

Greetings and warm salutations to the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus! I'm elated to be joining you as AD and looking forward to the magic, fun, and laughs we create this year. Looking ahead it seems we'll have a multitude of fantastic performances with our "Holi-daze" concert, Anti-Valentine's Cabaret, Pay-The-Rents, Spring concert, GALA, and more!

As part of my first AD report, I want to share some of my vision for the chorus: recruitment, inclusion, and activism.

**Recruitment:** I'd love to see the chorus add a handful of new singers each semester this year. This will be a team effort as we work together to talk to friends, acquaintances, and even the odd stranger or two (remember, they're just friends we didn't know we had yet). I'm always happy to talk to anyone who may be on the fence about joining the chorus, so please bring all of your tenor and bass singing friends (regardless of gender identity) and we can see what spot works for them in the chorus.

**Inclusion:** Something important to me as a director is an egalitarian approach to our musicking process. I've been in choruses with directors who operated as dictators and choruses that had no director. For me, there's a sweet spot in the middle that I work for as a facilitator of the artistic voice of the chorus. Due to expediency, the Christmas concert is largely planned (though I'm still open to suggestions), but moving into our spring season and forward I want to hear about the music YOU ALL love to sing. While every piece we sing may not be your favorite one ever, I want to strive to make sure that each of your artistic voices is heard in our programming.

**Activism:** We have so much power to affect change with our voices (literal and artistic) and I firmly believe we must use it. To that end, for this Spring concert I would like to work to develop a partnership with an organization or cause that is important to us. It could be environmentally focused, queer youth focused, advocating for the unhoused, whatever is important to us in our community.

I'll arrange an opportunity for us to discuss what we might want to do for the Spring concerts at a later date, but with all of these areas PLEASE share your ideas, email me, pester me, talk to me before rehearsal and during breaks.

In terms of the "Holi-daze" concert we'll be pulling a lot of classics from our library including "Marshmallow World" by Dean Martin, "L'Hiver" by Jean-Baptiste Lully, and "Dear Santa (Bring Me a Man This Christmas)". We'll also be adding a few new pieces which include Kountz's frenetic depiction of winter travel in "The Sleigh (a la russe)" and a beautiful holiday work by Eric Whitacre, "Glow", among more.

I'm so looking forward to getting to know you all better and to make FABULOUS music together this year!