearsal in the home of Lawrence Turner a few hours prior to the event. Allan Jespersen handled t-shirt orders for those who did not yet have the black chorus shirt with chorus logo. Lawrence provided sandwiches after the event and specifically mentioned Fred Warner as a great help. The chorus performed in the evening for the ice cream social at Enola United Methodist as our thank you for allowing us to rehearse there for free for anniversary concert preparation. Bob Buyers, partner of John Compton, led a rehearsal and directed from the piano for this event. We had a great turnout by the membership for both performances.

There was confusion and frustration around production for both of these events due to an unclear outreach process. Too many people had different pieces of the puzzle. Production discussed the need for a standardized outreach form and process with a dependable point person that communicates well.

On Monday, July 11, I hosted a forum on Zoom for the membership to discuss the proposed bylaws change from "men" to "all who sing TTBB." This is a significant identity change for the chorus and is critical to our ability to grow and stay current with the evolution of the LGBTQ+ community. A lively discussion was held and our guest speaker was Dr. Billy Sauerland, author of "Queering Vocal Pedagogy."

### **Miscellaneous and Forthcoming**

A pick-up rehearsal for Harrisburg Pride is scheduled for Monday, July 25 in the home of Lawrence Turner. Our outreach conductor is Mitchell Sensenig and Tracy will be available to play the piano for this performance. We will perform at 1:30pm at Harrisburg Pride and Production is prepared to handle all aspects of this appearance. David Payne will again be our guest during our set.

Contracts for Tracy and myself are in process to be completed by August 1.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 1 and will be a more formal process that includes board elections, a vote by the membership on the proposed bylaws change, and a presentation by me on the upcoming season through June of next year. Following annual meeting, Tracy will lead a brief rehearsal to prepare for an outreach performance on August 20.

We are scheduled to perform for the block party for DreamWorks in York on August 20 sometime after 6pm. Tracy is available to play and I am waiting to hear from Mitchell for his availability to conduct.

I have requested first rehearsal be August 29 along with auditions. I will be in person and will virtually audition any interested singers who cannot make August 29. I intend to have all repertoire, venues and dates confirmed, along with rehearsal files.

**Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Lynne Smith, Interim Artistic Director**