

Interim Artistic Director Report  
Meeting of the Board of Directors for Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus  
November 20, 2022 7pm EST on Zoom

## **Since the Last Board Meeting**

I lead a retreat on Sunday, October 23 from 3-6pm with sectionals, followed by a stellar potluck and run-through for the cabaret. Special thanks to Dan Snyder for turning up to run sound cues. Special thanks to our emcee David Payne who also came for the run-through and did a marvelous job at the actual event.

On Monday, October 24 from 7-9pm, we broke into sectionals again with Tracy and I leading each segment.

We attempted to run the show in mixed formation on Monday, November 7. It was an epic fail due to note insecurity and acoustics of the room. Also, virtual conducting as been more difficult this season with a delay being more dramatic than in our previous rehearsal location. The chorus moved back into sections and I called in a rehearsal conductor, Darla Bair, to conduct on Monday, Nov 14. I felt this rehearsal went far more smoothly.

On Monday, November 21, Tracy will lead a woodshedding rehearsal of the most problematic pieces. I will be with you in-person on Monday, November 28 for our first tech rehearsal and I am also offering myself for a voluntary optional rehearsal on Wednesday, November 30 for anyone who would like extra practice.

An adapted December schedule has been developed to incorporate the February cabaret preview and solo auditions. Please see Production for that new schedule. Our concerts are Friday, December 2 at 7:30pm (UU Harrisburg), Sunday, December 4 at 4pm (St. Peters Middletown), Saturday, December 17 at 4pm (Bergstrasse in Ephrata) and Sunday, December 18 at 4pm (Heidelberg UCC in York). We will livestream Saturday, December 17 from Bergstrasse.

Our Pay Back the Rent performance will be Sunday, December 4 at the UU in Harrisburg. This is our agreement in exchange for free rehearsal space. I

am communicating directly with their music director.

### **Forthcoming**

Please see the Production report for changes to the schedule for the new year. I had a lengthy conversation with Paul Foltz (President) about needs that have arisen here on the West Coast. One of our teachers had emergency surgery that did not go well and she has had to permanently leave the staff. Another teacher has maternity leave scheduled and the teacher who had to leave staff was to cover that maternity leave. I will not be able to be as available as I had hoped to be and Paul and I have worked out some solutions and how to adapt the schedule. I am crossing every finger and every toe that the perfect person for Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus will audition and be immediately available. If not, I am more than willing to continue with an adapted schedule, leaning on our fabulous Assistant Artistic Director, Tracy Wieseman.

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