

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

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

On a daily basis, I FaceTime with an individual who desperately wants to join the chorus but cannot yet \*consistently\* match pitch. Our sessions used to take 15 minutes for him to match two pitches. He now matches 4 pitches in 5-8 minutes. Improvement! For cabaret, we welcomed two new members, Mark Simpson and Bob Gibson.

The fundraising dinners in January were a success artistically and financially. Special thanks to Steve Keefer who provided live entertainment at the Mechanicsburg and Harrisburg dinners. I sent hand-written thank you notes to all involved and have communicate with Steve Creps about how to formally thank hosts and guests, as well as how to offer tax deductible donation forms. Once again, a huge thanks to Fred Warner who stepped onto this project with me and was present to sous chef at the Mechanicsburg and Harrisburg dinners.

February cabaret was a smashing success. Derek Knisley served as Dance Captain and was a vital part of the learning process for the chorus. On Saturday, February 11, I spent 10am-5pm working with soloists and small groups in the home of Lawrence Turner. On Sunday, February 12, rehearsal took place at Theatre Harrisburg from 6-8:30pm. I decided to drop "Jolene" due to lack of preparedness and light grumbling from the chorus. It's a strange arrangement and we needed more rehearsal time to make it great. Half the chorus cheered when I announced we were dropping it so I'll take that as a sign of agreement. Monday dress rehearsal went smoothly. Mr. Right Now was extremely good and had involved choreography. Our guests were Jeff Mitchell as Betty Whitecastle, and Marisa Keener and Becky Mease from Theatre Harrisburg. I also offered a special appearance to David Payne and he was lovely and gave closing remarks. He is on the board of Theatre Harrisburg and is an alum of HGMC. I can't thank production enough for the array of desserts and the display itself. Thanks especially to Paul Foltz and Jim Goodyear for presentation.

I have officially begun the Library project. I spent 15 hours in the storage unit over Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. All General Music is now filed in a folder in the filing cabinets. Christmas is in one pile on top to the filing cabinets and SSA/SATB music is in another pile on top of the filing cabinets. The path is clear for donated filing cabinets from Chris Aulbach's bank to move in before I return. Derek and Chris will work together to move the cabinets in. In April, I will begin filing Christmas and will see how much room we have left before discussing what to do with SSA/SATB music. My goal is to begin scanning in June and create a committee who will go through the library to vet pieces that are now offensive or have far too many photocopies to be legal. I believe "Come Share Our Pride" has 90 copies. That just can't be legal. Once I have filed Christmas, I will approach the one or two individuals who expressed interest in helping and we will do a once-over to make sure everything is alphabetized and the copies are complete. It would be great to go ahead and get a Chorus Connection account to begin migrating the library on Groupanizer there. It would be a start and can be done virtually.

Our Pay Back the Rent is scheduled for April 16, followed by a retreat. Paul and I are working together to alter the calendar to reflect this.

I will continue through the end of my contract July 30th and will serve as Artistic Director for Voices United and will be present to conduct at Harrisburg Pride. This will be my final appearance with you and I wish you the best of luck in finding a stellar permanent AD.

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